

From the Co-Presidents by Carolyn Eggleston and Amy La, Co-Presidents

Well, it seems that our 2-year tenure as co-presidents is about to end. This last year was largely managed by Amy La, because of illness for Carolyn and her husband. So, a big thank you to Amy! It has been a pleasure and honor to serve as co-presidents. The incoming co-presidents, Jane Hansen and Barbara Hall have stepped up at a time when we are reevaluating activities in the branch. We so appreciate their willingness for taking the lead!!! Please welcome them by agreeing to participate in vital activities. We need you!!!

The June 7 branch meeting is important to attend, as we will be changing the out-going and in-coming boards. We want to see you participate in our important meeting. Hope to see you there!

June is also a month that has a lot more than weddings happening. One of the important events in June is Juneteenth. It was designated on June 19 because in 1865, nearly two years after President Lincoln had emancipated enslaved Africans in America, they were freed in Texas. Texas had basically ignored the Proclamation until forced to do so. More than 250,000 African Americans embraced freedom by executive decree in what became known as Juneteenth or Freedom Day. Eating red foods on this day serves as a reminder of the color of the blood shed by enslaved people, the resistance to slavery, and the colors associated with African culture. President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law on June 17, 2021, making Juneteenth a federal holiday.

June also includes World Environment Day, celebrated on June 5. It started in 1974, to help raise awareness on a variety of environmental issues, from global warming to the loss of the species around us. It is celebrated around the world. It may be particularly important just now in the US.

Pride month is also celebrated in June, even though Long Beach has its celebration in May. In most places it is celebrated on June 28. Los Angeles and Long Beach collaborated to avoid conflicts. June 28 is the date of the first Pride march in New York City. This date was based on the Stonewall Inn riots. The Inn, a gay bar, was often raided by police. The patrons and others fought back. It marked the first time gay and lesbian people responded to years of discrimination. Long Beach has designated a corridor of Broadway as an historic area sympathetic to the gay community since the 1970s. The LB City Council has approved plans for a museum in this area.

June is also the month in which we celebrate National Cancer Survivor's Day. This may be of particular significance to AAUW, as so many of our members are cancer survivors. It is generally designated as the first Sunday in June. The celebration started in New Mexico in 1987, but the national day was first held in 1988.

Thanks to all of you who helped during these two years! It made such a difference to two relatively new members!



Calendar Dates to Note

May 26	Memorial Day
June 7	Branch Meeting

Contact Us

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2025—2026 Board



Leadership Matters!

from Faye Alperin, Membership VP

Barbara Hall has been a member of AAUW Long Beach Branch since 2019. She volunteered with the STEM Conference 2020 – 2024, serving as the lead for Middle School Registration. She worked with LBUSD volunteer “Champions” and administrators to ensure up to 250 girls attended.

Barbara grew up in southern CA, attending elementary and middle schools in Arcadia and high school in Los Alamitos. Her first two years of college were at UC Santa Barbara. Her career goal was physical therapy, but after working at the campus PT Center she switched course, attending UC Berkeley to earn her B.A. in Anthropology.



She found her career niche in business management working for aerospace companies. While working full-time Barbara attended CSU Long Beach to earn an MBA. At Hughes Aircraft, Boeing, and Northrop Grumman she worked on major manufacturing projects as part of dedicated engineering and business support teams. Since retiring in 2015 Barbara and her husband Bill became dog owners. As residents of Signal Hill, Barbara logs many steps walking their dog Sandy. She has also pursued new avenues for creativity, such as designing and assembling themed centerpieces for church fundraisers, making jewelry, and building upon her crafting skills by taking art classes.

Barbara and Bill have done extensive genealogy research and have planned several trips to ancestry destinations. They enjoy visiting their four grandchildren – two in Paso Robles, CA, and two in Northridge, CA - as well as Barbara’s brothers and sister in Coachella Valley, CA.

Interested in taking action to fight Project 2025?? Check out the new “Take Action Now” AAUW CA Public Policy [LINK](https://longbeach-ca.aauw.net/public-policy/).

Additional Public Policy Information can be found HERE <https://longbeach-ca.aauw.net/public-policy/>



Jane Hansen has been a member of AAUW Long Beach Branch since 2021. She volunteered with the STEM Conference for many years as a photographer. She was appointed as Communications Director in 2022 and served a two-year term. In that time, she built up the branch’s media contacts, worked with committee chairs editing articles and news releases publicizing fundraising events and branch programs. She also helped produce a new membership brochure.

Jane grew up in a small town in Kansas that is the county seat and whose economy revolves around agriculture. She chose to attend Wichita State University on scholarship where she graduated with honors earning her B.A. in Journalism.

She found her career niche in nonprofit fundraising and was a Director of Development for many nonprofits including Camp Fire Boys and Girls, Boys and Girls Clubs—both in Long Beach, PBS SoCal, as well as teachers’ colleges within the CSUSystem. It was at CSU Los Angeles that she earned a master’s in public administration (MPA) and taught on the faculty there. She continues to serve on the MPA Advisory Board.

Jane enjoys AAUW branch group activities coordinated by our members including Great Decisions, cultural adventures, international dining out, as well as advocacy for women and girls. She and her husband Allen Sewell live in Long Beach, California where they enjoy being tourists of the Golden State and are pleased to call the city and state home. A claim to fame is that they have visited 49 of our 63 U.S. national parks.

AAUW Scholarships

by JoAnn Kuroda & Sharon Westafer

Frances Magarian Scholarships - California State University, Long Beach

Scholarship Committee members Jeane Caveness, Darlene Daclan, Dawn Ide, JoAnn Kuroda and Celia Mejia awarded three outstanding CSULB students to receive scholarships at \$2,500 per student for the coming year. **DAISY GONZALEZ** believes that perseverance is the key to her continuing her education. She is currently studying Kinesiology, Exercise Science. because she wants to help improve the quality of life and comfort of others. This major includes courses that would include many social science classes. She likes the idea of working with women's health issues. She has volunteered at a hospital in the labor & OB department, post surgery/oncology and rehabilitation unit.

FARRAH LESTER has overcome a difficult home life. She believes in focusing on completing her education to complete her goals upon which she has set. She is majoring in mechanical engineering. She related how when at a young age one of her earliest projects involved constructing a toy car from a 6-inch ruler, straws, rubber bands, wooden wheels and a motor powered by a C battery. She felt proud of this construction.

JENNIFER LOPEZ comes from a family of seven siblings and raised by a single mother. She was self motivated to overcome poverty and she is pursuing a career in civil engineering. Her deep interest is in designing and building infrastructures that directly impacts people's daily lives.

Frances Magarian Scholarship Recipients - Long Beach City College by Sharon Westafer

Erin Murphy and I were delighted to interview six applicants for the Long Beach City College scholarships, and three were chosen. We were extremely impressed with all the applicants, and it was difficult to choose three.

ROXANA AFSHAR is a 21 year old International student from Iran, where her parents and younger brother live. An engineering major with a 3.48 grade point average, Roxana plans to work on developing medical devices to improve people's lives. Based on her experiences in Iran, Roxanna is drawn to AAUW's emphasis on equity for women and girls. Roxanna is very appreciative of the AAUW scholarship as she struggles to support herself while going to school. While she misses her family, she is determined to complete her education and work to improve women's lives.

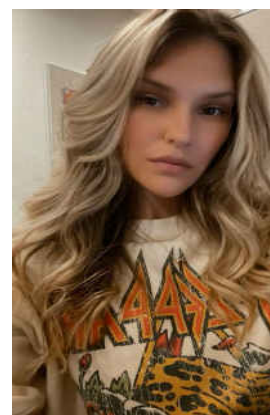


ANGELLE ALLOWAY, 31, is majoring in Human Services. She has experienced homelessness and living in her car. Three years sober, Angelle supports and volunteers with various mental health services, working with older adults who need extra assistance with daily activities. She also enjoys working with rescue animals. With a 4.0 GPA, Angelle remains on the Dean's list and focuses on psychology and social work. She plans to work in mental health services counseling.



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LUNA NEWLYN, our third recipient, is a 29 year old majoring in Computer Science. She is on the Dean's List with a 4.0 GPA. Luna was born in England and moved to the U.S. in 2004. She has struggled as an autistic, transgender woman. Luna is interested in helping other women who struggle with self-esteem and mental health issues.



Scholarship Fundraising

from Ginny Baxter, Event Co-Chair

AAUW Long Beach hosted "A Luncheon to Die For", an Author's Event, featuring debut novelist Diane Marie Brown as guest speaker. The fundraising luncheon was held on the Liberal Arts Campus of Long Beach City College (LBCC) on April 29. As more than 60 guests arrived at the venue, the room came alive with friends greetings, auction bidding, and enjoyable ambience of the college atmosphere. Silent auction items included: A Visit to the Huntington Gardens, Roger's Garden holiday lunch, favorite restaurant gift certificates, books, a red work quilt as well as delicious wines.

The event raised over \$10,000 for the AAUW Long Beach Branch Frances Magarian Scholarship Fund which was established in 2013. Annually, three scholarships of \$2,500 each are awarded to students at California State University Long Beach, plus two students are awarded scholarships of \$1000 each to attend Long Beach City College.

The tables were bedecked with black tablecloths decorated with clever centerpieces of black candles created by member Julie Taboada in keeping with the book title, *Black Candle Women*. The menu included assorted sandwiches, Voodoo chips, lemon and pecan bars. This delicious fare was catered by Grounds Bakery and Café. Event Chair Ginny Baxter introduced Ms. Brown who spoke about her new book, *Black Candle Women*. It has been selected as a "Jenna's Pick" and optioned for TV or film. Diane talked about how she got involved in writing, a departure from her work at the Long Beach Health Department and teaching at Orange Coast College.

Seen at the Author's Event and Luncheon were: JoAnn Kuroda, Event Co-Chair; Mary Ann Takemoto, Scholarship Committee Chair; Julie Taboada, Linda Silver, silent auction chairs; along with AAUW members Judith Kaho, Sharon Westafer, Judy Willis, Linda Westman, Deloris Mayuga, Harriet McDonald and Frances Rozner.

For membership and more info about AAUW programs at the Long Beach Branch, please visit:

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

May Garden Party - May 2025



50 years of AAUW
Membership!!
Congratulations to Ellen.



Thank you Juliet for
hosting the party



It has been an honor to serve as your Co-Fund Vice Presidents. You may donate to the AAUW Funds directly by using this [WEBPAGE](#). Thank you again to all who donated to the AAUW Fund, especially the **9110-AAUW Greatest Needs Fund** which is a vital source of unrestricted support that allows AAUW to respond quickly and effectively to emerging challenges and opportunities. As of press time, our members have contributed \$869 this year to the AAUW Fund (Greatest Needs and Education and Training).



AAUW has established two new AAUW Funds:

4514 - Public Policy General

The Public Policy Fund is focused on increasing the impact of our Action Network through growing the number of advocates across the country and providing timely, accurate, and actionable information about our key issues. This fund helps equip branches across the country with timely, customized talking points on core policy issues like Title IX, student debt, and pay equity. Support to this fund enables AAUW to reach and energize new advocates—strengthening our collective impact in the fight for gender equity in education and the workplace.

4513 - Defend Higher Education

The Defend Higher Education Fund will enable AAUW to elevate the critical higher education issues impacting women, mobilize advocates across the country, provide strategic resources to students, staff and faculty on campus, and fuel investments in the infrastructure and technology necessary to move our mission forward. Your support ensures AAUW can effectively fight on behalf of women on campuses across the country and ensure that AAUW remains a trusted and powerful voice for equity.

Last month we highlighted 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. This month we are highlighting the other three endowment recipients.



Chandana Papudesu: #1739 Joyce E. Clark Research & Projects

Grant: Chandana lives in Americus, Georgia and is a recipient of a Selected Professions Fellowship. She is working on an MBA in Entrepreneurship at Columbia University in the City of New York. She is a physician-leader with a commitment to enhancing patient care, advancing medical research, and effecting positive transformation within healthcare systems. Currently, she serves on the California American College of Physicians' DEI & Legislative committees to spearhead comprehensive initiatives aimed at addressing healthcare disparities and advocating for meaningful change on Capitol Hill.



Lauren Blodgett: #1835 Connie Wright Inskeep Research & Projects

Grant. Lauren's Community Action Grant project centers on Immigrant & Gender Rights; she is from Brooklyn, New York. As a member of the [Safe Passage Project](#)—a not-for-profit that recruits, trains, and mentors volunteer attorneys for unaccompanied minors in immigration court—she provides legal representation to child refugees who are fleeing gender-based violence. She created a girls' empowerment group Las Mariposas (The Butterflies) that creates a space for the girls she works with to connect with each other outside of the oft-pressing legal cases looming over them. Lauren's sights are set on developing her own non-profit that provides free legal representation to immigrant girls and also offers them English courses, community events, shelter, a food pantry, and more.



Brittany Keppel: #4289 Long Beach Branch, Inc. Research & Projects

Grant and #4130 Ethel Black Research & Projects Grant. Brittany a recipient of a Career Development Grant. A native of Brooklyn, New York, Brittany is a master of arts in human rights student at CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice in Brooklyn New York and a graduate of Howard University. Her focus is in human-rights advocacy and activism and corporate social responsibility. She is passionate about diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging. She intends to apply research and practical skills to advocate for the communities she is at the intersection of while also acting with the intention of global reach.

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 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 June is *Still Life At Eighty* by Abigail Thomas. 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



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. Tickets are \$35 each and your reservation will be confirmed when cash, check or Zelle payment is received.

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

Deadline to RSVP is May 31

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

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, June 7, 2025

9:30 am Social Time to Mingle
10:00-11:00 Business Meeting
11:00-12:00 Installation of Officers

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 and /or Potential Members are welcome to RSVP and attend



AAUW Long Beach Branch

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

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