



Vantage

Voting Information for All

Sharifa Batts, Program Vice President

Depending on the election year, voters may need to conduct research on oil and gas regulations, get familiar with decades of tax policy, or examine infrastructure funding. This November, voters will decide the fate of 10 propositions, including crime, health care, rent control and taxes. There have been many last-minute changes to these propositions which can be confusing to the most knowledgeable voter.



At our October 5, 2024 Branch meeting, AAUW will be hosting a team of presenters from the League of Women Voters, Long Beach Area (LWVLBA), to discuss the ballot measures being decided in November. Their presentation will simply explain the ballot measures: what they will do, what will change if approved, what the cost will be, what supporters and opponents are saying about them and the who and how much of the spending on the measures, e.g. where is all the advertising money coming from. They will discuss all 3 City of Long Beach measures and 3 others of interest to AAUW, and then will take questions. Additionally, our very own AAUW member Tobi Balma will speak about AAUW’s position on four ballot measures.

**Please bring any voting materials you have received about the measures and all your questions. [The Voter Guide can be found HERE.](#)



The LWVLBA is a 100 year-old organization that is political, but non-partisan. They do not support or oppose any candidate or political party.

Guests are welcome to attend this program that starts at 11:00 AM. Please send in your RSVP to attend the Branch meeting by September 30. See you on Saturday, October 5 at the LBCC Foundation room 208 for the meeting OR on Zoom. See back page for address.

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

We enjoyed seeing everyone who attended our first branch meeting after the summer. We still have some vacancies to fill! Please look around and consider yourself or a colleague to take on different leadership roles. Do you have any ideas or suggestions for our branch that align with our mission and values? NOW is a great opportunity to reimagine and recalibrate events and programming that our branch can offer.

If you missed our wonderful September program addressing voter suppression, then you can check it on our website:

<https://longbeach-ca.aauw.net/2024-2025-branch-meetings/>

Join us on October 5th to learn more about our November propositions. We have a lot lined up with the upcoming election season.



Speaking of the election, are you experiencing any of the following: Increased heart/pulse rate while online or talking about politics and/or unable to turn off intrusive thoughts about the election? If so, you may be experiencing election anxiety. Check out this handy guide to help you navigate the election season:

<https://www.newporthealthcare.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Newport-Healthcare-Election-Roadmap-1.pdf>

Feel free to share with those who may need some support to stay on course during the election season. Don't let the excitable election season throw you off, keep calm and maintain your healthy boundaries.

Please remember to be gentle to yourself. October 1st is International Day of Older Persons and October 10th is World Mental Health Day. Take care and be well!

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

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

Calendar Dates to Note

Sept 16	Exec Board Meeting
Oct. 5	Branch Meeting
Oct. 11	Yom Kippur
Oct. 21	Board Meeting
Oct. 31	Halloween

Contact Us

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longbeach-ca.aauw.net/

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

Did You Know? October 2024 has much to celebrate!

Sept. 15 to Oct.15	National Hispanic Heritage Month
Oct.3 – 12	Hindu – Navaratri - Honors the supreme goddess Durga
Oct.5	World Teacher's Day
Oct.11	International Day of the Girl
Oct.11-12	Yom Kippur - Holiest day of the Jewish year when Jews seek to expiate their sins and achieve reconciliation with God.
Oct.13	National No Bra Day (breast cancer awareness)
Oct.14	Indigenous Peoples Day - Honors the histories, cultures, and perspectives of indigenous peoples who lived on the land now known as North America.
Oct. 24	United Nations Day
Oct.31 – Nov. 1	Hindu - Diwali - Celebrates the victory of Lord Krishna over the demon Naraka who is said to have imprisoned women
Diversity Dateline	Courtesy of Pat Dudley, DEI Chair AAUW Greater Whittier Branch See more on the AAUW Branch website

STEM Career Conference

by Carol Clanton & Frances Rozner, Co-Chairs

After much discussion, the AAUW Long Beach branch decided on September 7 to sunset the 2025 STEM Career Conference and to form a task force to re-imagine how the branch may best serve the community in the future with the amazing resources we have within our membership. If you are interested in serving on that task force please contact our Co-Presidents,



Amy La and Carolyn Eggleston.

In 2003, the concept of helping underserved girls in our community learn about STEM careers was much needed. AAUW Long Beach was in the forefront. In the years since then, 3339 girls were influenced to consider math and science coursework to achieve a career that could provide a healthy income. Today, there are far more opportunities in Long Beach for underserved girls to find out about STEM careers and to be inspired to attend college. Indeed, our branch's Tech Trek involvement is one such opportunity – not perhaps on the same scale as the Conference, but definitely with deeper influence for each girl.

Many of you have volunteered for the STEM Career Conference over its 20-year run – thank you so very much for your commitment, time and effort. You put on an awesome experience, year after year. It truly took a team to succeed as we did, improving each year. However, as a fully volunteer organization, volunteers do have limits – even those leading the effort. Thank you for understanding why we had to move on – as we understand the reluctance to take on the leadership of such a complex event. Again, thank you – it has been a privilege to participate together with you on a very effective project for so many years. Looking forward to working with you again on the re-imagined projects.

Public Policy

from the AAUW-CA Public Policy newsletter

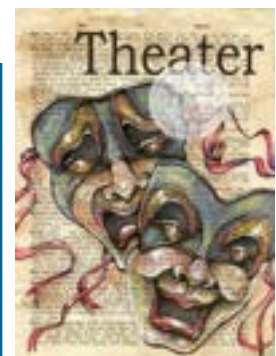
The Public Policy Committee will present a webinar entitled, "Getting Out the Vote (GOTV) in a Polarized World" on Monday **September 23, 2024** at 7:00pm. The webinar will address Voter Registration, GOTV Logistics, Voter Education/Suppression, and Community Collaboration/ Having Difficult Conversations.

You can register for the webinar [HERE](#).

IMPORTANT: Per guidelines from AAUW National, voter guides that include the position of major party candidates on specific issues may only be published by 501(c)(4) branches. Please refer to AAUW's [Guidelines for Election Activities](#) for detailed information about election related activities that branches may and may not do, depending on their IRS designation of 501(c)(3) versus 501(c)(4).

Theater Event

We have purchased a group of tickets to see "The Spirit of Harriet Tubman: Featuring Leslie McCurdy" at the Cerritos Performing Arts Center on Tuesday, **January 28, 2025** at 6:30 PM. Tickets are \$10.00. Tubman was the historic Underground Railroad "conductor" who risked her own life leading slaves to freedom. If you are interested in attending, please contact Mary Ann at martakemoto@gmail.com.



Membership Counts

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



We are delighted to welcome **Paddy Lock**, a member of the Pasadena branch, who joined our Long Beach branch after relocating here from La Crescenta. Some of you may remember meeting her at last year's Long Beach Women's Fair. Patty's Aerospace Engineering degree from San Diego State University and her work at Cal Tech and recently at JPL as a manager of the Deep Space Network Mission Assurance, makes her a unique asset to the Tech Trek team. Patty is involved with a number of other socially-focused organizations, and her other interests include writing science articles for children and viewing K-dramas, particularly *Crash Landing on You*, which is a known gateway to more Korean offerings.

On a picturesque Southern California afternoon, new members Grace Mucci, Paddy (Patricia) Lock and Juliet Wurr, enjoyed time with members from our branch. It was a chance to get to know these diverse and dynamic members in a relaxed setting. You will read more about them and other new members in the Vantage, and we know you will welcome them

when you meet them in person.



New members L to R: Grace Mucci, Paddy Lock and Juliet Wurr

Board Business

by Harriet McDonald and Linda Westman

Motions approved at the Board meeting on June 5

MOTION 1

Patricia Ferrer recommends, on behalf of the Board of Directors, that the provided 2024 -2025 budget be approved at the June Branch Meeting. The motion Passed by unanimous vote, no second required.

MOTION 2

Patrica Ferrer, on behalf of The Executive Committee recommends to the Branch that the cost, if any, for Quickbooks for the new Treasurer, be funded through the Reserve Fund rather than through the Operating Budget funded through membership dues. The motion passed by unanimous vote, no second required.

Motions approved at the Branch meeting on Sept 7, 2024

Membership Motion – Mary Ann Takemoto

“By the direction of the Nominating Committee I move that Faye Alperin and Mary Ann Takemoto be nominated for the position of Membership Co-Vice Presidents.” No second needed. Approved unanimously.

STEM Motion - Shelly Arnold

“I move that the STEM Conference be sunsetted for 2025 and re-imagined before any next steps forward be undertaken.” Seconded by Jeanne Caveness. Approved unanimously.

2024 Named Gift Honorees

from the Named Gift Committee

On behalf of the members of the Named Gift Honoree Committee, Denise Montoya (Chair), Tobi Balma, and Rebecca Low, we want to thank the AAUW Long Beach, CA Branch Inc for their nominations of special members for consideration of this award.

We love our AAUW Long Beach Branch members who volunteer by stepping up to offer their time, treasure, and talent! This special award honors particular members who have given exceptional volunteer service to our Branch. No doubt the nominee/nominees have worked behind the scenes, pitched in to help at the committee level, worked on a project, or consistently says "Yes!" when asked to help by others.

Therefore, we recognized our next Named Gift Honoree/s for the 2023 – 2024 term. There are two members being recognized: Valerie Armstrong and Carol Clanton.

Valerie has been the Tech Trek Chair since 2019 – present. And, prior to that time, has been Tech Trek Committee member. The planning piece for Tech Trek entails several months of commitment and coordination with AAUW CA. Valerie has put her professional educational skills to work as she volunteered behind the scenes as a Tech Trek Dorm Mom. She has given well-organized presentations about the program for the fundraiser every year. Valerie has supported the STEM Career Conference for several years, offering her photography skills. She attends meetings and events regularly.

Carol has been a STEM Career Conference Co-Chair responsible for recruiting the Keynote Speaker and presenters, as well as working on the post-conference evaluation. Carol handled the responsibilities for the Branch meeting Door Chair position. She also attends meetings and events regularly. Carol was appointed as the Chair of the Elected Board Officers Nominations Committee who did an excellent job recruiting to fill vacancies for this term.


We congratulated both of these outstanding volunteers who are demonstrating their passion for the Mission of AAUW. Valerie and Carol go above and beyond our expectations every year for the time and energy they give to this Branch.

We provided them with certificates of honor and sincerely thank them for all they do to promote the wonderful projects of the Branch! Thank you so much Valerie and Carol!



AAUW has a proud heritage of helping women pursue higher education, tracing back to a time when few women had that opportunity. Our branch has a history of donating generously to the AAUW Fund.

How to Support AAUW's Mission




Education and Training Fund (4450)

Addresses the barriers and implicit biases that hinder the advancement of women by championing equal access to education and ensuring that education at every level is free from sex discrimination.

**STEM
Title IX
Pathways to Jobs**

Examples of programs include:
Fellowships/Alumnae Initiatives
Fellowships and Grants
Public Policy
Research




Economic Security Fund (4449)

Ensures livelihoods for women through achieving pay equity for women, providing training in salary negotiation, and deepening women's retirement security and quality of life.

**Pay Equity
Title VII
Retirement Security**

Examples of programs include:
Start Smart
Work Smart
Work Smart Online
Legal Advocacy Fund



Leadership Fund (4452)

Supports the effort to close the gender gap in leadership opportunities by bolstering the participation of and increasing the number of girls and women in leadership roles, particularly in education and nonprofit organizations.

**Career
Workplace
Training**

Examples of programs include:
Campus Action Projects
Empower
NCCMFL

AAUW is a 501(c)3. Donations to the AAUW Fund Support many programs, including Fellowships and Grants. AAUW has awarded over \$115 million in fellowships and grants to more than 13,000 scholars and organizations in 50 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico and Guam and 150 countries, one of the largest scholarship programs for women in the world. Only the interest from the Endowments are used to fund recipients, thus, the interest from several endowments are combined to sponsor Fellowships and Grants.

In 2023, AAUW awarded \$6 million in Fellowships and Grants to women. Only the interest is used, allowing the completed national endowments to last into perpetuity. It generally takes the interest of several fellowships and grants to fund an AAUW Fellow/Grantee. Thanks to former and present members (and friends), since it's founding, AAUW Long Beach has donated over \$400,000 to the AAUW Fund to complete seven endowments in honor of our branch and branch members.

As of August 31, 2024, our branch has contributed **\$2,810** to the AAUW Fund. Our Annual Branch Fund Drive is in November. HOWEVER, you don't have to wait until November to donate! Ginny and Tobi will gladly accept checks anytime made out to the AAUW Fund or you can donate directly online [HERE](#). For questions about giving to a special fund at AAUW, please call [800.326.2289](tel:800.326.2289). By check, please designate in the notation section which Fund you have selected. At the present time, AAUW is encouraging donors to donate to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund #9110. Some of the other funds are Education and Training Fund (4450), Economic Security Fund (4449), the Leadership Fund (4452), or to sub-funds within 4450, 4449 (i.e., Legal Advocacy Fund #3999) or 4452.

Diversity and Inclusion/Cultural Adventures/International Cuisine

Chen Art Gallery

1625 W. Abalone Avenue, Torrance, CA 90501

Tuesday, October 8, 2024

Come join our group to view a private art collection that features rooms of Chinese art spanning 5000 years of history. For those interested, we will be going to lunch following the tour at the **Sea Empress Restaurant** in Gardena. Each person will pay lunch on their own. Carpooling is recommended. No entry fee

RSVP: JoAnn Kuroda 562-429-6923 sojoinlb@aol.com

Deadline: September 24, 2024



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 meeting with CA and the IC groups—see the ad on page 6



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 October book selection is *Shark Heart* by Emily Habeck. 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

International Cuisine discovers the heart of Peru with chef Jorge Chan.

El Rocoto, 11433 South Street, Cerritos
Monday, **November 4**, 2024, 11:00 am

RSVP Faye Alperin

562.659-0051

Website: elrocoto.com

Fayealperin@gmail.com



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

aaulongbeach.reservations@gmail.com

Deadline to RSVP is September 30

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, Oct. 5, 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

