



Vantage

Reproductive Rights in a Post Dobbs Nation

Sharifa Batts, Program Vice President

Join us at our April 6 AAUW meeting. We are excited to have Professor Jodi Balma speak to us about how reproductive rights have been impacted since the June 24, 2022 Supreme Court decision taking away the Constitutional right to abortion.

Professor Balma specializes in American politics and California state and local government. She started her career as a professor of political science at Fullerton College in 2000. She has served as the faculty coordinator of the Honors Program since 2012. She has been awarded Fullerton College Teacher of the Year in 2021 and 2014. She was named 2022 Orange County Community College Teacher of the Year. Her goal is to help students learn how to think about politics and community problems with an emphasis on critical thinking and analysis, regardless of political party or ideology. She helps students understand how they can become involved in working with community leaders to find solutions.



Balma is a regular on-the-record analyst for newspaper and radio media outlets such as the Los Angeles Times, Orange County Register, Voice of OC, KNX 1070, KPCC, and NPR. California Senator Josh Newman named her as the 2021 Woman of the Year for Senate District 29. She served as the President of the Honors Transfer Council of California from 2013-2017 and remains active in the organization.

She is actively involved in the League of Women Voters and frequently hosts local candidate forums throughout North Orange County each election cycle. Professor Balma launched a North Orange County focused podcast titled "A Slice of Orange: North Orange County Politics" to help her students and the community learn more about local government.

Friends are invited to attend the program; please reserve for the meeting held at LBCC 4900 E. Conant Bldg O2 Room 208

RSVP at: aauwlongbeach.reservations@gmail.com

Visit our Website for more info:

<https://longbeach-ca.aauw.net/>

AAUW Mission:

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

AAUW Vision:

Equity for all.

AAUW Values:

Nonpartisan.
Fact-based.
Integrity.
Inclusion and Intersectionality.

AAUW Diversity Statement:

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation on the basis of age, disability, gender, location, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status.



From the Co-Presidents

by Carolyn Eggleston and Amy La, Co-Presidents

Welcome to the beginning of spring! We hope you are all planning to do something fun this season.

As you know, AAUW national will be asking members to vote on a bylaw change to remove the education requirement for admission to AAUW. This has been considered several times and is coming up for an additional voting opportunity. The AAUW LB Executive Committee voted (6 ayes, 2 nays, 1 abstention) in its February meeting to endorse the change. Your individual vote counts in whatever way you wish to vote. All we ask is that you do make your voice heard during the voting period, April 3 to May 15, and that you do read the materials available so you can make an informed decision. <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/2024-aauw-proposed-bylaws-changes/> National does want to hear from all of us.

There are many AAUW activities coming your way and we encourage you to especially be involved in the Author's Luncheon on Saturday, March 30, 12 noon. Your support is sincerely needed. It is one of our major fundraisers, raising the money for the scholarships we provide to LBCC and CSULB, and it's fun. For RSVPs and more details, please see the flyer on the website: <https://longbeach-ca.aauw.net/>. We hope to see you there!

Just as a reminder, the April branch meeting will be held live only on April 6. We will be holding it at the same place, Long Beach City College Building O-2, room 208. We are sorry to be unable to offer this meeting via Zoom, but the Community College is on spring break, and no technicians will be available. At least they get some time off!! We surely hope you can make it. If you typically attend the live meeting, perhaps you might offer to take someone you know to the meeting in place of the Zoom option. We expect to offer both formats the following month.

Bylaws & Policies and Procedures Updates

The following motion was passed by majority vote at the February 19, 2024 Executive Committee Meeting.

Proposed Bylaw Motion by Tobi Balma:

"I move that the Executive Committee recommend to the Branch membership to support and vote for the National AAUW proposed Bylaw change to remove the degree requirement for individual membership."

Seconded by Linda Westman.

Motion passed by roll call vote: 6 ayes, 2 nays and 1 abstention

From the Branch Bylaws Committee

Since AAUW National has mandated changes to the first seven articles of our branch bylaws and we must submit our bylaws to AAUW CA for approval by June 30, we decided to do some housekeeping and updating to several other articles in the bylaws. With the goal of simplifying wherever possible, we've deleted a few items, moved some of the items to the policies and procedures, and added to others, mostly to bring our branch communications into the modern world (based on AAUW CA's and AAUW National's examples).

The membership must vote on non-mandated changes to the bylaws and because of the transfer of some items to two sections in the policies and procedures, the branch will also be voting on those changes (though the membership does not normally vote on P & P changes). This will occur at our April 6 annual business meeting. The Board-approved updated bylaws and policies and procedures may be reviewed on Google Docs at [2024 Bylaws P & Ps](#). They will also be attached to an email sent to the branch membership. Should the AAUW open membership bylaw changes be passed in May, those will be mandatorily incorporated into our bylaws and will be added prior to the publication of the Yearbook in August 2024.

Please contact Frances Rozner, Chair, with any questions. Thank you from your entire Bylaws Committee: Sharifa Batts, Carolyn Eggleston, Amy La, Denise Montoya, and Frances Rozner. Looking forward to seeing you on April 6.



Calendar Dates to Note

Mar. 14	MOLA outing
Mar. 30	Author Luncheon
April 2 / 3	Lobby Days
April 6	Branch Meeting

Contact Us

aauwlongbeach@gmail.com
longbeach-ca.aauw.net/

[www.facebook.com / aauwlongbeachca](https://www.facebook.com/aauwlongbeachca)
For Vantage Editor: Rebecca Low
rlow1@hotmail.com

AAUW LB STEM CAREER CONFERENCE

Carol Clanton & Frances Rozner, Conference Co-Chairs

February 23, 2024

The 2024 event occurred under sunny skies and, thanks to the efforts of 60 volunteers (AAUW and friends) and a very helpful Sato Academy staff; it was highly successful. The girls arrived extra early, had their class photos taken, ate their hearty snacks and delved into their well-stocked goodie bags. AAUW LB Co-President Amy La led the audience in a breathing exercise to provide focus. Then Principal Ronnie Coleman welcomed 234 girls with 28 Chaperones and 24 guests/sponsors to Sato Academy, followed by an AAUW welcome from our Co-Presidents, Carolyn Eggleston and Amy La. Guests Diana Craighead, President, LBUSD Board of Education, and Ida Pickett, LB City Council District 9 Community Affairs Coordinator, and all sponsor representatives were recognized. The Keynote Speaker, Alexxandra Hurtado, an AAUW LB member, recent CSULB graduate and an intern for the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine at City of Hope, shared the personal challenges she faced pursuing her academic ambitions to become a doctor.



Each girl then attended two 40-minute workshops led by women in STEM careers. The workshops, with fun hands-on activities, were presented by:

- Aerospace Engineer - Andrea Besnard, Flight Works, Inc.
- Architect - Stephanie Osorio, Osorio Architecture
- Environmental Engineer - Holly Holbrook and Fiona Laramay, AECOM
- Manufacturing/Biomechanical Engineer - Shannon Crowley, Aperture and Aimee Verayo, Diversified Technical Systems
- Medical Imaging Technologist - Judy Fauria, St. Mary Medical Center
- Medical- Surgical Nurse - Tevy Rivett, Kaiser Permanente
- Optometrist – Dr. Avani Patel, Alamitos Eye Care Inc.
- Software Developer - Leslie Gonzalez, Technology Management Concepts
- Speech-Language Pathologist – Mika Storey, A Speech Storey
- Structural Engineer - Kathy Rantowich and Reihaneh Sarraf, MHP Structural Engineers



Partnering schools were Franklin Classical Middle School, Hamilton Middle School, Hughes Middle School, Jefferson Leadership Academies, Lindbergh STEM Academy, Muir Academy, Powell Academy for Success (K-8), Robinson Academy (K-8), Stephens Middle School, and Washington Middle School. Our Conference garnered a pre-event article in *The Beachcomber* and, with two reporters in attendance, an article and video on the *Long Beach Post*. It can be viewed at <https://longbeach-ca.aauw.net/news-2/>

Many thanks to all of the volunteers, with special thanks to the Committee Chairs and Managers: Jeane Caveness, Darlene Daclan, Nicole Gracie, Karen Gustafson, Barbara Hall, Elaine Heber, Tammy Kane, Kirsten Larsen, Beth Lesen, Deloris Mayuga, Leila Menzies, Lenore Rozner, Julie Taboada, and Depi Vidarthi.

Port of Long Beach, SCS Engineers, Society of American Military Engineers/OC Post, Aperture, Diversified Technical Systems, MHP Structural Engineers, P2S Inc., Toyota/TABC, Inc., Teachers Association of Long Beach, Technology Management Concepts and Torrance Refining Company provided much appreciated monetary sponsorship. For the donation of goodie bag contents, we wish to acknowledge Long Beach Airport, Long Beach City College, Long Beach Utilities, Charles Schwab, Technology Management Concepts, Torrance Refining Company, Wahoo's Fish Tacos, and Women Influencing & Impacting Toyota.



Please mark your calendars now to volunteer for the **21st Annual Conference on February 28, 2025** when the branch takes it beyond the 3,369 girls who have participated to date.

Member Spotlight

by Co-Membership VPs Karen Gustafson, and Lamis Hashem

Our STEM Career Conference on February 23rd was the 20th edition of this remarkable event. In 2003, Daphne Ching-Jackson and Joan Gustafson launched the conference. Fay Denny was on the original committee. The first year, 45 middle school girls attended the conference, which was held on the Pacific Coast Campus of LBCC. Within the next few years, Frances Rozner, Dianne Bradfield, Linda Silver, Darlene Daclan, Deloris Mayuga and Sharon Westafer signed on to leadership roles. This year, 234 girls attended. So far, a total of 3,369 middle school girls have participated in our conference. That is a legacy!



It takes a lot of planning, energy, and volunteers to make each year's conference successful. This year, about 60 AAUW members and friends dedicated their time to the cause. The official planning starts in September each year, but we are always on the lookout for potential workshop presenters and keynote speakers. And the team is always looking at ways to improve the experience for the students. Most of our volunteers work in a category called "at large." Those tasks include pre-conference efforts like stuffing the student "goodie" bags, producing the programs, assembling the program folders, and organizing the food. On the day of the event, our volunteers are engaged in a variety of tasks, including photographer, speaker assistant, arrival greeter, school assistant, check-in desk host. It is a very busy afternoon and most of us get plenty of "steps" in the process.

This year, several of our members had key roles on conference day.

Alexxandra Hurtado, our keynote speaker, received a branch scholarship from us while she attended CSULB. She subsequently became an AAUW member and a STEM volunteer. In her keynote, she spoke of challenges she has faced in pursuing her dream of becoming a doctor. Shortly after our conference, she received word that she was accepted to medical school, at the ATSU School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona. Congratulations to Alexxandra!

Stephanie Osorio was the workshop speaker for Architecture. She owns her own business, Osorio Architecture. The girls in her workshop were inspired to think about their dream homes. Recently, Stephanie donated many hours to the design and production of our new branch brochure. Thank you, Stephanie!

Susan Garcia was one of the champions for Powell Academy for Success (K-8). The school champions are crucial to the success of our conference. They identify the girls who are the best candidates to attend, they promote the program to the



girls and encourage them to sign up. The champions make sure all the necessary paperwork is done and that their girls have signed up for the workshops they want to attend.

Adding together our AAUW volunteers, the workshop presenters, the school champions/chaperones, and some Sato student ambassadors, a total of 117 people were involved in this year's conference. It takes that many people to ensure that the conference runs smoothly and inspires another group of Long Beach middle school girls.

At the end of the event, the girls fill out evaluation forms and write thank you notes. They wrote comments such as: *Set goals for yourself and keep moving forward. Never give up. Women can have the same careers as*

men. Work hard and stay in school. I need to start looking for scholarships. It made me feel so proud to be a nerd.

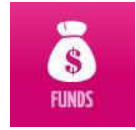
"Keep moving forward" could be the unofficial slogan of our branch's commitment to this very worthwhile event. A huge thank you goes to all who have volunteered over the years. Without you, there would not be a STEM Career Conference by AAUW Long Beach.

This month we are focusing on Herdís Pálsdóttir whose 2023-2024 International Master's/First Degree Fellowship is fully funded by our Anna Stofflet Townsend International Fellowship Endowment. Her area of study includes method to help teach autistic children. She hopes to return to Iceland, pursue a doctorate, and open a school using the methods she is learning.

International Fellowships have been in existence since 1917. The program provides support for women pursuing full-time graduate or postdoctoral study in the United States who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents, and who intend to return to their home country to pursue a professional career.

Applicants must have earned the equivalent of a U.S. bachelor's degree by the application deadline and must be fluent in English. Recipients are selected for academic achievement and demonstrated commitment to women and girls. Recipients return to their home countries to become leaders in business, government, academia, community activism, and the arts or scientific fields. Master's/first professional degree award is \$20,000, with the possibility of one renewal. These fellowships are open to women, including people who identify as women, in all fields of study at an accredited institution of higher education or, for postdoctoral fellows, research.

Master's/first professional degree fellowships are intended for master's or professional degree-level programs such as J.D., M.F.A., L.L.M., M.Arch., or medical degrees such as M.D., D.D.S., etc. Master's/first professional



degree and doctoral applicants must be enrolled in a U.S.-accredited institution located in the U.S. during the fellowship year.

International Fellowship funds are available for: educational expenses, living expenses, dependent child care, travel to professional meetings, conferences, or seminars that do not exceed 10% of the fellowship total. Stipends are made payable to fellows, not to institutions.

**Anna Stofflet Townsend AAUW Fund
International Endowment
2023-2024 Recipient Herdís Pálsdóttir**

- From Iceland
- California State University – Sacramento, 3rd year graduate student
- International Master's/First Degree Fellowship Profession: M.S. Applied Behavioral Analysis:
- An Evaluation of the Effects of Multiple-Exemplar Training on Emergent and Generalized Behavior
- Project will be examining a teaching method that is used to teach verbal behavior to children with ASD & other developmental disabilities.
- Mission is to expand the behavior-analytic approach to language and cognition for children with autism.
- Believes that finding an effective & time-efficient method for teaching verbal behavior is crucial.



Branch & Board Business

by Harriet McDonald and Cacia Kim

(missed in the 2023-24 Vantage distribution—to be continued in May Vantage)

The following two motions were passed by unanimous vote at the January 22, 2024 Board Meeting:

Motion by Karen Gustafson:

"I move that the board approve the Co-Presidents' appointment of Jeane Relleve Caveness as Membership Treasurer." Seconded by Frances Rozner.

Motion by JoAnn Kuroda on behalf of the Scholarship Committee:

"I move by direction of the AAUW Long Beach Frances Magarian Scholarship Committee that the amount of the scholarship for the Long Beach City College students be increased from \$500.00 to \$1,000.00 per recipient for the academic year 2024-2025. And, the total number of scholarship recipients at California State University at Long Beach be increased from two to three, due to branch member, Deloris Mayuga, giving a complete scholarship to CSULB for the academic year 2024-2025."

The following motions were passed during Executive Committee/Board Meetings as noted and were not timely reported due to oversight:

September 18, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting

Motion by Valerie Armstrong Regarding Tech Trek #1:

"By the direction of the Tech Trek Committee/Special Project, I move that the Board approve the Tech Trek Committee's proposed fundraising amount of \$5,000, and that fundraising occur during January 2024."

Passed by unanimous vote.

Motion by Valerie Armstrong Regarding Tech Trek #2:

"By the direction of the Tech Trek Committee/Special Project, I move that the Board approve the Tech Trek Committee's request to send up to 12 campers to Tech Trek STEM Camp in June/July of 2024."

Passed by unanimous vote.

BRANCH INTEREST GROUPS

Joining an interest group (or several) is a great way to get to know other members on a more personal level. Make new friends while participating in fun, informative and educational activities. To start a new interest group, submit a description to the Co-Presidents. The Contact persons listed below can inform you if groups are meeting virtually or are in person.



Book Chat Plus normally meets the first Tuesday from 10 am-noon at Lamis' home. Members present an interesting book they've recently read, a film they've recently seen or they share about a recent travel experience. Contact **Lamis Hashem** at 562-795-6605 / theHashemFamily@gmail.com



Cultural Adventures & International Cuisine Group plans trips to museums and other points of interest several times a year. It is usually a mid-week tour with lunch scheduled. We also plan meals at different ethnic restaurants, usually dinner with an easy drive. Join a group that checks out museums, other interesting locations, and special restaurants.



Contact for Adventures: JoAnn Kuroda at 562- 429-6973 / sojoinlb@aol.com

Contact for International Cuisine: Faye Alperin at 562-659-0051/ fayealperin@gmail.com



Diversity and Inclusion holds monthly meetings to suggest how our branch may be more welcoming and cognizant of different ethnicities and points of view.

Contact: **Mary Ann Takemoto** at 562-896-6825 / martakemoto@gmail.com



GovTrek is in its inaugural year. Leaders will reach out to high school girls interested in learning more about politics, leadership and volunteering. The group will meet monthly to plan activities.

Contact: **Arnedra Jordan** at 310-722-6594 / ajordan6@my.keller.edu



Great Decisions Groups meet to discuss, share opinions and ideas on critical issues global issues.

One group meets Friday afternoons and another meets Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm. Planning to participate in the Spring of 2023? Contact your group leader or **Rita Powell** to order your book or email riorita111@verizon.net



Literary Ladies Group meets to discuss and compare thoughts on a selected book, fiction or non-fiction. The group comes together to hear thoughts and insights from others in the group. Each member takes a turn recommending and leading the group. The February book selection is French Braid by Anne Tyler. We share this information so even if you aren't able to join us, you have reading suggestions. At this time, we are at capacity, however if you would like to be added to a waiting list, contact **Sharon Westafer**, 562-493-4749.



Public Policy committee explores, discusses and supports the active legislative issues of AAUW at the local, state, national and global levels to empower women and girls. It initiates emails and uses the 2 minute activist to promote legislation protesting civil rights, economic injustice issues and equal access to education. An authorized member of the **LA County InterBranch Council**, AAUW may collaborate with approved partner organizations to work toward common local and state goals. Contact **Rita Powell** at 562-685-2096 / riorita111@verizon.net



The Residential Rentals group started in 2009 with 3rd Wednesday 10 am gatherings. It continues as a discussion group on topics relating to residential rentals – things of interest/importance/concerns. We keep each other informed. The group has averaged 10 members over the years. It continues the 3rd Wednesdays in odd months; most often meeting at the dining room table in our homes or ZOOM.

To be on the email list contact **Joan Gustafson** jwg221@aol.com or **Ellen Mathis** epmathis@verizon.net.



Under the Umbrella Book Group - The "new" Book Club will meet the 3rd Saturday of the month at 2:00 PM Zoom meetings pending. We will read a variety of genres. We have room for more members! Ask about the titles to be read. Contact **Carol Llewellyn** 562-430-4380



CULTURAL ADVENTURES

BUS TOUR TO THE HOLOCAUST MUSEUM, LOS ANGELES - May 17, 2024

We will depart from the Target Parking Lot, 2270 Bellflower Blvd., Long Beach, at 8:45am. There will be a group tour followed by lunch at Farmer's Market on your own. Please make check payable to

JoAnn Kuroda, 5991 E. Belen Street, Long Beach, CA 90815.

RSVP: JoAnn Kuroda at 562-429-6923 or email sojoinlb@aol.com Or Elaine Heber at 619-609-8266 or email elainebethheber@yahoo.com Price: \$25.00 per person Deadline: May 10, 2024

NEW! Please RSVP by email to Reservations Chair Charlotte Joseph to let us know how you will attend. Use this email address !

aauwlong-beach.reservations@gmail.com

Deadline to RSVP is March 25.
You will receive an email reminder and details before the meeting.
A Zoom link will be mailed to you if needed.

Need some resources to share with others that highlight the AAUW mission and goals?

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/advocacy-toolkit/>

AAUW BRANCH MEETING

Saturday, April 6, 2024

9:30 am Social Time
10:00-11:00 Business Meeting
11:00-12:00 Program

Place: Long Beach City College Building O2, Room 208
4900 E. Conant St. LB 90808

Building O2 is on Clark, on the southwest corner of Conant, behind and to the west of Rosie the Riveter Park. Entering Conant from Clark, turn left into the 1st driveway. Bldg O2 is the 2nd building on the right .

Guests / Potential Members are Welcome



AAUW Long Beach Branch

Send address changes for AAUW Vantage to P O Box 15023,
Long Beach, CA 90815

PLEASE
PLACE
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