



Vantage

June Installation and Inspiration

Sharifa Batts, Program Vice President

The June program marks the end of our branch year, celebrates accomplishments of our current year and introduces the branch AAUW 2024-2025 Officers for the upcoming year. It also brings us to a summer of planning as we start a new year of fabulous AAUW programs.

All members and their guests are invited to join us on Saturday, June 1st as we hold a business meeting and the Installation of Officers. Announcement of the recipients of the Connie Inskeep Award and Named Gift Honoree will also be part of the presentations. We are grateful for the entire incoming Board's willingness to lead our branch. Congratulations to the incoming Board!

Co-Presidents: Carolyn Eggleston and Amy La

President-Elect/VP: vacant

Program VP: Sharifa Batts

Co-Membership VPs: vacant

AAUW Fund VP: Ginny Baxter

Co-Investment VPs: Deloris Mayuga

Co-Treasurers: Darlene Daclan and Tammy Kane

Co-Secretaries: Cacilia Kim and Linda Westman

(Please help with vacancies!)



At 11am, after the business meeting and installation, we will be entertained by musical partners Pattie and Marc Davidson who will sing and describe their community involvement and love of music discovered later in their lives.

Please make sure to send in your RSVP by May 27, 2024 and join us for the final program of the year! See you on Saturday, June 1st at the LBCC Foundation room 208 for the meeting OR on Zoom.

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

It's official! Carolyn and I are finishing up our first, official year as your co-presidents. We appreciate all your support as we navigated our first year. As your returning co-presidents, we look forward to another fruitful year. Please share your ideas and give us your feedback. We want our branch to grow and feel empowered. Did you connect or reconnect during the past year? Did you feel engaged and empowered? We want to know! We look forward to another awesome year ahead! We still have open positions so please consider nominating yourself or a colleague around you. We have a wealth of veteran members who can mentor and guide you.

As we move into the summer (hopefully relaxing), we want to take a moment to acknowledge June's Pride Month. We recognize the past, current, and future fights for equity for our LGBTQIA+ community. Did you know that the first Pride Parade was hosted in 1970 on the anniversary year of the Stonewall Inn Uprising? If you want to learn more, you can check it out here: [Pride](#)

June is also Immigrant Heritage Month, which was established back in 2014. This is an opportunity to recognize and appreciate the diverse backgrounds, experiences, and stories of immigrants who have come to the United States from all over the world. While conflicts continue to permeate in our communities, let us take a moment to highlight and appreciate our rich tapestry of immigrant communities and their impact on "American" life. Let's all be a part of the solution. Here is a timeline of immigration history FYI: [Immigrants](#)

Nonetheless, we have our last branch meeting before the summer starts. We hope to see you there! We wish you all a wonderful summer!



Tech Trek is a unique opportunity for middle school girls to experience a week of college life while participating in hands-on STEM lessons and activities. Our branch has sent 96 young women to Tech Trek since 1998. This would not have been possible without the generous donations from our members. We hope to send 12 students to camp at UCSB or Whittier College this summer. The price of attending camp went up this year. UCSB is asking for \$1150 per camper and Whittier College is requesting \$1200 per camper. This is a price increase of \$250 – \$300 per camper, so donations are very important this year.

If you would like to donate, checks should be made out to: AAUW – CA SPF with Tech Trek Long Beach on the memo line. By donating to the SPF fund, your donation will be tax deductible. Checks should be mailed to Tech Trek Treasurer Linda Patten. For more information, please contact [Valerie Armstrong](#).

Calendar Dates to Note

May 27	Memorial Day
June 1	Branch Meeting/Installation
June 17	Juneteenth
July 4	Independence Day
July	Branch Planning
Sept	New AAUW year starts

Contact Us

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longbeach-ca.aauw.net/

www.facebook.com / aauwlongbeachca
For Vantage Editor: Rebecca Low
 rlow1@hotmail.com

AAUW MEMBERSHIP DUES RENEWAL PROCESS

Many of our branch members first joined AAUW prior to April 2022. If you are among this group, your membership dues for 2024-2025 are due on June 30th.

Members are *strongly encouraged* to pay their dues, using credit or debit cards, via AAUW's Community Hub https://my.aauw.org/NC_Login. If you cannot access the Community Hub and must pay by check, please send your check for \$118, made payable to "AAUW Long Beach", to: Dr Ginny Baxter
 P.O. Box 8313, Long Beach CA 90808.

If you have questions about the renewal process, please contact Membership Treasurer Jeane Relleve Caveness at: jmrcaveness@outlook.com or call her at the number provided in the branch yearbook.

Membership Spotlight

by Membership VP Karen Gustafson

The annual Garden Party took place on May 4th at the beautiful home of Faye Alperin. Thank you to Faye and all the helpers who made this lovely event possible! Amy and Carolyn led the recognitions.

In attendance were 37 branch members and two guests, both of whom have joined our branch. Since December, three of our four new members are friends of current members. In that sense, we are all recruiters. The other new member found us through our website.



Doloris, Faye and Leila

Recent new members include:

Debra Berzajs is a retired teacher originally from Indiana. She graduated from Purdue University with a Marketing degree and currently resides in Seal Beach. She is a friend of Gay Witten. She is interested in STEM and Public Policy.



Lynne Katz is a retired Medical Social Worker and Geriatric Care Manager. Her career was with Kaiser Permanente. She graduated from Ohio State University and Hofstra University. She is a friend of Judith Kaho. Her branch interests include STEM, Tech Trek, Cultural Adventures/International Cuisine, Great Decisions, book groups, AAUW Fund and social events.

Dr. Grace Mucci is a pediatric neuropsychologist with Children's Hospital Orange County (CHOC). She earned her PhD in Clinical Psychology at UC Irvine. She is a friend of Amy La. She is interested in STEM, Cultural Adventures/International Cuisine and Public Policy.



Deb



Lynne



Grace

Other news:

Branch members enjoyed an evening of dinner and theater on May 10th. The play was "What the Constitution Means to Me" at the International City Theater. We had a party of 13 members and spouses. At the end of the play, there is a debate sequence which asks whether we should keep or abolish our U.S. Constitution which was written nearly 250 years ago by a group of white men, some of whom were slaveholders. In this scenario, a brand- new Constitution would replace the current one. At each performance, one audience member is asked to judge that question. It is a thought-provoking play.



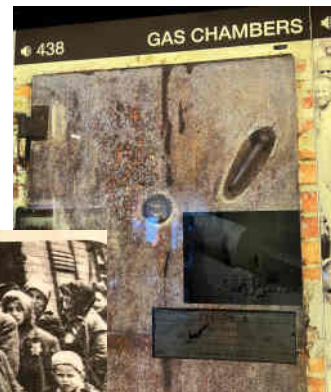
Cultural Adventures

by Elaine Heber and JoAnn Kuroda

Our Cultural Adventures Group went to the Holocaust Museum Los Angeles on May 17, 2024. We had twenty-eight people attend the trip and we were fortunate to have a bus that transported us to the museum supported by County Supervisor Janis Hahn. The schedule allowed us time for a delicious lunch at the Farmer's Market.

We had a phenomenal experience with our tour guide who shared his Czechoslovakian family's courageous journey to the concentration camps and their survival to America and other countries. Please find pictures from our visit which includes:

1. Ann Frank and the woman who hid her and her family during the war.
2. Role of the US Soldiers
3. Liberation
4. Gas Chambers
5. Death March
6. The Holocaust Symbol and entry way to the museum
7. The Farmer's Market



Branch & Board Business

by Harriet McDonald and Cacilia Kim

The following three motions were passed by unanimous vote at the May 20, 2024 Board Meeting:

Motion by Pat Ferrer:

The incoming/outgoing Budget Committee recommends that the proposed 2024/2025 budget be approved for presentation to the branch at the June Branch Meeting for approval, as amended. (See Budget on Website)

Motion by Pat Ferrer:

As Budget Officer I recommend the Board of Directors request branch approval of the following change to Policies and Procedures 5. Budget b.iii:

“The Executive Committee or the Board of Directors may approve expenditure of the fund without seeking branch member approval for requests of \$500 or less, but limited to \$1000 per fiscal year. Requests greater than \$500 should be submitted to the Board of Directors for its approval, with these approved requests submitted to the Branch for its approval at a Branch Meeting. Notification of the vote will be included in the Vantage, or by a branch member email.”

Seconded by Tobi Balma

Motion by Denise Montoya:

I move that Policy and Procedure 12. AAUW Fund Named Gift Honoree Award, b.ii, c.ii, c.iii, and c.iv., be updated as follows:

“b.ii. The committee will select a chair. They will solicit outside recommendations and will decide among themselves who the recipient(s) will be for that fiscal year. c.ii. The selection will take place by mid-March. The name(s) of the honorees will be kept secret until presentation. c.iii. A committee member will fill out the outline AAUW application at the AAUW CA website, prior to March 31. c.iv. The president is notified of the selection completion.”

Seconded by Tobi Balma

Public Policy-Title IX

from the AAUW-CA Website

On April 19, the U.S. Department of Education issued strong and comprehensive protections against discrimination in school through final Title IX rules. The new regulations clarify that student survivors of sexual harassment, pregnant and parenting students, and LGBTQ+ students have equal educational opportunities free from sex discrimination. The rules make significant changes to how schools respond to sexual harassment and discrimination claims, including:

- Eliminating the requirement for live hearings with cross examination
- Requiring schools to inform students of their Title IX rights and how to access them after being informed a student is pregnant
- Emphasis on supportive measures and training for school personnel

The new rules take effect August 1, 2024. A separate rule clarifying Title IX’s protections for transgender, nonbinary, and intersex student athletes is not expected until later this year. AAUW joined a gender justice coalition letter in support of the athletics rule.

There are already several legal challenges to the new regulations. The attorneys general of Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana and Idaho filed a lawsuit in district court along with the Defense of Freedom Institute (a group founded by former Trump Education Department officials who were key in crafting former Secretary Betsy DeVos’ Title IX rule on campus sexual misconduct). Texas has filed a separate lawsuit. Several states, including Louisiana, Montana, Florida, South Carolina, and Oklahoma, have said they will not comply with the new rule.

Check out our Public Policy Page on the AAUW California Website. You can read our current 2023-2025 Public Policy Priorities, which can be viewed [HERE](#), find information on the Legislative Agenda, Lobby Days, the Legislative Calendar, and Coalitions with other organizations. You can also learn the latest about the School Board Project!

We wish to thank all of our members for supporting and donating to the AAUW Fund. It has been an honor to be your 2023-2024 AAUW Co-Fund Vice Presidents. Tobi Balma will be continuing in this office and will be joined by Ginny Baxter for the 2024-2025 year.



Danielle Senecharles is a Career Development Grant recipient funded in part from our Long Beach Branch, Inc. Research and Projects Endowment (#4289) which was established in 2005 and completed in 2008.

This grant provides \$2,000-\$20,000 funding to women who hold a BA and are preparing to advance or change careers or re-enter the workforce in education; health and medical sciences; science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM); or social sciences. Primary consideration is given to women of color and women pursuing their first advanced degree or credentials in nontraditional fields. Funds are available for tuition, fees, books, supplies, local transportation and dependent care.

Grants support course work beyond a bachelor's degree, including a master's degree, second bachelor's degree, certification program or specialized training in technical or professional fields. Course work must be taken at a college or university in the US or at a technical school accredited by the U.S.

Department of Education. Funds are not available for doctorate-level work.

Jean Aldrich Long Beach Branch AAUW Fund American Fellowship 2023-2024 Recipient Dana Harmon

- California Lutheran University (Thousand Oaks-CA)
- Research Publication Grant in Engineering, Medicine and Science
- Assistant professor in the biology department at California Lutheran University
- Project: Characterizing the Role of the EmrAB-ToIC Multidrug Efflux Pump in Regulation of Metabolism in *E. coli*.
- Research focused on the role of efflux pumps in metabolism and stress responses in *E. coli*, with the goal of understanding how efflux pumps control metabolism.



Scholarship Fundraising

by JoAnn Kuroda, Committee Co-chair



The 12th annual Author's Day, held on March 30, 2024, was a success. We had over 70 attending the event featuring guest speaker, Iris Yamashita.

Ms. Yamashita was delightful and she expressed how she appreciated the audience. The proceeds of the day, which included ticket sales, silent auction items bought

by generous attendees, opportunity tickets and contributions helped make the proceeds over **\$7,0000.00**. Also, thank you to those who contributed unique and fun items to the silent auction. The earnings will go towards the awarding of local scholarships to students at CSULB and LBCC to further their education.

It took the great and hard working committee to put on this wonderful event.

They included: Chairman Ginny Baxter, JoAnn Kuroda, Erin Murphy, Sharon Westafer, Linda Westman, Deloris Mayuga, Judith Kaho, Fay Denny, Harriet MacDonald, Julie Taboada, Linda Silver, Charlotte Joseph, Diane Bradfield and Jane Hansen.



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. Plan to participate again in the Spring of 2025! Contact **Rita Powell** to order your book or info— 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 June book selection is *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver. 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 **Arnedra**



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



There is NO **International Cuisine** trip in June.
We will resume the outings again in September.

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 May 25.

You will receive an email reminder and details before the event. Zoom link will be sent prior to the meeting date.

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, June 1, 2024

9:30 am Social Time
10:00-11:00 Business Meeting & Installation
11:00-12:00 Entertainment

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. Enter 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 STAMP HERE

