

## San Diego Branch

April 2021

### 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

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

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



EMPOWERING WOMEN SINCE 1881



# THE SPHERE

## President's Message

by Jane Niemeier

### It's Time for a Change

I strongly believe that AAUW needs to eliminate the degree requirement and be open to all people who share our mission. There are so many people that we could invite to join our group, people who would add diversity and interest. One such person is Lilly Ledbetter. Lilly sued Goodyear for equal pay when she received an anonymous note on her desk showing that she, as a supervisor, was making much less than her male counterparts. This lawsuit took years, and Lilly experienced a lot of grief from her co-workers when it was going on. You can read all about her story in her book, Grace and Grit. She won the lawsuit but was not awarded her back pay. As a matter of fact, the first law that President Obama signed in 2009 was "the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act". Our wonderful organization supported Lilly in her lawsuit, and she stayed with the then AAUW Vice President, Lisa Maatz, when she had to be in Washington, D.C. But Lilly is not eligible to join our group even though she is a highly qualified manager and even though she is the poster child of Equal Pay.

I was lucky enough to meet Lilly in 2011 at the AAUW National Convention. Here is a photo to prove it!



Please read the letter from our state board supporting the elimination of the degree requirement.

## Officers

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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

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Branch Historian

Rosemarie Mallory

Communications

Shauna Ruyle

College & University

Donna Lilly

Scholarships

Lillian Payn

Tech Trek

Gillian Simcox

Technology Outreach

Lillian Payn

FROM YOUR STATE AAUW BOARD: Living our Vision of Equity for All

### The Time is — Now?

Is this the time, now, after 140 years, to invite **everybody** with similar goals to join AAUW? The AAUW California Board of Directors thinks it is and would like you to know why.

We work hard for the AAUW vision of equity for all and the mission of advancing gender equity, education, health issues, and more. But so do others, including many without a college degree. Are we missing out on their energy, ideas, and help? Before you vote, please review the [aauw.org](http://aauw.org) home page. It reflects our inclusive mission for equity. Our membership bylaws do not.

Here is some history that may surprise you: Until the late 1940s, only women with four-year degrees from a small list of accredited, elite universities could join AAUW. According to Sharon Schuster, past AAUW National and California president, “Some would like to forget that we used to vote on prospective members — with all of the implications of what that meant.”

The World War II years broadened AAUW’s vision and all women with four-year degrees from any accredited schools were invited to join; applicants were required to present their degree certificates. The next requirements to be dropped were accreditation and proof of degree. Then the 4-year degree requirement was dropped as holders of 3-year nursing degrees and 2-year associate degrees became eligible. Eligibility was also extended to students working toward a degree. In the 1980s, men were allowed to join. Now, in 2021, most membership requirements have been eliminated and only one remains that of the two-year degree.

AAUW California understands why some members might be reluctant to embrace this idea: it has long been a badge of accomplishment for women to earn a college degree, and we all enjoy socializing with others who enjoy the same things. But shared values are not an automatic byproduct of a college degree.

Before we discuss the benefits of removing this last barrier, you should know that quite a few foundations refuse to grant funds to organizations that **discriminate**. Yes, that is how they view this requirement. And this reduced funding pool restricts our work.

The younger generations do not view our restriction receptively either. We believe that they are more likely to join organizations with open membership working for similar goals.

The same can be said for potential members of more diverse backgrounds. We have the same vision for the future of all women and all girls; we should work together. And we can do that more effectively if we welcome everybody. Also, in order to provide support for those excluded or

marginalized, we need to stop excluding and marginalizing. We need to LIVE our mission and vision.

### **SO, HOW WOULD AAUW CHANGE IF EVERYONE COULD JOIN?**

- Your enthusiastic Tech Trek moms without degrees want to help our splendid STEM camps. Now they could.
- New people might join your board to help with AAUW projects and events. They will bring fresh perspectives.
- Remember when you had a friend who wanted to join AAUW but was one year short of a degree? Now she could.
- This would be AAUW's future face: more people of all backgrounds and colors, more hands working on our mission; more members to join discussion groups. We would be an organization that welcomes everybody.

### **AND, HOW WOULD IT NOT AFFECT AAUW OR YOUR BRANCH?**

- It will not affect the uniqueness of AAUW. Its uniqueness is its breadth of programming, research, policy, advocacy, fellowships and grants, and grassroots membership.
- It will not change your branch's involvement in local scholarships or interest groups.
- It will not change the mission of the branch. Mission is not determined by a degree, but by belief in and dedication to equality for women.

Sharon Schuster also said, "AAUW has survived because of our ability to change and because our membership requirements have changed over the years."

So, when April 7th arrives, do remember the issues we raise here and cast your vote in the AAUW National election for a positive future for an AAUW that welcomes everybody. As much as we value the way we have been, we can also value the way we will be. It's time we walked the talk.

Carol Holzgrafe  
Director  
Branch Assistance Contact  
AAUW California



## AAUW National Election

### Vote for a positive future for AAUW

# Gender Equity – Let's Get There Faster

**Speaker:** Dr. Hei-ock (pronounced Hay-Oh) Kim

**When:** Saturday, April 24, at 2 pm San Diego branch Zoom

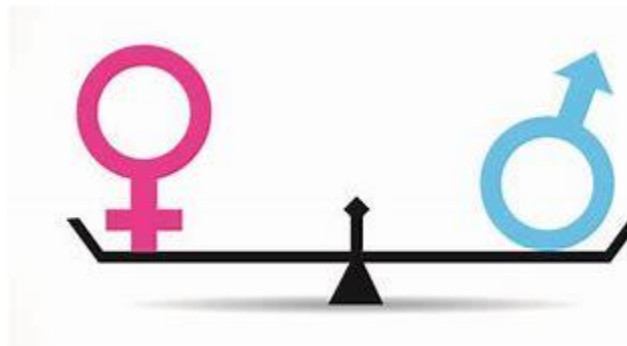


Hei-ock Kim, founder and executive director of the Kim Center for Social Balance, has devoted over a decade to nonprofit administration in social justice, environmental conservation, and the arts. She was also a passionate educator for more than 30 years as a teacher, professor, and lecturer.

Hei-ock serves on the board of Workforce Ventures, increasing workforce participation through income share agreements. She is also a member of MANA de San Diego, Women in Public Finance, and Lawyers Club of San Diego.

A frequent speaker, Hei-ock has served as a subject matter expert on workplace gender equity for KPBS Midday Edition, Employee Rights Center, Women in Public Finance, Lawyers Club and San Diego Councilmember Barbara Bry.

After graduating from Princeton University and The Juilliard School, Hei-ock earned her doctorate in classical piano performance from The Catholic University of America. Her favorite pastimes include rock climbing, kayaking, native plant landscaping, and furniture building.





## UPCOMING WEBINAR

MONDAY, APRIL 5, 2021 3PM ET

### **Factory Flaw: The Attrition and Retention of Women in Manufacturing**

Join us for a discussion of AAUW's new research report, "Factory Flaw: The Attrition and Retention of Women in Manufacturing." We'll explore why women leave their jobs in manufacturing and what their experiences--with sexual harassment, unequal pay, unfair promotions, and juggling caregiving responsibilities--can tell us about how we can support women working in male-dominated industries. AAUW is grateful for the support of the Arconic Foundation which made this independent research possible.

**Register Now**



AAUW

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[connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org)

# The Future for Roe v Wade and Choice

by Claire Noonan, California Public Policy committee

The times they are changing – a new president and vice-president who support pro-choice, but a sixth very conservative justice is added to the Supreme Court.

Abortion rights activists stress state-by-state vigilance to be aware of how reproductive choice is now used as a political tool, says Ilyse Hogue, recently retired president of NARAL. New anti-choice bills are mainly introduced by the white male religious minority, except in Montana with six abortion-limiting bills introduced this year by conservative female legislators and one male.

For instance, extreme 2021 legislation in Tennessee will allow fathers to veto an abortion. A Texas bill will require a fetus to have a lawyer. Arizona's new bills propose to criminalize a woman who gets an abortion and the doctor who performs it.

During a pandemic telemedicine is valuable to prescribe pills for medication abortions. In July 2020 the federal courts temporarily suspended the doctor's visit rule for the first pill, mifepristone, but in January 2021 SCOTUS reinstated the rule. Patients again must visit a doctor for the first pill and get a prescription to obtain the second, misoprostol.

These restrictions have a particularly significant impact on low-income communities, which often include women of color, which are stressed economically by the year-long and counting pandemic. Clinics especially in the South, like [West Alabama Women's Center](#), are constantly searching for money sources to provide reproductive services as well as current needs for newborn assistance. The center focuses on providing financial assistance to the under-served, even when services are 'temporarily' deemed "non-essential". Despite efforts to provide full-spectrum reproductive health care access, dwindling numbers of clinics from the Sun Belt across the Deep South curb the availability of services. In the Navajo Nation, Covid infection is so high that patients need a doctor's note to leave the tribal area for a clinic appointment.

Consequently, vigilance means watching the power of the courts, encouraging reversal of the Hyde Amendment, and backing codification of the Roe v Wade decision. As you know, each woman in California can choose, but support for organizations that oversee the reproductive health rights of women in America are worth the effort.

## Scholarships Benefit – La Mesa-El Cajon Branch

### *Everything's Coming up Roses*

#### 19th Annual Scholarships Benefit

This year our traditional annual Author's Luncheon will be replaced by two virtual fundraising events. As usual, proceeds will provide scholarships for women and girls.

**Author's Event** May 1<sup>st</sup> at 10 am featuring Kate Quinn. Registration costs \$22 and we are using Eventbrite for registering and for joining the May 1st Zoom event. Each reservation will include a chance to win one of six exceptional prizes valued at \$100 each.

Kate Quinn, the New York Times and USA Today bestselling author of *The Huntress* and *The Alice Network*, returns with **The Rose Code**, another heart-stopping World War II story of three female code-breakers at Bletchley Park and the spy they must root out after the war is over. As the royal wedding of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip whips post-war Britain into a fever, three friends-turned-enemies are reunited by a mysterious encrypted letter—the key to which lies buried in the long-ago betrayal that destroyed their friendship and left one of them confined to an asylum.



- Click on <https://lmeceventbrite.com> This will take you to the Eventbrite website to register and pay for the Author's Event. Once registered, you will be emailed a ticket/receipt for the event.
- You will receive three reminders, two-weeks, two-hours, and a few minutes before the event.
- These reminders will contain the link you will use to log onto Eventbrite on May 1<sup>st</sup> at 10 am to join the Zoom Author's event.

April 24th at 9 am — May 2nd at 5 pm

There is no registration fee. We are using 32Auctions.



Click on <https://www.32auctions.com/LaMesaElCajonAAUW2021> to browse and/or register. At the bottom of the registration page, it says, "An email will be sent to the email address provided. Please follow the instructions in the email to finish creating your account." The email says, "We just sent an email to (your email) for your approval." Simply **click the button in that email** to finish creating your new 32auctions account. Keep this link so you can return to the auction as often as you wish.

- You can browse the items but to bid you must register and create a password.
- You can browse now and see new items being added.

**Enjoy Both Events!**



SAVE  
THE  
DATE!

23<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL POWAY PENASQUITOS  
**COVER TO COVER**

FUNDRAISER FOR RE-ENTRY WOMEN SCHOLARSHIPS



**MAY 15, 2021**  
**10:00 A.M.**



PRESENTED ON **ZOOM** BY THE POWAY PENASQUITOS BRANCH OF THE  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

**LOUISE PENNY** IS THE AUTHOR OF THE SIXTEEN MYSTERY NOVELS FEATURING  
CHIEF INSPECTOR **ARMAND GAMACHE**

**LISA SEE** IS THE AUTHOR OF *ISLAND OF SEA WOMEN*,  
*SNOW FLOWER AND THE SECRET FAN* AND MANY MORE NOVELS.

FUNDRAISER COST: \$25  
THIS EVENT IS NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE

RESERVATIONS OPEN APRIL 1, 2021

FOR REGISTRATION INFO CONTACT: [AAUWBOARD@GMAIL.COM](mailto:AAUWBOARD@GMAIL.COM)



# Mark Your Calendars

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## APRIL

### 2021 AAUW California State Annual Meeting

Apr 17, 2021 09:30 AM in [Pacific Time](#)

Our AAUW California Annual Meeting will be held via Zoom for the second year. No travel, no hotel reservations and no lunch, once again. But that means you can attend at no cost from your office, living room or kitchen!

You will learn what has been happening in California this past year and it is a lot! You will see the three Speech Trek Finalists, learn who our 2020 State Named Gift Honoree is and see the first Equity Award given to former State Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson. AAUW Board Chair, Julia Brown will join us and we have a special event brought to us by past Co-President Cathy Foxhoven.

Registration is required. [Click HERE to Register](#)


April 24 at 2pm      Gender Equality – Let's get There Faster – Hie-Ock Kim  
 April 14 & 17      EDequity's Global Innovation Summit

**MAY**                      SD County Public Defender – Genevieve Jones-Wright

**JUNE**                      Annual Meeting – Former Scholars



Dali Collins  
 Donna Keenan  
 Carol Patrick  
 Judy Seerey

Calendar of webinars from the AAUW California website. <b>Local webinars are in red.</b>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				<p><b>Board to Board Submission Deadline</b></p> <p><a href="#">Leonardo and Michelangelo: Unfriendly Giants 10:00 am</a></p>		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		<p><a href="#">Great Voices: An In-Depth Look at Six Iconic Rock and R &amp; B Singers 10:00 am</a></p>	<p><b>World Health Day</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Leonardo and Michelangelo: Unfriendly Giants 10:00 am</a></p>		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
		<p><a href="#">Great Voices: An In-Depth Look at Six Iconic Rock and R &amp; B Singers 10:00 am</a></p>		<p><a href="#">Leonardo and Michelangelo: Unfriendly Giants 10:00 am</a></p>		<p>AAUW California State Annual Meeting</p>
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		<p><a href="#">Great Voices: An In-Depth Look at Six Iconic Rock and R &amp; B Singers 10:00 am</a></p>		<p><b>International Mother Earth Day</b></p> <p><a href="#">Leonardo and Michelangelo: Unfriendly Giants 10:00 am</a></p>		<p>2pm Gender Equality – Let’s get There Faster. SD Branch</p>
25	26	27	28	29	30	

**Note:**

The AAUW calendar is posted to inform you of other webinars available. AAUW CA Healdsburg branch uses their webinars as a scholarship fundraiser with a ticket price of \$95. Click on the webinar title to receive further information.