

San Diego Branch

September 2020

MISSION STATEMENT

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

In principle and practice AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization based on gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

AAUW FUNDS MISSION STATEMENT

AAUW provides funds to advance education, research and self-development for women and to foster equity and positive societal change.

AAUW VISION STATEMENT

By joining AAUW we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers, so all women have a fair chance.

AAUW SAN DIEGO BRANCH

P.O. Box 262012

San Diego, CA 92196

www.AAUWSanDiego.org

AAUW San Diego is a tax-exempt not-for-profit 501(C)3 organization



EMPOWERING WOMEN SINCE 1881



THE SPHERE

Jane Niemeier, President



Some of you may be surprised to see my name listed as the president of the San Diego Branch since I haven't held any other offices in this branch. I do come to you with a wealth of AAUW experience. I joined the La Mesa-El Cajon Branch when I first moved to San Diego back in 2004. I picked that branch because I had a friend who was a member. At the LMEC Branch, I was Program Vice-President, EF Vice-President, President Elect, President, Parliamentarian, Ways and Means Chair, and Treasurer. I am also the Vice-President of the LMEC Foundation and still the Membership Treasurer of the branch.

At the state level, I recently finished a six-year stint on the board of AAUW California. I was the Chair of the State Project Oversight Committee for three years, Program Chair for a year, and the past two years, I served as State Co-President along with Cathy Foxhoven.

During my career, I taught French for 34 years, mainly in high school but also in junior high and college. I am proud to say that I worked in public schools and universities for my whole career.

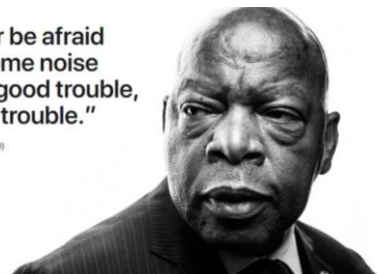
I am passionate about women's issues, particularly diversity and inclusion and international issues.

Since my dear friend, Lynne Batchelor, asked me to take over as president, I have been working on a diversity panel which will be on Zoom on Saturday, September 26, at 2 pm. (See separate article.)

I was so upset about what happened to George Floyd, I wondered what we as a group can do to prevent such things from happening in our country. In a webinar, presented by Jennifer Seibel Newsom, entitled "Black Women's Equal Pay Day", State Senator Holly Mitchell asked the white women who were listening to be not just allies but to be accomplices in the Black Lives Matter work. Stacy Brown-Philpot, the CEO of TaskRabbit, suggested that we do as the late John Lewis always did, "Get into some good trouble."

"Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble."

Rep. John Lewis (1940-2020)



Let's be accomplices and get into good trouble by helping our sisters of color be truly equal.

Officers

President

Jane Niemeier

Finance VP / Treasurer

Cathy Burciaga

Funds VP

Donna Lilly

Membership VP

Rosemarie Mallory

Public Policy VP

Shauna Ruyle

Recording Secretary

Sherry Eberling

Committee Chairs

Branch Historian

Rosemarie Mallory

Communications

Shauna Ruyle

College & University

Donna Lilly

Scholarships

Lillian Payne

Tech Trek

Gillian Simcox

Technology Outreach

Lillian Payn

Proud to Present Three Scholars



The AAUW San Diego branch Scholarship Committee is proud to award scholarships to three female students at local campuses in the fall of 2020. Lynne Batchelor, Rosemarie Mallory, Shauna Ruyle and Donna Lilly evaluated the applications and chose three scholars.

The scholars will receive \$2000 each when the Scholarship Committee receives notice of campus registration for each scholar.

Raya Kavosh is studying Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Data/Cognitive Sciences at UCSD and plans to graduate in 2021. She received Provost Honors in 2017, 2018 and 2019.

Her non-school related social activities include Rotaract, She's the First organization and yoga instruction at Corepower Yoga Studios. She volunteers at the Braille Institute La Jolla Library and serves as a caretaker and event planner at The Vi Senior Living Homes. She is employed 15 hours weekly as a Junior Cognitive Science AI Developer at LifeKind, Inc.

One of Raya's instructors wrote that Raya is a "tutor and mentor to other students helping them reach solutions to complex problems. Her instructor mentioned that she had never seen any individual handle so many responsibilities with such grace and attention to detail."

Shannon Master graduated from Grossmont College June 2019 with an AS degree in Math and Natural Sciences. She graduated with an AA degree in English in June 2020 from the same campus. Shannon plans to study English at SDSU or UCSD this fall.

Shannon was homeless and moved 21 times before the age of 17, she spent time in jail as well as rehab, and at the age of 18 she decided to pursue an AS degree at Grossmont College in 1996. She was delighted to be asked to speak at her own Grossmont College graduation in June 2020.

During her 24 years of college classes, her media communications class turned her around in a positive direction. Shannon became a producer and writer in television productions, live events, marketing projects for Comedy Central, Netflix, HBO, The History Channel, Spike TV and many others. Her career took her to 17 countries across North America, Europe, Asia, and Australia.

Branch News

Submit your articles, pictures and ideas to newsletter editor Sherry Eberling at saeberling@yahoo.com by the 15th of each month!

Shannon is proud of her Emmy Award for Outstanding Achievement in Documentary TV Series for *The Purple Couch* in 2007 and *Bigger Boxes: The Battle Over America's Superstores* in 2004.

One of Shannon's professors wrote "Shannon refused to accept a superficial explanation and insisted on thinking through every problem and rigorously understanding the underlying principle."

Caroline Soderstjerna is a junior at UCSD studying general biology. Her goal is to graduate in 2022 and become a conservation biologist. She received Provost Honors from Warren College. She is a Coca Cola Laptop scholar awardee and a California Scholarship Federation awardee.

Caroline was a volunteer from 2013-2018 at the San Diego Zoo where she volunteered 300 hours as part of Zoo Corps. Currently, she is employed at Scripps Institute of Oceanography Whale Acoustic Ecology Lab as a Data Analyst 10 hours weekly.

A female research scientist at Scripps Institute of Oceanography stated, "Caroline's volunteer efforts during the summer did not go unnoticed and she was hired as a part-time student research assistant in the lab in September 2019 and continues to work with us."

Donna Lilly
AAUW San Diego Scholarship Committee 2019-2020

Start Smart and Work Smart

Tell your daughters and women you meet that they can learn new skills of salary and benefits negotiation for free on the AAUW national website at salary.aauw.org

Start Smart and *Work Smart* free webinars on the AAUW website are your opportunity to learn the skills of negotiating your salary and benefits. Spend an hour or two online with the *Start Smart* webinar to determine the value of your new job, determine your target salary and benefits in the city you want to work and create your strategy to make your pitch for your new job.

The *Work Smart* webinar focuses on helping you gain the skills of negotiating a salary raise and new benefits in your current position.

Donna Lilly
AAUW California College University Chair 2019-2021
donnalilly@roadrunner.com

DON'T LEAVE MONEY ON THE TABLE!

You're worth more!

You can ask for the salary you deserve.

Attend our AAUW Work Smart salary negotiation workshop for women.

AAUW **WORKSMART**
salary negotiation for women



Is your voter information up to date?

Due to COVID-19, all registered voters in San Diego County will receive a ballot in the mail for the November 3, 2020 election in early October. Make sure your information is up to date at [SDVOTE.COM](https://sdvote.com).

Register for the free 2020 Women's Vote Centennial online panel discussion. San Diego AAUW and Del Mar-Leucadia AAUW helped to sponsor this event on Wednesday, September 23 at 12 noon to 2 p.m. via Zoom.

Bergman Memorial Lecture



You Are Cordially Invited

USD School of Law is pleased to present a panel discussion commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote. This free event is open to the public, USD faculty/administrators, and all undergraduate, graduate, and law students on Wednesday, September 23, 2020 from 12 - 1:30 p.m. Via Zoom

REGISTER

Registered participants will receive links to the Zoom live video event and a selection of virtual backgrounds.

Suggested Attire for Virtual Photo Booth

As women took great strides towards equality, they used fashion to further their cause. The colors of the suffrage movement were: **Purple** (loyalty), **White** (purity), and/or **Gold** (life). Adorn the colors of the movement and show off your attire through the event's virtual photo booth—a link to the photos will be shared with all participants following the event.

Moderator: [Professor Miranda McGowan](#), USD School of Law

Panelists: [Hon. Cathy Ann Bencivengo](#), U.S. District Court, Southern District of California
[Dora Rose](#) Deputy Director, League of Women Voters of California
[Taina Vargas-Edmond](#), Co-Founder & Executive Director, Initiate Justice

RACISM IN OUR SOCIETY

What can we do to stop it?

Join the San Diego Branch for a zoom panel on September 26 at 2 pm. Our panelists are Paulette McWilliams and Antonia Lopez.



A Chicago native, **Paulette McWilliams**, is a jazz vocalist who currently lives in Los Angeles. She is one of those singers that you have heard but have never heard of before. She has sung backups for artists such as Michael Jackson, Aretha Franklin, and David Bowie. She also sang and toured with Luther Vandross for over 20 years. Paulette's newest album is "A Woman's Story" which you can listen to on Spotify or You Tube. She will be telling her story of how she has been discriminated against and why Black Lives Matter is an important movement.

Antonia (Toni) Lopez has been a member of the La Mesa-El Cajon Branch for a number of years. We all know her for her fine work as UC San Diego Tech Trek Camp Director. Toni is a 25-year veteran of the U.S. Navy, and during her time in the Navy, she completed her B.A. and M.A. degrees in Physician's Assistant Studies. In addition to her work in places ranging from Alaska to Cairo, Egypt, she spent six months in Falluja, Iraq, in a field hospital supporting Marines in the theater of Iraq. She will be talking about discrimination from the point of view of a Hispanic woman.



CENSUS 2020: "For every uncounted person, the San Diego region will lose about \$2,000 per person per year over the next decade in federal funding. The process takes less than 10 minutes."

To respond online, visit [MY2020CENSUS.GOV](https://my2020census.gov).

Helpline open to all, Monday-Friday, 9 am to 5 pm, at 619-695-5657.

Please Share this information with anyone who may need encouragement or help to complete the census.

Mark Your Calendars

UPCOMING EVENTS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

AAUW Del Mar-Leucadia Virtual Monthly Program

“Celebrating Suffrage – Telling Our Stories”

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 10:00 AM TO NOON

Join us as we kick off our year, celebrating the 100th anniversary of women’s right to vote with stories of our personal she-roes – from suffragists to homemakers, teachers, free spirits, volunteers and Gutsy Women... women who made a difference and made us who we are.

Storytellers: Linda Barr Quinby, Char Gumbrell, Nancy Telford, Patricia Johnson-Khalifa, and Nancy Lombardi Kohrs

Poway-Penasquito Program

Overview of Upcoming Propositions – League of Women Voters

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

University of San Diego School of Law

PRESENTS BERGMAN MEMORIAL LECTURE:

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN’S RIGHT TO VOTE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, NOON TO 2 PM

Panelists from the USD School of Law, U.S. District Court, League of Women Voters, and **Initiate Justice** AAUW Del Mar-Leucadia is a partner in this event.

Info/Registration: Click [HERE](#)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2 PM

AAUW San Diego

Diversity Panel – Join the San Diego Branch for a zoom panel on September 26 at 2:00 pm; our panelists are Paulette McWilliams and Antonia Lopez.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

Poway-Penasquito Program

Overview of Upcoming Propositions – League of Women Voters

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14

AAUW San Diego

Legislation Affecting Seniors

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2 PM

AAUW San Diego

Holiday Program with Lorraine Castellanos

Singer/guitarist Lorraine Castellanos is equally at home with blues, jazz, soul, R&B, or Latin-influenced music.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23

IBC

Diversity



AAUW San Diego is a proud sponsor of the EDequity.Global annual AI Challenge, supporting the innovative collaboration for local and global impact in both 2019 and 2020. Edequity.Global is a project headed by Shauna (Oenning) Ruyle, an AAUW San Diego board member currently serving as VP Public Policy and Communications Chair. Learn more @ <http://EDequity.Global>



HAVE AN INNOVATIVE BUSINESS IDEA FOR AN ALEXA SKILL THAT ADDRESSES ONE OF THE [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGS)? The aim is to exchange and implement ideas for urgently needed solutions to current global challenges. Students will discover the latest in voice technology and learn how to shape the future with voice.

- 5-WEEK AWS EDUCATION (2 hrs. per week)
- 200 STUDENTS (current capacity)
- 35 TECH INDUSTRY ALL-STAR MENTORS & JUDGES
- FAST PITCH DEMO COMPETITION
- WIN SCHOLARSHIPS (toward AWS training & certification)
- 100% VIRTUAL

[UPSkill YOUR REGIONAL WORKFORCE!](#)

EDequity.Global invites Students, Mentors, Partners and Sponsors to Join Us!

[Complete the Interest Form Today!](#)

Registration is now open for the **Global Amazon #AlexaSkillsChallenge!** Scheduled for Oct. 1 – Nov. 7, the second-annual AWS AI Challenge can help lift students out of the COVID-19 education disaster. Higher education students are invited to kick-start their artificial intelligence (AI) journey and the economy with the Global Amazon Alexa Skills Challenge.

The 5-week, free virtual tech education program is designed for beginner-level women and minority higher education student builders and innovators who want to learn in-demand cloud skills with self-paced digital training, videos, workshops, discussions, and virtual team mentoring, coaching and project evaluations from all-star tech industry professionals. Participating students will have the chance to **win scholarships toward AWS training and certification!** No AI experience required. Coding experience helpful.



She

Couldn't

Vote.

You Can.

Vote November 3rd 2020

Lucy Burns (1879 - 1966). Editor of *The Suffragist*. Spent more time jailed than any other American suffragist.

Promote the Vote 2020