



# Vantage

## Celebrate Tech Trek

Valerie Armstrong, Tech Trek Coordinator



Please join us in our celebration of Tech Trek campers, teachers, and volunteers on Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup>. A panel of former campers will talk about their experience at Tech Trek and discuss what they learned. In addition, there will be a slide show of camp activities from Whittier College. **Since we're celebrating education, let's all wear our own college t-shirt or colors.**

Tech Trek is a unique opportunity for seventh grade girls to experience a week of college life while participating in hands-on STEM lessons and activities. We should be proud of our branch for providing this opportunity to over 100 deserving students since 1998. This would not have been possible without the generous donations from AAUW Long Beach members.

The January 11<sup>th</sup> meeting will be our annual Tech Trek fundraiser. We hope to raise enough money to send 12 students to camp at UC Santa Barbara or Whittier College this summer. Tech Trek costs \$1200 per camper. For those who would like to donate to Tech Trek, 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 (see her address in the Yearbook).



I would like to thank our wonderful Tech Trek Committee members: Nicole Gracie, Tech Trek Alumni Coordinator; Linda Patten, Tech Trek Branch Treasurer; Tobi Balma, who has served as Asst. Camp Director and Dorm Mom at Whittier College; Anne Supple, former Tech Trek Branch Coordinator; and Judy Willis, who has many years of experience as a committee member, not only in Long Beach, but also at the Palos Verdes Branch. We also welcome new AAUW Long Beach member Lynne Katz. I am honored to work with such a great team.

**We look forward to seeing you in your college T-Shirt or colors on January 11<sup>th</sup>!**

RSVP to Charlotte Joseph at: [aauwlongbeach.reservations@gmail.com](mailto: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

### Happy January Everyone!!!

We hope the holidays were everything you wanted them to be! It is always a bit nice when they are over, too, though.

We are trying to come back from the election, with hopes that everyone will continue to offer efforts to improve services for girls and women. We are looking into options for activities to replace the successful, long running STEM conference. It had run its course in Long Beach.

We hope you completed your survey on potential new projects. If not, there is still time to get it in! Please, please, complete it soon if you have not yet. It is due January 8!!!

[https://csulb.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_1zya311GyuBPoQ6](https://csulb.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1zya311GyuBPoQ6)

Besides celebrating Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, and the inauguration day, January has several areas women should address. One is Cervical Health Awareness Month, and another is Human Trafficking Prevention Month. These areas are two that AAUW members can help address to women and girls. Let's help raise awareness for these causes. And make sure about your own health!!

Martin Luther King Jr., whose birthday we celebrate this month was an important leader in the Civil Rights Movement. He should be honored for so much, but his approach to peaceful nonviolent resistance changed the soul of American and the plight of African Americans. He changed the world for everyone. His "I have a dream" speech galvanized the country and the world to help all who were disenfranchised and faced discrimination.

Our branch meeting is not until January 11, so we hope to see all of you there!

**Successful Food Finders Volunteer activity in November organized for AAUW by Jeane Relleve Caveness, Ph.D.**

**The event was a rare instance of significant branch member participation in a service event for at risk members of our community.**



### Calendar Dates to Note

Dec 21	Winter Begins
Dec 25	Christmas Day
Dec 26	Chanukah / Kwanzaa
Jan 1	New Years Day
Jan. 20	MLK Day
Feb. 1	Branch Meeting

### Contact Us

[aauwlongbeach@gmail.com](mailto:aauwlongbeach@gmail.com)

[longbeach-ca.aauw.net/](http://longbeach-ca.aauw.net/)

[www.facebook.com / aauwlongbeachca](http://www.facebook.com/aauwlongbeachca)

**For Vantage Editor: Rebecca Low**  
**[rlow1@hotmail.com](mailto:rlow1@hotmail.com)**

# Kudos to the Organization

from AAUW National

Dear Branch President,

It is with great pleasure that I share some exciting news—AAUW Long Beach Inc. (CA) Branch has achieved three stars in AAUW's **FY24 Five Star Program**! Your branch attained the **Communications & External Relations, Programming and Governance & Sustainability** stars. This recognition is a testament to the dedication, hard work, and commitment of your branch members to advancing AAUW's mission of gender equity for women and girls.

The Five Star Program is designed to honor branches that align their work with AAUW's strategic priorities in areas such as Advancement, Public Policy & Advocacy, Governance & Sustainability, Programming, and Communications & External Relations. Earning three stars is an incredible accomplishment, and we are thrilled to celebrate this success with you. While we will be updating the AAUW website soon to reflect all the branches that have earned stars this year, we wanted to ensure your branch received this good news first. Your achievement will be highlighted alongside other winning branches, showcasing your vital role in supporting AAUW's mission both locally and nationally. State leadership will be informed in the coming days.

Congratulations again on this well-deserved recognition. Thank you for your continued leadership and dedication to creating a more equitable world. If you have any questions or would like additional resources to help your branch continue its progress in the Five Star Program, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Regards and Happy Holidays,  
Tremayne A. Parquet  
Deputy Director of Advancement

## AAUW Outings

CULTURAL ADVENTURES /  
International Cuisine:  
CHEECH MARIN GALLERY TOUR

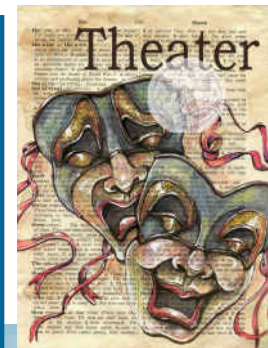
A wonderful time was had by those who attended the Cheech Marin Tour on Dec. 4. Traveling to Riverside were: Faye Alperin, Dee Dee and Dave Catalano, Charlotte Joseph, JoAnn Kuroda, Judy Logue, Gay Witten, Pat Wong and Juliet Wurr. After the museum tour, the group had a delicious lunch at the Heroes Brewery and Restaurant.



## Theater Event

We still have 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](mailto:martakemoto@gmail.com).



# Membership Counts

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



What a festive and enjoyable holiday event we had at Juliet Wurr's lovely home! One of the best things about this event is (beside the food and Wassail) the opportunity to meet new and prospective members. Thanks to Tammy Kane who introduced us to Margarita de la Torre, who has decided to join the branch. Welcome, Margarita!

Margarita de la Torre is Co-CEO and Co-Founder of TLC Interpreting and Translation Services. Her work in translation services spans the public, private and non-profit sectors. Margarita holds a Bachelor of Science in Health Care Administration and Translation and Interpreting Studies from Cal State Long Beach. A woman of many talents, she is a California Certified Court Interpreter and aided in the development of the interpreting department at Long Beach Memorial

Medical Center. She enjoys spending time with her family, including her husband and twin toddlers. Please join us in welcoming Margarita to the branch!

# December Event

by Sharifa Batts, Program VP

Thank You to all who assisted in making this such a Joyful event.

Team Work Makes the Dream Work!

I appreciate all of you. (Sharifa)

**Happy Holidays!**



# Help Us to Plan—Reimagine

from the Study Group

## **Take the Survey**

We are asking members to take 5 minutes to complete the Reimagining Study Group Qualtrics Survey and submit it as soon as possible. The survey link can be clicked on—or copied and pasted into a browser for those people who want to take the survey on their computers:

[https://csulb.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_1zya3I1GyuBPoQ6](https://csulb.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1zya3I1GyuBPoQ6)

The purpose of the survey is to prioritize topic areas and the population group(s) the program will serve; program number and frequency; identification of the skills our members can bring to the table and if they want to lead or work behind the scenes; identify preferred method for delivery of content; and to determine how willing members are to participate in one hour Focus Groups in January 2025.



We value input from all our members as we work together to plan for the next term 2025 – 2026. Please complete it no later than 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2025. It's so easy and short, please consider turning your survey in sooner than later. Alternatively, here is the QR Code to use to open and complete the survey.

## **Focus Group Participation**

The Reimagining Study Group will appreciate knowing more about your interest in envisioning our branch's next signature program. Please take the next step and sign up to participate on one of the three dates to meet either in person or virtually. The following link will take you to the Google form listing the dates and times to meet: <https://forms.gle/yvpkYdWQ4rsUnRB27>

One Focus Group is offered in-person right after the January Branch Meeting. The other two are by Zoom, one in the afternoon, the other in the evening. Please note that participation is voluntary, and results will be reported only in summary form. An audio recording of each focus group will be used solely for the purpose of accurately capturing responses. The recording will not be shared. Please contact Denise Montoya or Erin Murphy, Study Group Co-Chairs, with any questions.

# Prepare for Nominating

from Jane Hansen, Nominating Chair

The new year has begun and it's time to think about nominations for our branch officers for 2025-26. The nominating committee has started its work, and you have a very important role to play. *If you have been thinking about getting more involved in our branch, now is the time to reach out to the nominating committee to find out more about available leadership positions!*

Becoming an officer is a way to share your talents, develop your skills and build deeper friendships. Many of our members have served in leadership roles diligently for years. It's a great legacy and one that we want to honor, by ensuring that the health and vitality of AAUW Long Beach continues.

Listed here are the elected officer positions. Other positions are appointed later by the President(s).

The term of elected offices is either one or two years, depending on the position.

One-year terms: President    President Elect (for branch year 2026-2027)    Program VP

Membership VP    AAUW Fund VP    Secretary

Two-year terms: Investments VP    Financial Secretary    Membership Treasurer

Treasurer (The current Co-Treasurers will serve through June 2026)

Any of these offices can be shared by two people, such as "Co-President, Co-Membership VP."

No elected officer may serve more than three consecutive terms in the same office.

The elected officers comprise the Executive Committee, which meets monthly over Zoom.

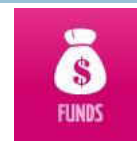
This group, together with the wider board of appointed officers, functions as the planning entity for our branch.

The nominating committee will present the slate of candidates at the branch meeting on March 1<sup>st</sup>, with the election to follow in April. You can reach out to any of the nominating committee for more info. Members are:

Jane Hansen, Chair; Faye Alperin, Jeane Caveness, Carol Clanton, Karen Gustafson, and Denise Montoya.

## THANK YOU DONORS!

Happy New Year! Thank you to our generous members who donated to the AAUW Fund in 2024. We received \$3850 in checks, giving us a sub-total of \$7,435. We will not know the complete total (i.e., including December online donations) until we receive an official disbursement report from National in late January.



The recipients of our seven endowments have been announced. Since only the interest on an Endowment is used, several endowments are combined for each awarded recipient. More information will be provided in future Vantage articles and on our branch website. Here is a brief introduction to the recipients who have been funded partially from our endowments:

- #1193 Anna Stofflet Townsend International Fellowship: Olga Doletskaya is studying for a Ph.D. in Social Anthropology and Sociology at the University College in London.
- #1652 Louise Ruth Arbogast American Fellowship: Christine Vega's specialty is Race, Class, Gender & Sexuality Studies at San Jose State University.
- #4412 Jean Aldrich American Fellowship: Bailey Howell is a Ph.D. candidate in Evolutionary Biology at Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University in Blacksburg, Virginia.
- #1739 Joyce E. Clark Research & Projects Grant: Chandana Papudesu, who lives in Americus, Georgia, is a recipient of a Selected Professions Fellowship, working on an MBA in Entrepreneurship at Columbia University in the City of New York.
- #1835 Connie Wright Inskeep Research & Projects Grant: Lauren Blodgett's Community Action Grant project centers on Immigrant & Gender Rights; she is from Brooklyn, New York.
- #4289 Long Beach Branch, Inc. Research & Projects Grant and #4130 Ethel Black Research & Projects Grant: Brittany Keppel's Career Development Grant is for a Master of Arts in Human Rights at CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice in Brooklyn, New York.

You may find a list [HERE](#) of AAUW FUND recipients who are studying in California.

### From the Web Manager: Tobi Balma

National AAUW has modernized all branch websites. Come take a look at our new [Home Page](#) (as well as other areas of the website). Our Website is updated several times each month with new and other useful information, including a current membership list. Our website serves our members, potential members and the community. Please feel free to send me articles, photos and corrections. Contact me for the Members Only Password to access the most recent membership list.

Congratulations to Juliet Wurr who made a website suggestion and found something to be corrected. She has been honored as the "Eagle Eye" for the month of December 2024. All members who find website errors are eligible to be named "Eagle Eye of the month."

**LACIC NEWS:** Mark your calendar for January 12, 2-4 on Zoom.

Gloria Blackwell, CEO of AAUW, will join us to talk about her role as AAUW's representative to the United Nations where our AAUW organization has special consultative status on the Economic and Social Council. She will give us an insider's view of what that entails.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89246630038?%20pwd=boO11aYaAaM6UJDyyKayJvyIOWwA2.1>

Passcode: 750330

# 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](mailto: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](mailto:sojoinlb@aol.com)

Contact for International Cuisine: **Faye Alperin** at 562-659-0051/ [fayealperin@gmail.com](mailto: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 Cultural Adventures and the IC groups.



**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 January book selection is *The Wind Knows My Name* by Isabelle Allende. 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](mailto:jwg221@aol.com) or **Ellen Mathis** [epmathis@verizon.net](mailto: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

## Board Business

by Cacilia Kim

The following motion was passed at the November 18, 2024 Executive Committee Meeting:  
 Motion by Valerie Armstrong, Tech Trek Committee Chair  
 “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 2025”  
 Passed by unanimous vote

**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](mailto:aaulongbeach.reservations@gmail.com)

**Deadline to RSVP is December 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, Jan. 11, 2025**

**9:30 am Social Time to Mingle**

**10:00-11:00 Business Meeting**

**11:00-12:00 Program**

**Place: Long Beach City College Room 208**  
4900 E. Conant St. LB 90808

Building O2 is on the southwest corner of Clark and 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 to RSVP**



AAUW Long Beach Branch

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

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

