



Vantage

Voting Rights for All

Sharifa Batts, Program Vice President

Voter suppression is any attempt to discourage or stop specific Americans from registering to vote or casting their ballot. Specific groups are based on their ethnicity, race, age, political affiliation, or other variations of voter's identities. In the United States, voter suppression has a long and unpleasant history, and over the last two decades it has reappeared with a vengeance. There have been many lawsuits and advocacy as many groups are fighting voter suppression from every angle.

On Saturday, September 7, AAUW has the privilege of hosting Jodi Balma for a presentation on **Voter Suppression and Election Myths**. Professor Jodi Balma 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 and was named 2022 Orange County Community College Teacher of the Year.



Professor Balma specializes in American politics and California state and local government. 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 to become involved 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. 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

Guests are welcome to attend this program that starts at 11:00 AM. Please send in your RSVP to attend the Branch meeting by August 30. See you on Saturday, September 7 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

Welcome back, members! Carolyn and I hope you all had a great summer. We return as your co-presidents and look forward to 2024-2025 as a year of change and growth. We want to continue the theme of reengaging with members, and expanding our membership by recruiting younger, diverse members who represent Long Beach! In August, some of our dedicated members represented our branch well and tabled at Long Beach's second annual Long Beach Women's Fair on August 26, 2024. In case you did not know, August 26th is also National Women's Equality Day, which commemorates Congress signing the 19th Amendment. What an appropriate event to lead into election year. Please stay tuned to for upcoming programs as we address relevant issues!



As we approach our first branch meeting in September, please be prepared to share your thoughts about the status of our remarkable STEM Conference. The current co-chairs have decided to step down. Many of you have joined this branch because of this wonderful conference. We really need your input to move forward. As such, 2024-2025 is an opportune time for reflection and reassessment for our branch. What do you want to see happen in our branch? Are there any events or areas that you think we should consider? We still have quite a few open positions. Please look around and consider yourself and/or advocate for a fellow member to consider. What would you like to get involved with? We want to know! Help us better serve our fabulous branch. Cheers to an amazing year ahead of us!



Welcome Back!

Calendar Dates to Note

August 26	LB Women's Fair
Sept 2	Labor Day
Sept 7	Meeting-AAUW year starts
Sept 16	Exec Board Meeting
Oct. 5	Meeting Branch

Contact Us

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

www.facebook.com / aauwlongbeachca
For Vantage Editor: Rebecca Low
r1ow1@hotmail.com

Food Finders Volunteer Opportunity

Calling on AAUW angels to form a team of at least 20 members (or members and friends) for a special community service event. Let's support Food Finders on Saturday, **November 23rd from 10am-12 noon** for the annual "Sort and Pack" at McBride High School in Long Beach. The purpose is to prepare food for holiday boxes to be given to those in need.

To sign up or for questions, please contact Jeane Relleve Caviness at jmrcaviness@outlook.com by **September 16th**. This event is open to anyone. Physical limitations will be accommodated. Come and work alongside your AAUW sisters and brothers for two hours and make a difference for people experiencing food insecurity.

About Food Finders ([Reducing Hunger](#) | [About Us](#) | [Our Mission](#) | [Our Values](#) | [Food Finders](#))

Tech Trek Update

by Valerie Armstrong, Tech Trek Chair

Tech Trek Whittier College completed a successful two weeks of camp on June 29th, offering classes in Robotics, Neurology, Chemistry, Forensics, Aerospace, and Anatomy. Workshops and activities included field trips to a cadaver lab and the Columbia Memorial Space Museum, Women's Career Night, a College Prep presentation, a financial responsibility activity, and an engineering project. Our campers from Long Beach had a wonderful experience, based on the thank you notes that they wrote at the conclusion of camp. Here are some of their comments:

R. A., Muir Academy:

"Thank you for giving me the chance to go to Tech Trek. The things I got to learn and see really helped me figure out what I wanted my future to be. I appreciate that you saw something in me and let me experience this amazing camp."

K. N., Powell Academy:

"Thank you for accepting me to be in this program. The staff was amazing, and the cooks are very good. The chemistry teacher and her class was very fun."

N. M., Powell Academy:

"This was an amazing experience, and I learned a lot of things in my neurology class. I got to dissect a pig eye and touch a pig brain and pig liver. My favorite part was getting to know other girls interested in STEM and forming new relationships. I enjoyed the time I spent here and getting the chance to live in a dorm for a week. Thank you."



G.T., Hamilton Middle School:

"Thank you so much for letting me come here. I'm grateful I got to experience this once in a lifetime opportunity! My favorite activities were the rovers and rockets I made in my Aerospace class. I'm so grateful and thank you again."

B. R., Hamilton Middle School:

"Thank you, AAUW Long Beach. I had so much fun. The things I had the most fun with were when we extracted strawberry DNA in the labs, the finance game, and the field trip to the cadaver lab."

S.P., Hamilton Middle School:

"I want to say thank you that you've considered paying for my STEM experiences. I learned a lot about myself. I learned that I love CSI and chemistry. Seeing a chemical reaction always surprises me! This week was a learning experience and I'm glad I know the periodic table. I'm so happy I learned so much here and I made new friends."

Next year, Whittier College will be back to one week of Tech Trek because there are plans to reinstate the UC Santa Barbara camp. The Tech Trek Committee will begin its search for 2025 campers in September.



Ciao, International Cuisine friends

We're going to Marino's Italian Restaurant, a family-run restaurant of 43 years, in a homey old-school locale.

Tuesday, September 17, 6 pm 17126 Bellflower Blvd., Bellflower

Many vegetarian entrees. Dinner is \$20-30 approximately, with an added 20% gratuity because of our large group size.

RSVP Faye Alperin

562.659-0051

Fayealperin@gmail.com

Membership Counts

by Mary Ann Takemoto, Faye Alperin, Membership Co-VPs.

We are happy to serve as your Membership Co-VPs for the upcoming year. We are grateful for the leadership of Karen Gustafson in this position during the past year, as well as her assistance in the transition process. Jeane Caveness assumed the duties of Membership Treasurer last year, and has been a great help to us, as well.

We are excited to support our Co-Presidents' goal of recruiting younger and more diverse members to the branch. Did you know that there are over 749 AAUW branches across the country? Out of this group, only 211 grew their membership. We want to be a branch that continues to thrive and bring in new members. Every branch member can be an ambassador for the branch to help recruit new members. We will be talking more about this in future meetings.



The membership committee will meet sometime in September to brainstorm ideas for recruitment and retention of members. We would love your input and participation; please let Faye or Mary Ann know if you are interested. We are working on plans for a new member mixer, as well as an orientation dinner, and we will report on these activities in future Vantage articles.

We look forward to a productive and successful year ahead, and appreciate your ideas and help!

Public Policy

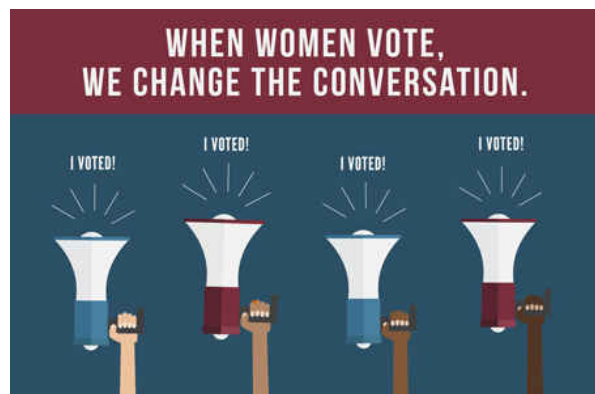
from the AAUW-CA Website

Welcome to another presidential election year in the United States! We have you covered with ALL THE RESOURCES. In mid-September the Public Policy Committee will present a webinar on Get Out the Vote. More details to follow soon. In the September issue of Public Policy News, we will include an article on the California ballot initiatives we are supporting.

In the next few issues of Public Policy News, we will include an overview of the Public Policy Priorities that are front and center in the upcoming election. In late September the Public Policy Committee will provide Candidate Comparison Guides for competitive Congressional races in California.*

*The Candidate comparison guides will focus on the races where an incumbent whose values are consistent with our public policy priorities is in danger of losing their seat, and where an incumbent whose values are not consistent with our priorities is being challenged by a candidate whose values align with ours.

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!



CSULB Scholarships

by JoAnn Kuroda, Committee Co-chair

Jennifer Paz

Jennifer is a first generation college student and she is also a reentry student. She is the mother of four special needs children. After raising her children and working in the medical field, Jennifer is now pursuing her BA in Geography with a minor in Native American Studies. She hopes to have a career in Environmental Anthropology and land stewardship. She stated that she wants to prove to her children that it is never too late to pursue their dreams and continue their education.



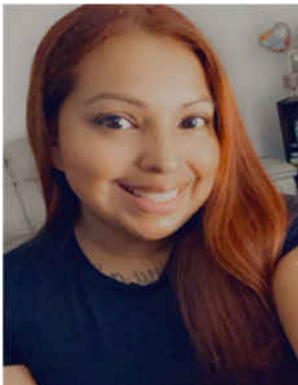
Shalin Canale

Shalin is studying Kinesiology with an emphasis in Exercise Science. She has always wanted to pursue a career in the medical field and aspires to go to a Physician Assistant's Program. Through her own personal experience recovering from surgery, she came to value the importance of medical professionals. Shalin has maintained a 3.7 GPA and is on the President's Honor List. She volunteers in the community teaching kids to swim and through her sorority, raises funds to support young girls.



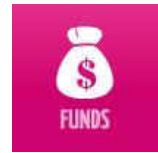
Alexandra Emery

Alexandra has worked multiple jobs to help support her family and pay for her education. Her father has had serious health problems which have impacted her family. Alexandra is pursuing a career in nursing. After her BSN degree, she hopes to continue on for an advanced degree. She wants to use her bilingual skills to assist patients. Alexandra has been active in the community, volunteering on a crisis line and providing meals to families in need.



Violeta Lara is a full-time student at **Long Beach City College** majoring in sociology, and also a full-time employee at Carbon Health urgent care. Violeta has five children; her oldest son is serving in the Army in Germany and her youngest child, David, was born in May of this year. Violeta plans to transfer to CSULB to obtain a bachelor's degree in social work. She has a GPA 3.88 and has been on the Dean's List twice. She is also involved with the Justice Scholars Program. In October, she will celebrate four years of sobriety, and she plans to work with other women who are struggling with drug addiction and who have lost their children to Child Protective Services as a result.

We hope you have had a great summer and are excited about learning more about the AAUW Fund and contributing. Linda Westman and I wish to thank all of our members for supporting and donating to the AAUW Fund. It was an honor to be your 2023-2024 AAUW Co-Fund Vice Presidents.



Per the last National AAUW Fund report for Year 2023-2024, you helped our dynamic Long Beach Branch contribute \$8,037 to the Fund. This did a lot to support our mission of providing equity and opportunities to women and girls. It may not have been our very best year (\$12,392 in 2022-23), but then Babe Ruth did not hit a home run every time at bat. It is still a commendable accomplishment. So good job! and thank you again to all you members who donated to the Fund.

This year Ginny & Tobi will continue educating you about the AAUW Fund, including the Legal Advocacy Fund, informing you about the 2024-2025 recipients of our branch endowments, and of course..... asking for \$\$\$\$... to help AAUW continue its work and mission. You don't have to wait for the November Fund Drive. You can write a check to the AAUW Fund or donate [Online](#). (to the Greatest Needs Fund.)

This month's article focuses on the 2023-2024 recipients of our Research and Projects Grants which were awarded as **Career Development Grants**. These provide \$2,000 - \$3000 funding to women who hold a bachelor's degree 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. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents whose last degree was received before June 30, 2016. Funds are available for tuition, fees, books, supplies, local transportation and dependent care.

AAUW originally designed Career Development Grants in 1972 to offer "encouragement" funding to AAUW members seeking to renew or resume academic work for credit toward career or employment advancement. Today, 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 an accredited two- or four-year college or university in the United States or at a technical school that is fully licensed or accredited by the U.S. Department of Education. Funds are not available for doctorate-level work.

Ethel Black AAUW Fund
Research and Projects Endowment
2023-2024 Recipient: Sonya Hauser-Steele

- Career Development Grant
- University of California - Berkeley
- Computer & Information Sciences Certificate
- Is a modern-language major who was intrigued by technology after working at an international company after graduating from college.



Connie Wright Inskip AAUW Fund
Research & Projects Endowment
2023-2024 Recipient: Danielle Senecharles

- Career Development Grant
- University of California – San Francisco
- Master of Nursing
- First-generation Afro-Caribbean Black American.
- First Registered Nurse and medical professional in her family.
- Her experience of being surrounded by strong, resilient women who exemplified empowerment created her desire to pursue her education and profession.



Joyce E. Clark AAUW Fund & Long Beach Branch
Research & Projects Endowments
2023-2024 Recipient: Cambrian Lopez-Boyd

- Career Development Grant
- Southwestern College (Chula Vista)
- Business Certificate
- Continuing her higher education journey to move into an administrative position within the deaf-education system.
- She currently uses sign language to facilitate communication, but she would like to take that a step further.



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. This group is currently on hiatus.



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. This group is currently on hiatus.



Great Decisions Groups are self-moderated groups that meet to discuss issues of world importance, guided by the Great Decisions book published by the Foreign Policy Association. The Great Decisions book highlights nine thought-provoking foreign policy challenges facing America. The program provides materials that help people reach informed decisions on the issues and participate on the foreign policy process and world affairs. One group meets Friday afternoons and another meets Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm. Each person pays for their own copy of the book. Contact your group leader or **Rita Powell** to join a group or for more information.



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 have room for more! 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. This group currently on hiatus.



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 - meets the 3rd Saturday of the month at 2:00 PM . We will read a variety of genres. We have room for more members! Contact **Carol Llewellyn** 562-430-4380

Have you visited the AAUW Long Beach website lately!?
Take a look and see if you can find information about membership,
policies, programs and the mission of AAUW.

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

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 August 31
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, Sept. 7, 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. 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

