



Vantage

Honoring Her Service

Celia Mejia and Erin Murphy, Program Co-Vice Presidents

Supporting Women Veterans' Transition to Civilian Life

As part of our ongoing commitment to equity and empowerment, AAUW Long Beach is proud to host a meaningful and timely program on Saturday, November 1. The panel discussion will feature women veterans and service providers and is focused on the unique experiences of women veterans as they transition to civilian and academic life. The conversation will explore challenges, support systems, and opportunities for advocacy.

Why It Matters:

Women veterans are the fastest-growing segment of the veteran population—projected to reach 18% by 2040. Yet their stories are often overlooked. With over two million women veterans nationwide and California ranking second in veteran population, this issue is especially relevant to our community.



Key Issues Facing Women Veterans:

- **Education:** 46% hold an associate degree or higher—more than male veterans.
- **Mental Health:** Higher rates of PTSD, depression, and military sexual trauma.
- **Homelessness:** From 2020–2023, homelessness among women veterans rose nearly 24%, with unsheltered rates up 48%.
- **Healthcare Access:** While the VA has expanded services, many women veterans report difficulty accessing gender-specific care, including reproductive health services, and face long wait times and provider shortages.

Join us to honor their service, amplify their voices, and explore how AAUW members can support their success in civilian life.

Plan to attend by reserving with Charlotte by October 25. Guests are invited to attend the program. 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 Jane Hansen and Barbara Hall , Co-Presidents

As we enter the month of November with a Special Election in California the results of which will have nationwide impact I am reminded of a tenet of the American Association of University Women. We are not partisan, but we are political.

We were all reminded of that by our outstanding CA Public Policy Directors Amy Hom and Missy Maceko who presented at our October branch meeting about their legislative and activist work on behalf of rights for gender equity in the economy, education, and healthcare.

Our track record of standing up for legislation that supports gender equity is well known. Our advocacy efforts have propelled legislation into laws, including: the Equal Pay Act, finally passed in 1963; the Title IX amendment in 1972; the Family and Medical Leave Act in 1993; the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009, and an addendum to Fair Pay Act is the Paycheck Fairness Act, which was passed by the U.S. House in 2019 but is still awaiting action in the Senate. We've come a long way, but we still have a long way to go!

Also, in November we will celebrate Veterans Day and the service of our military men, women, and non-binary soldiers who put their lives on the line to defend our freedoms. At our branch meeting we will meet some of our women soldiers for a panel discussion about the current military climate and what it's like to re-enter civilian life after their service to our country.



Call to Action

But we do not need to enlist or wear a uniform to also fight for our freedoms. We can do our part by promoting AAUW's Public Policy Priorities (PPP) based on gender equity and social justice by using AAUW CA toolkits and the information they provide. You can take action by:

- Increasing visibility of AAUW Long Beach by connecting with like-minded groups.
- Carry our PPP into the community. If you are part of other women-focused groups, bring AAUW into the conversation as a partner or participant in their programs.
- Grow our network by being part of AAUW tabling. Volunteer at women-focused events like the Wonder Tech Fest produced by **Wonder Women Tech on Nov. 4-6**.

Proudly carry our message forward that we are not partisan, but when it comes to women's rights in the economy, in education, in healthcare, in social justice, and in leadership... we are political.

Calendar Dates to Note

October 20	Diwali
October 31	Halloween
November 1	Branch Meeting
November 17	Exec committee mtg
November 27	Thanksgiving Day
December 6	Holiday Event

Contact Us

Mail: aauwlongbeach@gmail.com

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

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

For Vantage Editor: Rebecca Low
rflow1@hotmail.com

A Note From Joanne Kuroda

I am on the road to recovery from my illness of kidney failure. Thank you for all of the support you sent me by cards, phone messages and visits.



I truly believe that through all of your acts of kindness and thoughtfulness, my health has improved so much. I have dialysis three times a week and the sessions are helping a lot.

Wishing you well Joanne....

AAUW Fund

By Tobi Balma, AAUW CA Fund Committee

Wish you knew more about the AAUW Fund? Check out this link!
“The Nuts and Bolts of the AAUW Fund: What Every Member Needs to Know.”
This is the link:
<https://longbeach-ca.aauw.net/files/2025/10/Nuts-and-Bolts-of-the-AAUW-Fund-What-Every-Member-Needs-to-Know-10.25.pdf>



1652 Louise Ruth Arbogast American Fellowship: Gursimran Dhillon

Award Program Name: American Dissertation Fellowships

Institution: University Of Maine At Orono

Degree Sought: Doctor of Philosophy

Primary Area of Expertise: Biology

Specialization: Microbiology

Project Name: Role of Pattern Recognition Receptors in immunity against *C. albicans* infection

Bio: Gursimran Dhillon researches novel treatments for fungal infections, which pose serious health risks and burden healthcare systems. Using transparent zebrafish, she studies immune genes that regulate how infections are cleared, visualizing immune-fungal interactions in real time. She aspires to a career that combines research, teaching, and mentorship to inspire women to pursue their academic passions.

From AAUW.org/Public Policy

contact Juliet Wurr, Public Policy Director

The Public Policy Principles and Priorities underscore AAUW's mission to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. They establish principles for action on which AAUW members across the country focus their advocacy efforts. They guide the work of the AAUW's federal priorities and that of AAUW state organizations and branches on state and local issue advocacy efforts.

AAUW positions are shaped by our commitment to equity by being nonpartisan, evidence-based, experience-driven, inclusive, and intersectional.

AAUW opposes all forms of discrimination on the basis of age, disability, race, ethnicity, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, religious beliefs, pregnancy or parental status or socioeconomic status, and supports constitutional protection for the civil rights of all individuals.

AAUW believes in the need to end white supremacy and address structural and systemic racism. Efforts to advance racial, ethnic, and gender justice must be embedded into every policy initiative.

Membership Counts!

by Mary Ann Takamoto and Faye Alperin, Membership VPs

What is your "elevator speech" about AAUW?

In recent months, we have had an opportunity to have an AAUW table at various community events. It is a great way to increase our visibility and recruit potential members to the branch. The first question people usually ask is: What is AAUW? The "elevator speech" is a 30-60 second response to that question. Here are a few points that I include in mine:



- ◆ AAUW stands for American Association of University Women
- ◆ The mission is to advance equity for women and girls through education and advocacy
- ◆ Our branch in Long Beach is part of a national network
- ◆ We are interested in issues such as pay equity, women in leadership roles, and access to higher education (we provide scholarships for local college/university students)

I like to close with: "Are you interested in learning more about AAUW?"

If so, an invitation to a meeting or event is always a great follow-up. Our current members are our best source of recruitment of new members. Let's all be prepared with our "elevator speech" about AAUW when the opportunity arises!

New Communications

by Herlinda Chico, Communications Director

Thank you Herlinda, for your creative start on a Communications Team effort! We will hope to see more about AAUW featured on social media and encourage members to spread the word!

AAUW
Long Beach Inc. (CA) Branch

Saturday, November 1, 2025
Meeting @ 10 am - Program @ 11 am
4900 E. Conant St. Bldg. 0-2
Long Beach, CA 90808

Supporting Women Veterans' Transition to Civilian Life

AAUW Long Beach invites you to a powerful and timely panel discussion focused on the unique experiences of women veterans as they transition to civilian and academic life. Featuring women veterans and service providers, the conversation will explore challenges, support systems, and opportunities for advocacy. All are welcome!

www.longbeach-ca.aauw.net

Local Adventures

Cultural Adventurers visited the Terracotta Warriors exhibit at the Bowers Museum.



L-R: Tobi Balma, Sandy Cajigas, Daphne Ching-Jackson, George Jackson. Harriet McDonald, Charlotte Joseph and Faye Alperin. Not pictured is Mary Riddick.

A group of members attend a play at The Garage Theatre, *The Predictor*, about the life of Margaret Crane inventor of the at-home pregnancy test. It was a very female-forward play dealing with the pressures Margaret Crane faced to conform by the church, expectation to marry and have children, and not being recognized as equal in the workplace, in fact being coerced into signing over the rights to her patent on the "Predictor" the first at-home pregnancy test.



Photo L-R, top to bottom: Charlotte Joseph, Sharon Westafer, Frances Rozner, Barbara Hall, Deloris Mayuga, Amy La, and Jane Hansen.

Darlene Daclan and Tammy Kane, Co-Treasurers

Reminder: AAUW Long Beach Payment Options

When you contribute to branch events, such as the winter and spring gatherings and the author's luncheon, please remember to either Zelle your payment to aauwlongbeach@gmail.com or send a check, made payable to AAUW Long Beach, to Ginny Baxter, our branch financial secretary. Her address is in the Yearbook. As financial secretary, Ginny tracks checks received and makes the bank deposits for the branch.

Additionally, when you renew your membership, if you do not renew online with a credit or debit card, your checks should also be made payable to AAUW Long Beach and sent to Ginny to avoid any delays.

Feel free to contact one of our co-Treasurers, Tammy Kane at tammy@tammykane.com or Darlene Daclan at darlene_daclan@yahoo.com, if you have any questions.



Join in the Great Decisions discussions this Winter.

Here are the topics for Great Decisions for the 2026 year. It highlights many thought provoking foreign policy challenges facing America. The program provides materials that help people reach informed decisions on the current foreign policy process and world affairs. We will be ordering the books by the end of October 2025 in order to get a discount that also includes Vimeo access and the DVD's.

Please contact your group leader or [Rita Powell](mailto:riorita111@verizon.net) for more information and to join a group.
riorita111@verizon.net

The Foreign Policy Association is pleased to announce the [topic selections for Great Decisions 2026](#). The list of topics and descriptions can also be found on our AAUW website.

America and the World: Trump 2.0 Foreign Policy

By G John Ikenberry

Trump's return has marked a break from 80 years of U.S. foreign policy leadership, embracing an "America First" approach. Explore the risks of isolation and diminished influence in relation to Trump 2.0 foreign policy.

Trump Tariffs and the Future of the World Economy

By Michael Mastanduno

Trump's aggressive trade and tariff policies have shaken global economic norms. What's the rationale behind this radical shift in economic policy, and what are the implications for multilateral trade and geopolitics?

U.S.-China Relations

By Oriana Mastro

Relations with China remain tense, with tariffs, military modernization, and pressure on Taiwan. Does Trump have a coherent China policy, and will his tariffs on Rare Earth minerals be effective? What are America's strategic options?

Ruptured Alliances and the Risk of Nuclear Proliferation

By Gideon Rose

U.S. alliance skepticism may drive countries like Japan and South Korea to reconsider nuclear options. What are the implications of the Trump administration's rethinking of the U.S. alliance system for regional and global security? Will this new uncertainty alter the way allies and rivals make decisions about security and nuclear weapons?

Ukraine and the Future of European Security

By Thomas Wright

With reduced U.S. support for NATO and Ukraine, Europe faces strategic uncertainty. The Trump administration has signaled an intention to reduce its security role in Europe. What are America's stakes in NATO and Europe's strategic dilemmas, and how might Europe respond?

Multilateral Institutions in a Changing World Order

By Scott Bessent (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Can multilateralism survive amid shifting global power and rising nationalism? This chapter examines the future of global cooperation across trade, health, and finance.

U.S. Engagement of Africa

By Jendayi E. Frazer

Africa's geopolitical role is growing. What lessons can the U.S. learn from China's presence there, and how might it strengthen ties, especially with leading nations like Nigeria? What tools of statecraft might the U.S. bring to its engagement with Africa?

The Future of Human Rights and International Law

By Jose Enrique Alvarez

As democracy and human rights retreat globally—and the U.S. pulls back—how can civil society and legal norms remain effective in a divided world? What is the role and force of international law in this era of impunity?

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.

Interest groups are for the benefit of AAUW members only; guests may attend meetings a maximum of 3 times before they are required to join. To start a new group, submit a description to the Co-Presidents. They will help you move forward with your idea.



The Book Chat group is off to a fresh start. Lamis is kind enough to have all the meetings at her home. We will meet again on Tuesday October 7, 2025. We share about a book we have read, and tempt other group members to read it also. We try books one might not have considered. If a member prefers, she can share about a recent trip instead. Contact Lamis and join us for our Bookchat gathering at 10:00 am.

Contact: **Lamis Hashem** at 562- 221- 9361 / 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.

Ideas for both groups are welcome!



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



Great Decisions Groups are self-moderated groups that meet to discuss issues of world importance, guided by the Great Decisions book published annually by the Foreign Policy Association. This short-format publication highlights eight thought-provoking foreign policy challenges currently facing America. The program provides materials that help members share opinions and ideas on critical global issues.

Each person pays for their own copy of the Great Decisions book. Books for 2026 will be ordered NOW and will be available in January. Please contact Rita Powell, chair, for additional information. Two groups meet starting in February: One group meets in person every other Friday afternoon. Contact: **Deloris Mayuga**
Second group meets on Zoom every other Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. Contact: **Carol Clanton**



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 November is *The Queens of Crime* by Marie Benedict. We share this information so even if you aren't able to join us, you have reading suggestions.
When: meets the second Monday of each month from 12:15—2:15 p.m. at a local restaurant
Contact: **Sharon Westafer**, 562-493-4749.



Public Policy members prepare for our Branch's participation in state Lobby Days 2026. We meet with local and State elected representatives to learn their priorities for the coming year. We stay abreast of AAUW California's legislative agenda, and after three bills are identified for Lobby Days branch committee members research the issues. Our branch participates in Lobby Days either via Zoom or in Sacramento.

An authorized member of the LA County Interbranch Council, AAUW may collaborate with approved partner organizations to work toward common local and state goals. The group passes on knowledge and information to all branch members. Contact: **Juliet Wurr** at 202-716-4145 / jwurr@hotmail.com



The Residential Rentals group started in 2009! We discuss topics relating to residential rentals – things of interest/importance/concern. We keep each other informed.

When: the 3rd Wednesday of odd-numbered months, 10-11:30 a.m.

Where: at the dining room table in our homes or ZOOM

Contact: **Ellen Mathis** epmathis@verizon.net or **Joan Gustafson**, jwg221@aol.com



NOTE:

The **2025-2026 Yearbooks** will be available for pick up at each branch meeting for September-December. Unclaimed Yearbooks remaining after our December 6th holiday gathering will be mailed to home addresses.

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 October 25

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, November 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 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

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

