



# Vantage

## The Gap Persists

*Sharifa Batts, Program VP*

Join us on March 1 for an insightful panel discussion on **Gender Pay Equity in the Workplace**. Our very own Dr. Sharifa Batts will moderate the discussion, where experts and industry leaders explore the persistent wage gap and strategies for closing it. This discussion will cover key factors contributing to pay disparities, including systemic barriers, workplace policies, and legislative efforts. Panelists will share best practices for organizations to promote fair compensation and tools women can use to advocate for their worth.

The conversation will also highlight the impact of intersectionality, recognizing how race, ethnicity, and other identities further influence wage inequality. Attendees will gain actionable insights on advancing workplace equity and fostering a culture of transparency and inclusion. This event aligns directly with AAUW's mission to advance gender equity through research, education, and advocacy. AAUW has been a leading voice in fighting for fair pay, workplace rights, and economic security for women. Through initiatives like the Work Smart workshops and advocacy for stronger equal pay legislation, AAUW continues to push for systemic changes that eliminate gender-based wage discrimination. By hosting this panel, AAUW Long Beach Branch reaffirms its commitment to creating a more just and equitable workforce for all.

Panelists will present thoughts and experiences related to the Gender Pay Gap. **Sumer Temple** is the owner of Don Temple Family Enterprises and manages her business with an eye to supporting the local business community. **Shelley Reed** is an HR Consultant with a strong passion for giving back to the community.

\*\*\*More detailed biographies can be found on pg 3 and on the AAUW website.

Guests are welcome to attend this program that starts at 11:00 AM. Meet at 9:30 AM to socialize, 10 AM business meeting, followed by the program. Venue: Long Beach City College, 4900 E. Conant St (Clark & Conant). Follow signs to building O2, Room 208.

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

There is still a chance to register for the Lobby Days in Sacramento! One can attend in person or virtually April 8. It is hard to believe that March is here! It seems 2025 has started like gang busters. Although the News may be sad, there is much happening with AAUW. It is a bulwark against the negative around us. Let's keep attending to that!

There is a lot to celebrate this month—one thing is Women's History month. We have accomplished so much and have lots of tasks ahead of us. It is hard to believe that women only got the right to vote in national elections in 1920. Obtaining the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment was a long and difficult battle. There were conflicting efforts even among women. Maybe we needed several views. The more orthodox approach by heroes such as Carrie Chapman Catt and Susan B. Anthony competed with the more aggressive tactics of those like Alice Paul.

The most disturbing piece of the movement was to keep black women like Ida B. Wells and Frances Ellen Watkins Harper from full participation was repugnant. Black women had worked with their white sisters to obtain the vote and then were thought to be "damaging" to the effort, so not allowed a seat at the table, particularly as it applied to public efforts such as marches. Ida B. Wells did not stand for it and marched as well. Not something for us to be proud of as women. We must understand that we are stronger working together. Let's make sure we all celebrate International Women's Day on March 8!!!

There are other things to celebrate this month. March 21 is the International Day for the elimination of racial discrimination. This applies to all ignored, disenfranchised, and excluded people around the world. This day includes the celebration of the end of apartheid in South Africa. In 1966 the day was established to help end racial discrimination around African countries and has extended to around the world. We have not met the goal of ending racial discrimination yet, by any measure.

We also have the Holi Festival this month. The Hindu festival celebrates the arrival of spring, which includes love and new life. You may have heard of it as the Festival of Colors. "Playing Holi" involves the throwing of colors (like flowers, herbs, spices) to others as a way to bring people of all levels together. If you have not seen clips of this process, please do look it up. It seems like great fun!

March 14 is also Pi Day. It is a celebration of the math constant Pi. The 14<sup>th</sup> was chosen as the first three digits of Pi include 3, 1, and 4. Pretty great way to celebrate math and science!

In these difficult times it is helpful to remember that there are things to celebrate. Let's keep these in mind as we navigate through this challenging period. It helps us to keep our focus on the affirmative things we can do.

### Calendar Dates to Note

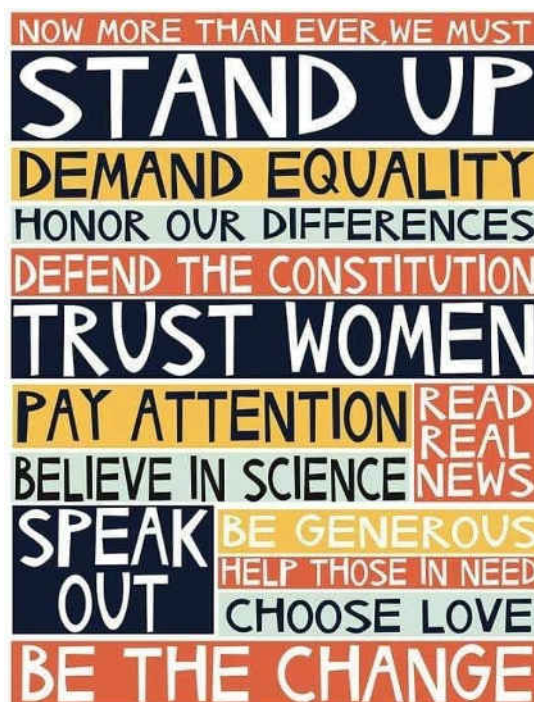
Mar. 1	Branch Meeting
Mar. 17	St Patrick's Day
Mar. 17	BOD Meeting
April 5	Branch Meeting
April 26	Author Luncheon

### Contact Us

aauwlongbeach@gmail.com  
[longbeach-ca.aauw.net/](http://longbeach-ca.aauw.net/)

www.facebook.com / aauwlongbeachca

**For Vantage Editor: Rebecca Low**  
 rlow1@hotmail.com



## Program Speaker Notes

from Sharifa Batts, Program VP

### Sumer Temple

Sumer Temple is the owner of Temple Family Enterprises, which encompasses Don Temple Storage, Long Beach U Store & Lock, The Temple Center and other commercial real estate properties within the City of Long Beach. Sumer was raised in Long Beach and is a graduate of Poly High School's CIC program. After high school she attended LBCC and later transferred to Chapman University, attaining her BA in Communication with an emphasis in Organizational Leadership.

Since the passing of her father, Don Temple in 2013, Sumer has managed their two remaining facilities and commercial properties. In 2015, Sumer oversaw nearly \$11 million dollars in real estate transactions and in 2022, facilitated the honor of Don Temple Storage reaching the ranks of a million-dollar company, an achievement only 9% of small businesses will ever accomplish. Sumer is heavily involved in the community, including Chair of the 2024-2025 Board of Directors at the LB Area Chamber of Commerce; President of the LBCC Foundation Board of Governors; Chair of the Citizens' Oversight Committee at LBCC, Vice President of The Don Temple Family Charitable Foundation and Vice Chair of PLAY Long Beach, and many more.



### Shelley Reed

Shelley is a Senior Human Resources Consultant with Strategic HR Advisory with more than 30 years of experience in Human Resources and Employee Development. Shelley has experience working in many different industries including non-profit, retail, hospitality, manufacturing, transportation and logistics. Shelley graduated with a BA in Business/Human Resources from CSU Fullerton and holds a Certificate in Human Resources from U C Irvine. She also holds the professional designation of Professional Human Resources (PHR) from The HR Certification Institute (HRCI) and a Certified Professional (SHRM-CP) from the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM).

Shelley is passionate about giving back to the community and enjoys working with both adults and children. She serves on the Advisory Board for the Academy of Global Logistics at Cabrillo High School and is a member of the Assistance League of Long Beach serving children in the community. Shelley lives in Seal Beach, CA with her husband and travels frequently to Washington DC to see their daughter.



## Connie Inskeep Leadership Award

from Ginnie Baxter, Chair

We will be honoring the Connie Inskeep Leadership Award winner at our June branch meeting and we need your help to identify a worthy nominee. Please submit your nomination by the April 30, 2025 deadline. There are several ways to send your nomination. Use this [Google Form](#) or email directly to Tobi. Members may also mail their nomination to Tobi Balma (whose address is in our directory).


Connie served as President, or Co-President of the Branch three times. She was an outstanding leader who demonstrated her love for AAUW by serving in leadership positions at the Branch, Interbranch Council and State levels. Her dedication and commitment to AAUW were inspirational to all who knew her. Any of the 3 criteria listed below, either solely, or in combination is acceptable to justify your nomination:

- Demonstrates leadership in the Branch that is consistent with the mission of AAUW, i.e., advancing gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy.
- Demonstrates leadership at the Los Angeles Interbranch Council (LACIC)
- Demonstrates leadership at the AAUW California or National level

Prior recipients of this award (in order received) are: JoAnn Kuroda, Joyce Clark, Jean Aldrich, Judith Kaho, Fay Denny, Deloris Mayuga, Daphne Ching-Jackson, Betty Ann Rauch, Joan Gustafson, Barbara Gleason, Ellen Mathis, Norma Grady, Elaine Babbush, Julie Mills, Sharon Westafer, Helen Sebring, Patricia Ferrer, Linda Patten, Linda Silver, Frances Rozner, Darlene Daclan, Dianne Bradfield, Cacilia Kim, Mary Lamo, Flo Pickett, Tobi Balma, Denise Montoya and Ginny Baxter



## AAUW Scholarship Fundraising




# A Luncheon To Die For

**Support AAUW Long Beach Branch Scholarships and  
Meet Debut Author Diane Marie Brown**

**All proceeds pay for scholarships for Long Beach City College and California State University Long Beach. Invest in the future of promising young students.**

**Date:** Saturday, April 26, 2025.  
**Time:** Check-in and Silent Auction starts at 11:00 a.m. Buffet Lunch includes sandwich, salad, dessert, and beverage and is served at 12:00 p.m. Presentation by Diane Marie Brown begins at 1:00 p.m.  
**Place:** Long Beach City College Carson Campus room T 1200. Complimentary parking is available in the parking structure on Clark Avenue.  
**Cost:** \$80 per person. All funds support the event and scholarships.  
**RSVP:** An RSVP is required by April 19 if you plan to attend.

## Featuring Diane Marie Brown




Diane Marie Brown is a professor at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa, California and a public health professional for the Long Beach Health Department. She has a BA and MPH from UCLA and a degree in fiction from USC's Master of Professional Writing Program. Her work has appeared in Bomb Magazine, Hear Our Voices, Scary Mommy, Women Writers, the Audible Blog, and the Daily Bruin. She grew up in Stockton and now lives in Long Beach, California, with her husband, their four daughters, and their dog, Brownie. Her debut novel, *Black Candle Women*, is a Read With Jenna book club selection.

[www.dianemariebrown.com](http://www.dianemariebrown.com)

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# A Luncheon To Die For

Complete and return this form to Sharon Westafer, 6222 E Marina View Dr, Long Beach, CA 90803 by April 19.  
 If you have questions, please call (562) 493-4749 or email [sharwestl@hotmail.com](mailto:sharwestl@hotmail.com).



## Scholarship Support

from JoAnn Kuroda

### SILENT AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED FOR AUTHOR'S DAY

The **Author's Day** Committee is working hard to present a wonderful event on **April 26**. We ask members to help bring items for the Silent Auction. Suggested items are: Experiences, gift cards, theme baskets, food baskets (e.g. Mexican, Italian, Chinese), wine, champagne, concert or museum tickets. How about donating an item that you like?

We accept cash and can then purchase items for added attraction to existing baskets. Please bring your donations to the March 1 branch meeting or you can call JoAnn Kuroda at 562-429-6923 and she will be happy to pick up the item.

# Nominating

from Jane Hansen, Nominating Chair

## 2025-2026 Proposed Slate of Elected Officers from the Nominations Committee

The following is the proposed 2025-2026 slate of Elected Officers. This slate will be voted on at the Annual meeting to be held on April 5, 2025. We will take nominations from the floor prior to the vote, with the prior consent of any nominee. You may also contact a member of the Nominations Committee to nominate officers. Nominations Committee: Jane Hansen (chair) Faye Alperin, Jeane Caveness, Carol Clanton, Karen Gustafson, Denise Montoya (advisor).

### Elected Officer Nominees and Continuing Officers:

Co-Presidents:	Jane Hansen and one open position
President-Elect/VP:	open
Co-Program VP:	Erin Murphy and one open position
Co-Membership VPs:	Faye Alperin and MaryAnn Takemoto
AAUW Fund VP:	Ginny Baxter
Investment VP:	Patricia Ferrer
Co-Treasurers (current 2- year term):	Darlene Daclan and Tammy Kane
Co-Secretaries:	Cacilia Kim and Linda Westman

The above list of nominees was current as of Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>.

The Nominations Committee is still working on filling openings.

# Branch and Board Business

by Cacilia Kim, Secretary

The following motions were passed at the January 20, 2025 Board Meeting:

## 1. Motion by Darlene Daclan to Adjust Budget for Remainder of 2024-25 Fiscal Year

“By direction of the Budget Committee, I move that the following adjustments to the budget for the remainder of the 2024-2025 fiscal year are approved. The adjustments are:

- an increase of \$280 to the Membership budget, adjusted budget = \$630
- a decrease of \$100 from the President’s Expenses, adjusted budget = \$250
- a decrease of \$39 from Liability Insurance, adjusted budget = \$611
- a decrease of \$10 from Registration-Charitable Trust, adjusted budget = \$25
- a decrease of \$51 from Other Postage/Office Supplies, adjusted budget = \$74
- a decrease of \$80 from Yearbook Printing, adjusted budget = \$570”

Motion passed by unanimous vote

## 2. Motion by Frances Rozner to Modify P & P 19

I move that Policies and Procedures 19. Branch Projects be modified as follows:

Remove section “b. STEM Career Conference” and re-number “c. AAUW LB Frances Magarian Scholarship Program” as “b. AAUW LB Frances Magarian Scholarship Program”

Seconded by Darlene Daclan      Motion passed by unanimous vote

## 3. Motion by Mary Ann Takemoto on Behalf of the Scholarship Committee

“On behalf of Scholarship Committee, I move by direction of the AAUW Long Beach Frances Magarian Scholarship Committee that the total amount of the scholarships be increased from two to three for Long Beach City College students and the amount to be increased from \$500.00 to \$1,000.00 per recipient for the academic year 2025-2026. And, the total amount of scholarship recipients at California State University at Long Beach be increased from two to three, for the academic year 2025-2026, in the amount of \$2,500 per recipient.”

Motion passed by unanimous vote

## The [AAUW Legacy Circle](#)

The AAUW Fund contributes to helping AAUW fulfill its mission. By making a planned gift to AAUW National, you become a member of the AAUW Legacy Circle and affirm your commitment to equity. These gifts — or bequests — are donations that you designate in your will, estate or trust. It continues your lifelong commitment to advancing equity for women and girls long into the future.

Currently, Tobi Balma, Jean Caveness, Carolyn Eggleston, Ellen Mathis, Frances Rozner, Christine Taxier and Sharon Westafer are Legacy Circle members. Please consider joining them and adding AAUW as a beneficiary (any amount) in your Living Trust.

Some members think they need to have a healthy bank account in order to become a Legacy Circle member. The answer is, no, you do not need to be well off to be a Legacy Circle member! A Legacy gift is not something you give during your life-time. It is given by your estate. There are many ways to leave a gift, including making AAUW a beneficiary on an insurance policy or annuity, donating a set sum or a percentage of your estate, creating a charitable gift annuity, or even creating a COD account at your bank (You deposit money now, either one time, or several deposits, and it is payable to AAUW upon your death). Knowing that we are a part of helping secure the future of AAUW, an organization that we have contributed our time and talents makes us feel proud.

The top three motivations that AAUW donors cite for making a planned gift are the importance of AAUW's mission; the belief that AAUW makes a significant impact; and the ability to make a larger gift through an estate gift than is normally possible during the donor's lifetime.

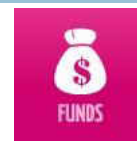
There is no minimum gift requirement to join the Legacy Circle, and the benefits are many.

For example:

- Planned gifts afford you flexibility to provide for your family and support AAUW.
- Certain planned gifts may reduce estate or capital gains taxes.
- Planned gifts need not affect your cash flow during your lifetime.
- Certain types of planned gifts allow you to support AAUW while also providing income for the rest of your life — or a fixed income for a loved one.

The joy of knowing that your legacy gift will sustain AAUW's programs for years to come is the ultimate benefit!

[Read the Legacy Circle Brochure.](#) To learn more about planned giving, contact Tobi Balma.



## Membership Matters!

from Faye Alperin, Membership VP

### Sue Schmitt

We met Sue at our December Holiday party. Shelley Arnold invited her and we welcome her to the Branch.

Most of Sue's career was spent working for Copley Newspapers in IL and CA including Copley Chicago, The State Journal-Register in Springfield, IL, and Torrance's Daily Breeze. After moving to LB to work briefly at the Press-Telegram, Sue developed a consulting business using her management and process improvement skills. Sue loves to travel, enjoying high tea (at Harrod's) and theater. Her favorite activity is crafting; making jewelry, wearable art and collages. She says, her inner Girl Scout loves a good craft class and she has traveled as far as France to learn new skills. Sue is familiar with AAUW through members in IL and Wisconsin.



### Denise Robinson

Denise joined AAUW 45 years ago when she moved from Orange County to Miami and thought the organization would be a great way to meet progressive and like minded people. It proved to be perfect in that regard. After a year there, she and husband returned to Southern CA. Raising a family with two children, going to graduate school, and working became priorities for Denise. Following graduate school, Denise became a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) and currently has a private behavioral health practice. Her true love and compassion is in mental health.

Now working part time, Denise has rejoined AAUW for similar reasons that brought her to this group in the first place. She says that she is grateful to be a part of AAUW and is looking forward to what the future holds.



# 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 February book selection is *The Elephant Whisperer* by Lawrence Anthony. 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

Our [Website](#) has been updated (including information about the Speakers for the March Branch meeting, our Reimagining Study Group and our Member Roster).

Interested in helping to manage or proofread our Website? No experience necessary. Training will be provided. Please contact Tobi for more information. <https://longbeach-ca.aauw.net/>

Do you wonder what LBGTQIA2S+ means?? Find the answers on our branch [DEI Webpage](#) and learn more about Gender Justice.



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

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

**Deadline to RSVP is February 27**

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, March 1, 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

