



# Vantage

## A Garden Party for All

Sharifa Batts, Program VP

It is incredible how fast this year has passed and here we are again at the Garden Party time of year. AAUW has been empowering women since 1881. The mission of AAUW is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. AAUW has worked as a national grassroots organization to improve the lives of millions of women and their families. And now that we've won the fight to give women equal access to education, we're taking on one of the most defining issues of our time: gender equity.



As the local Long Beach branch of AAUW, our focus is on meeting the vision and mission of AAUW in the greater Long Beach area by providing programs, education, and resources. Come to find out more about our programs. This May event has always been a good time to invite friends or acquaintances who might be interested in finding out more about AAUW. It also allows members to get to know each other better. Our members are ready and willing to explain and "show off" the AAUW mission and goals and are always welcoming to new friends.

Please plan to join us at our May 3rd AAUW Garden Party from 10:00 am—12:00 pm. Juliet Wurr has graciously offered to host this annual event this year and we thank her! Members are asked to contribute \$15 to cover catered food and drink. Friends are invited to attend and enjoy the abundant brunch! Contact Sharifa Batts to volunteer for 20-minute hosting intervals. Volunteers will also be needed to set up and clean up.

Guests are welcome to attend this event and it can be a fun way to introduce people to AAUW. Looking forward to seeing you and meeting some potential new members. Please reserve by April 25th by emailing Charlotte at the email below.

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

In times of rapid change and uncertainty, one thing remains steadfast—**our collective strength as members committed to equity, education, and empowerment.** Whether you're mentoring the next generation, advocating for policy change, or making space for your own growth, your contributions matter deeply.

*We're Stronger Together!*



As current affairs continue to unfold—affecting women's rights, educational access, and economic equity—we are reminded of **why AAUW's mission is more vital than ever.** Together, we amplify voices, champion change, and create a future where all women can thrive.

Let this be a gentle reminder: **Your voice matters, your leadership inspires, and your presence uplifts.** Take care of yourselves and each other, stay informed, and continue to build bridges that empower and include. With both National and State elections going on, keep calm and go vote! Find out more here: [State](#) and [National](#). Thank you for all that you do. **We are stronger because of you.**

## Membership Matters!

from Faye Alperin, Membership VP

### AAUW MEMBERSHIP DUES RENEWAL PROCESS

It is time for members to renew their dues for the 2025-2026 year. Most members' renewal date is June 30, 2025 and the deadline to be included in the yearbook is August 15, 2025. Members are encouraged to pay their dues using credit or debit cards, on the AAUW Long Beach website using the "Join or Renew" button. You may also pay **\$120** by check, mailing it to Dr. Ginny Baxter, P.O. Box 8313, Long Beach, CA 90808. Checks should be made payable to "AAUW Long Beach."

As of April 1, 2025 National dues will increase by \$2. Please refer to the email sent on March 10, 2025 to all members. National provides support with member training, advocacy and education.

National \$74 (fully tax deductible)  
Branch \$26  
State \$20

For assistance,  
contact Treasurer Darlene Daclan,  
[darlene\\_daclan@yahoo.com](mailto:darlene_daclan@yahoo.com),  
Co-Membership VPs Faye Alperin  
or Mary Ann Takemoto

### Calendar Dates to Note

April 26	Author Luncheon
April 30	CILA Nominations Due
May 3	Spring Garden Event
May 9	Bus Tour
May 26	Memorial Day

### Contact Us

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

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

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



With Thanks to Amy and Carolyn

## Public Policy

from AAUW CA Public Policy Committee

Please click [HERE](#) for the April issue of Public Policy News. Included are two articles for your May reading - "Public Policy Committee Sets AAUW California 2025 Legislative Agenda" and "Take Action to Help Kids Feel Safe at School". Also included is the launch of our new Take Action spreadsheet, a clearinghouse for ongoing resistance activity that people can follow and join-in based on their passions and preferences.

Please check out the AAUW CA monthly [Public Policy Newsletter](#).

## 2025 AAUW CA Lobby Days

from Frances Rozner, Team Leader

Our branch was ably represented at the 2025 AAUW CA Lobby Days. **Juliet Wurr** flew up to Sacramento for live meetings with legislators on Tuesday, April 8 and was on a Sacramento team, led by Kathi Harper (online branch). They had two CSULB college students in tow and proceeded to meet with four legislative offices.

**Lynne Katz, Natalie Swit** and **Frances Rozner** met via Zoom with Caila Pedroncelli, principal consultant for our State Senator Lena Gonzalez, on Wednesday, April 9. **Depi Vidyarthi** was unable to attend at the last moment because of a business obligation, but assisted the April 9 team in its preparation. The three bills presented for comment were chosen by the AAUW CA Public Policy team and focused on ensuring that the rights and safety of our transgender sisters, along with other marginalized groups such as all women, were addressed. We were also able to educate about AAUW. Caila appreciated the AAUW Work Smart opportunity.

**Missy Maceyko**, one of our AAUW LB members, co-chairs AAUW CA Public Policy as a Director, along with Director Amy Hom. Their coordination of this 2025 event was phenomenal. We look forward to having AAUW LB participating, sharing, and learning once again in 2026.



Lynne K., Frances R., Natalie S., Caila Pedroncelli



Kathi Harper, two CSULB students, Juliet W.


### [Find out more about DEI](#)

Take the [Social Change Ecosystem Quiz](#) to see what role you tend to play in social justice organizations like AAUW.



You will have an opportunity to discuss the results during our AAUW California Annual State Meeting on Saturday, April 26th.

# 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 [sharwest1@hotmail.com](mailto:sharwest1@hotmail.com).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please add any additional guests on the back of the form.)

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate sandwich preferences with a number. One per attendee. Turkey: \_\_\_\_ Vegetarian: \_\_\_\_

☐ Make check payable to AAUW and return with this form.


☐ Pay via Zelle to [aauwlongbeach@gmail.com](mailto:aauwlongbeach@gmail.com).

☐ I do not plan to attend, but here is a donation.

Total amount paid: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

SORRY, NO REFUNDS ARE AVAILABLE.

[www.aauw-longbeach.org](http://www.aauw-longbeach.org)



The RSVP deadline has been extended to Wednesday, April 23. Help us to reach our Fundraising Goal and create Scholarships for local students at LBCC and CSULB. Bring your cash, check-book or Zelle app to be able to pay for those Silent Auction items you can't resist.

If you are unable to attend and/or wish to make a tax-deductible gift, please consider donating to the scholarships by making your checks payable to the LBCC Foundation or CSULB 49er Foundation.

Send LBCC checks to Ginny Baxter and CSULB checks to Mary Ann Takemoto.

## Twelve Tech Trek Campers Selected

from Valerie Armstrong, Coordinator



The Tech Trek committee is pleased to announce that 12 outstanding campers have been selected to attend camp this year. Six will attend camp at Whittier College and six will attend at UC Santa Barbara. There were 20 candidates this year from five LBUSD middle schools: Bancroft, Hamilton, Hughes, Nelson, and Powell.

There was a large response this year, with 54 nominees from seven middle schools. Out the 54 nominees, 20 completed the application by the March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. The Tech Trek committee interviewed each of the 20 students at the school site or via Zoom. There were many outstanding candidates and difficult decisions were made, but the committee reached consensus on the top 12 campers and alternates. Four campers attend Hughes, three attend Nelson, two attend Hamilton, two attend Powell, and one attends Bancroft.

The Tech Trek committee worked collaboratively to revise the interview questions and create a fair evaluation process. The committee members are Tobi Balma, Nicole Gracie, Lynne Katz, Anne Supple, Judy Willis, and Valerie Armstrong.

## Branch and Board Business

by Cecelia Kim, Secretary

The following motion was passed by the full Board during their meeting on March 17, 2025:

### **Motion by Frances Rozner on Behalf of the Reimagining Study Group**

“I move that the Board accept option #1 in its entirety from the Reimagining Study Group as a pilot project for the Branch. The project has the goal of providing a supportive space for early to midcareer women to network, engage with mentors, and pursue career development.”

Motion seconded by Mary Ann Takemoto. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

# Congratulations

# condolempions

Thanks to Jeane R Caveness for photo.



Calling all theater lovers! We are planning a night out at International City Theater on **Thursday evening, August 28th.**

The play by Wendy Graff is called *Masala Dabba* and is an exploration of family memories of food and cooking, culture and identity. If you are interested in reserving a ticket(s), please contact Mary Ann Takemoto at [martakemoto@gmail.com](mailto:martakemoto@gmail.com). Tickets are \$35 each and your reservation will be confirmed when cash, check or Zelle payment is received. You can bring cash or check to the May meeting.

Thank you again to all who donated to the AAUW Fund. This month we are highlighting three recipients of our seven AAUW Fund Branch Endowments for 2024-2025. Since only the interest on an endowment is used, several endowments are combined for each awarded recipient. One of our recipients received two of our endowments. Next month we will highlight the other three



**Olga Doletskaya: #1193 Anna Stofflet Townsend International Fellowship:**

Olga is studying for a Ph.D. in Social Anthropology and Sociology at the University College in London. Her PhD project is titled (Il)legal parenthood: examining the complexities of queer parenting in Russia. It explores how queer parents in Russia raise children in a hostile and authoritarian state, how they form communities of care and support, and how they navigate the main sites of institutional surveillance. There, I explore how LGBTQ+ parents in Russia have children and raise them in an authoritarian and queerphobic context. I also explore how and why queer parents choose to migrate. I am proud to be funded by the American Association of University Women (AAUW)'s International Fellowship.



**Christine Vega: #1652 Louise Ruth Arbogast American Fellowship:** Christine's specialty is Race, Class, Gender & Sexuality Studies at San Jose State University. Her research and community work center on Motherscholars, parents, Activisms, Spirituality, Transformational Counterspace(s), and grief positivity. She is a first-generation Chicana from Pacoima, California. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) Graduate School of Education and Information Studies, Race & Ethnicity, a B.A. in Chicana/o & Women Gender Studies from UCLA and an M.Ed. from the University of Utah. She co-founded Mothers of Color in Academia (MOCA) de UCLA and the Chicana M(other)work Collective. She is an Assistant Professor of Chicana/e/o Studies at San José State University.



**Bailey Howell: #4412 Jean Aldrich American Fellowship:**

**Bailey** is a Ph.D. candidate in Evolutionary Biology at Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University in Blacksburg, Virginia. She is in the department of biological sciences at Virginia Tech. Her dissertation work incorporates evolutionary history and traits to predict responses to global change across lizards, relying on diverse computational models and methods. She hopes to combine her knowledge of macroevolutionary processes and constraints to determine if this information is useful to elucidate changes in functional traits due to more recent processes like urbanization. She hopes to incorporate comparative methods and trait data to understand lizards' responses to anthropogenic changes and why some species can adapt more easily than others. She hopes to grow her

skills in science communication and expand opportunities for science outreach. She is committed to broadening participation in STEM fields through science communication and community outreach.

# 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 book selection for April/May is *Black Candle Women* by Diane Marie Brown. 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

## CULTURAL ADVENTURES

### BUS TOUR OF THE CITY OF LONG BEACH

FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2025

Join us as we travel through the City of Long Beach guided by our tour leader Gerrie Schipske. She will describe the history of the early suffragettes and how they paved the way so the women of our city would become civic leaders. We will conclude at the 2nd and PCH Shopping Mall where each will choose and pay for their own meal. The departure and return will be at the Target Parking Lot, 2290 Bellflower Blvd., Long Beach. RSVP: JoAnn Kuroda, 562-429-6923; [sojoinlb@aol.com](mailto:sojoinlb@aol.com) Price: \$25.00 per person  
**Deadline: May 2, 2025** We will need a minimum of 25 people to operate the tour.

**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 April 25**

You will receive an email reminder and details before the event.

Members are asked to pay \$15 for the catering and costs of the food. Send a check or pay by Zelle when you RSVP.

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, May 3, 2025**

**9:30 am Setup**

**10:00-12:00 Garden Party time**

**Place: Juliet Wurr home**

You'll find the address in the AAUW Yearbook

NO ZOOM option for this meeting.

**Guests and /or 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

