

## San Diego Branch

October 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](http://www.AAUWSanDiego.org)

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



EMPOWERING WOMEN SINCE 1881



# THE SPHERE

## The Eleanor Bevege \$5,000 Bequest

by Cathy Burciaga, Treasurer

Legacy giving is a most generous way of helping to guarantee the future of something that is too important to fail – or for another example, helping to teach the mastery of a promising new technology to the next generation of girls and women.

In 1983, the San Diego Branch of AAUW was delighted to have Eleanor Bevege join and immediately become an active supporter of our mission to promote gender equity in the classroom, in the workplace, and in science and technology. Eleanor was also a great believer in lifelong learning and threw her support behind those activities, too, and remained active until her recent passing.

True to her spirit, Eleanor provided bequests to a long list of learning institutions and other organizations like ours that look to the future for women. At our last board meeting, the San Diego Branch decided it would be most fitting to honor Eleanor's generosity by applying her gift to a groundbreaking year-long program that vigorously trains young women in the field of applied artificial intelligence. These women and girls are tomorrow's tech leaders and we think Eleanor would have been pleased.



“If we are going to help build the next generation of technologists we need to be committed to work in the public interest by providing scholarships, skills training, opportunity for entrepreneurialism, innovation, road maps and role models to women and minority students.

JANE NIEMEIER  
PRESIDENT AAUW SAN DIEGO



## Officers

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Cathy Burciaga

Funds VP

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Scholarships

Lillian Payn

Tech Trek

Gillian Simcox

Technology Outreach

Lillian Payn

## Virtual Luncheon

By Donna Lilly, Funds VP [donnalilly@roadrunner.com](mailto:donnalilly@roadrunner.com)

Meet the 2020-2021 AAUW California Fellows and Grant recipients at a virtual luncheon that will showcase their studies and goals. Join both or either luncheon as presenters will be different at each virtual luncheon. Lunch is not included but the webinar is free. Currently in California 22 Fellows and Grantees are studying on campuses or conducting programs to empower the lives of women and girls. AAUW awarded \$3,500,000 to 200 Fellows and Grantees during 2020-2021.



You are invited to virtually meet

**AAUW California Fellows and Grantees on:**

- Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. PDT
- Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. PDT

**Register now for the virtual luncheons**

<https://www.aauw-ca.org/2020-2021-webinars/>

**Consider donating** to the AAUW Fund. Make your check payable to AAUW Fund and note on your check that your donation is in honor of Jane Niemeier Endowment #4485. Mail your check to AAUW San Diego, P. O Box 262012, San Diego, CA 92196

**American Fellowships** are awarded to women pursuing full-time study to complete dissertations or conduct postdoctoral research or to those preparing research for publication for eight consecutive weeks. You will meet some of these 11 women at the virtual luncheon: Rebecca Brunner at UC Berkeley, Annie Campos at UCSD, LaToya Council at USC, Jamelia Harris at UCLA, Jane Hu at UC Berkeley, Constance Iloh at UC Irvine, Elizabeth Kopacz at UC Riverside, Lauren Levitt at USC, Holly Okonkwo at Claremont

Graduate University, Lizette Solorzano at USC, and Vivian Underhill at UC Santa Cruz. Deadline to apply for a 2021-22 American Fellowship is November 1.

**Career Development Grants** are awarded to women pursuing a certificate or degree to advance their careers, change careers, or re-enter the workforce. You may meet some of these 5 grantees: Claire Breining at UC San Francisco, Allison Huynh at Chapman University, Denise Mitchell at UC Riverside, Tracey Quezada at UC Berkeley, and Karen Waters at Glendale Community College. Deadline to apply for a 2021-22 Career Development Grant is November 15.

**Community Action Grants** are awarded to individuals, AAUW branches and states and non-profit organizations that fund innovative programs or that promote education and equity through projects focused on encouraging girls to select, prior to entering college, the physical sciences or engineering as a career. AAUW Long Beach branch was awarded a Community Action Grant for 2020-2021. Deadline to apply for a 2021-22 Community Action Grant is December 1.

**International Fellowships** are awarded to women pursuing full-time graduate or postdoctoral study in the U.S. who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Currently Zhuojun Huang at Stanford University, Rochelle McFee at UCSD, Maria Jose Navarrete at UC Berkeley, and Yvonne Zhang at American Film Institute are International Fellows. You may meet them at the virtual luncheon. Deadline to apply for a 2021-22 International Fellowship is November 15.

**Selected Professions Fellowships** are awarded to women pursuing full-time study in a master's or professional degree program in which women are underrepresented, including STEM, law, business, and medicine. You may meet Rebecca Sung at UC Berkeley at the virtual luncheon.

Deadline to apply for a 2021-22 Selected Professions Fellowship is December 1.

Jane Niemeier, AAUW California Past President and current President of AAUW San Diego, Lynne Batchelor, Past President of San Diego branch and current AAUW California Secretary, and Donna Lilly, AAUW California Past President and current AAUW California College & University Chair, attended the in-person AAUW luncheon in Seal Beach where they met these amazing 2019-2020 AAUW Fellows and Grantees in October 2019.

IN THE 2020-21 ACADEMIC  
YEAR AAUW AWARDED

**\$3.5 M**

IN FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

Our Mission is Bold

Donate today to advance equity for women and girls

Mail your check to AAUW San Diego, P. O. Box 262012, San Diego, CA 92196

# Vote! Vote! Vote!

By Jane Niemeier, President

Dear Branch Members,

In a few days, you will be receiving your ballots by U. S. Mail. There seems to be a lot of confusion right now about having the election by mail instead of by in-person voting. After hearing the Registrar of Voters, Michael Vu, speak to the La Mesa-El Cajon Branch, I feel reassured.

Mr. Vu said that he had every confidence in the U. S. Mail service here in the San Diego area. But if you are concerned about mailing your ballot back to the Registrar's office, there will be over 160 drop-off boxes around the county. You will also be able to vote in person at 235 polling places for four days, beginning on October 31. Workers from the Registrar's office will be picking up the ballots from the drop-off locations every day. As soon as the signature on the envelope is varied, the ballot will be scanned and counted. One of the members on the Zoom call with Mr. Vu expressed concern about the election numbers being reported as they came in. Mr. Vu said that this was illegal. The numbers will be reported after the polls close at 8 pm on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Many of us consider the outcome of this election to be crucial to what we believe in as members of AAUW. Do you believe in a strong Title IX? Do you believe in equal rights for all? If so, please express your opinion at the ballot box as soon as your get your ballot.

## Election day may look a little different this year due to the Coronavirus Pandemic on November 3, 2020.

The Old Globe in Balboa Park will serve as an official Mail Ballot Drop-Off location for the 2020 Presidential General Election from Tuesday, October 6 through Tuesday, November 3.

Your **signed, sealed, and dated voted mail ballot envelope** can be dropped off during these hours:

- Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- **On Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, hours for dropping off voted mail ballots will be 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

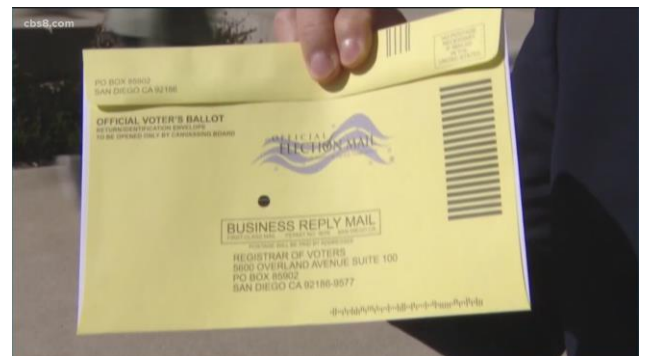
Questions regarding the Mail Ballot Drop-Off program should be directed to the [County of San Diego Registrar of Voters](#): (858) 565-5800.

## FAQ

Source: CBS News 8 Team

Published: 5:04 PM PDT September 11, 2020

Voters will be able to cast a vote by mail or at limited polling locations, in an effort to stop the



spread of Coronavirus. Here is a complete guide to everything you need to know before you cast your vote.

### How do I register to vote in California?

You can complete a voter registration application online at the state's [Register to Vote website](#). You can also pick up a paper application at your county elections office, any Department of Motor Vehicles field office, and many post offices, public libraries, and government offices.

If you have moved or changed your name, you'll need to re-register. The deadline to register or re-register online is Oct. 19. If you miss this deadline,

you may conditionally register to vote and cast a provisional ballot all the way through election day.

### How do I know if I'm registered?

You can check your voter registration status at any time. Mail ballots start going out Oct. 5.

### What do I need to vote?

California voters are not required to show identification polling places, but it's a good idea to bring identification with you when you vote for the first time. For more on what identification information might be required at the polls, click here.

### Will there be early voting?

If you plan on voting in person, the San Diego County Registrar of Voters encourages you to take advantage of early voting at the following locations:

- At the Registrar's office beginning Oct. 5, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- At your assigned polling place or the Registrar's office Saturday, Oct. 31 through Monday, Nov. 2, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- All will again be open on Election Day, Nov. 3, when the voting hours change to 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

### Can I vote by mail?

As part of Vote Safer San Diego, every registered voter in California will receive a ballot in the mail for the upcoming election. Ballots will start going out in the mail the week of Oct. 5, giving voters nearly a month to mark their ballot and return it before Election Day.

### How do I return my mail in ballot?

- You can return your ballot by mail, just make sure it is postmarked by Nov 3.
- You can drop your ballot off at a secure drop box, polling place, vote center, or county elections office by 8:00 p.m. on November 3.

### How do I know my ballot has been counted?

You can track your ballot every step of the way by signing up for Where's my Ballot? This allows you to see when the Registrar mails your ballot, when it arrives back at the Registrar's office and when it is counted.

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## AAUW California is Offering Webinars



W • E • B • I • N • A • R

During this time of COVID-19, do you feel like you are stuck in a rut of watching TV and staring out the window? Why not take a webinar as offered by AAUW California. Here is the link:

<https://www.aauw-ca.org/2020-2021-webinars/>

You can sign up to hear the AAUW fellows that we would normally see at the luncheons, on 10/10 and 10/24. Another topic of interest is "Increasing Gender Diversity on Boards of Nonprofit Organizations" which will be held on 10/12. Or how about "Why Public Policy Matters" on 10/28, or "Keeping in Touch With Your Tech Trekkers – and Why You Should" on 11/9?

The webinars continue through May of 2021. There is something for everyone, so check it out!

**AAUW LA MESA-EL CAJON BRANCH INVITES YOU TO THE  
OCTOBER ZOOM GENERAL MEETING  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10TH  
10:00 AM**

## **Just How Many Genders Are There?**



TRISTAN HIGGINS, ESQ.

**How to create a metaclusive environment where all genders, races, nationalities, and creeds have a sense of belonging and representation.**

Tristan Higgins, Esq.; BA in Theater, UCSD; JD California Western School of Law, is an internationally recognized leader and speaker on diversity and inclusion, workplace equity, and how to create a metaclusive environment where everyone feels they belong.

# The 2020 Election: Responsibilities and Opportunities

*Nancy Mahr, AAUW CA Public Policy Committee*

**Responsibility:** Vote and help others vote.

First you have to register. You can check your registration status online at the CA Secretary of State's website.

Then you have to vote. All registered voters in California will receive a Vote-by-Mail (VBM) ballot in early October. You have choices for using that ballot:

- 1) Complete it and mail it in – if you do this, mail early. Ballots must be postmarked by Nov 3. They have 17 days after that date to reach the Registrar's office, but the postmark must be by Nov 3. If you put it in a mailbox on Nov 3 it will not be postmarked in time. Be early!
- 2) Complete the ballot and drop it in an official drop box. Your Registrar of Voters will post locations of drop boxes. The Registrar regularly collects the ballots from the boxes.
- 3) Take your completed ballot to a Vote Center and hand it in. You don't have to use the VBM ballot. You can vote in person and just hand in your unused ballot at a Vote Center.

**Opportunity:** Candidates - Black women and other women of color

This election gives all of us an opportunity to expand our thinking and vision by making a conscious commitment to AAUW's work for racial justice and societal change.

The coronavirus pandemic has disproportionately impacted Black Americans. We are seeing a call to address police brutality. In the face of these historic challenges, a record number of Black women are running for Congress, determined to work for change.

The Center of Women and Politics (CAWP) reports that black women are nearly 8% of the U.S. population, but 4.3% of Congress – only 22 out of 435 Representatives and 1 out of 100 Senators. They are underrepresented in statewide executive's jobs and among mayors and city councils.

This November, in addition to federal, state and county elections, local elections are on the ballot – cities, school districts, and water districts. There may be black women or women of other ethnicities on the ballot in your area. You can support women of color who are running for office in your community, state, and nation. Be aware. Create an environment of inclusion. Make an effort to meet and talk with these candidates. Commend them for stepping up. Listen to their stories and their goals. Ensure they are included in election discussions and activities.

AAUW has a long tradition of advocating for positive societal change and political activism

Change is underway, and AAUW can be a part of that.

- Read our statement on racism on the AAUW website

Sources: The Washington Post, Reuters, Higher Heights for America

## PLEASE NOTE:

**You will soon have the opportunity to contribute to AAUW CA's Public Policy Priorities for 2021-23. All members will soon be receiving an online survey asking for your input. Please complete it by the deadline, October 15, so we can begin**

# Mark Your Calendars

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 10AM**

Joint program with Poway-Penasquitos  
**Overview of the Upcoming Propositions –**  
 with the League of Women Voters

**AAUW LA MESA-EL CAJON BRANCH**  
**Just How Many Genders Are There?**

**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**



**Happy birthday!**

Shauna Ruyle

Jennifer Dean