

San Diego Branch

May 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

Black Literature as a Path to Being an Anti-Racist

Throughout the past year since the horrifying death of George Floyd, many of us have tried to help our black sisters and brothers. One of the best webinars I attended was put on by the First Partner, Jennifer Siebel Newsom on "Black Women's Equal Pay Day". One of the speakers was former State Senator and current Los Angeles Supervisor, Holly Mitchell. I wrote down in my notes that Supervisor Mitchell said that it is better to be an accomplice than an ally to black people.

One way to understand what black people are experiencing is to listen and another way is to read. There are several books that I loved and that educated me about the black experience.

1) The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison. I had read several of her books, but this was her first one. It is about a young black woman who wants more than anything to have blue eyes. Can you guess why?

2) Sag Harbor by Colson Whitehead. I was fortunate enough to hear Mr. Whitehead speak at the University of San Diego when he was promoting The Nickel Boys (which is a wonderful but chilling book). He spoke of his other novels including Sag Harbor. Sag Harbor is a place on Long Island where black people have vacation homes. Mr. Whitehead's family had a place there, and his novel speaks of the experience of an awkward teenage boy. I learned about a place that I didn't know existed.

3) The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett. It is the story of light-skinned twins in the south. One of them decides to pass as white and the other considers herself black. This is a great book club book, full of interesting themes to discuss. President Obama also recommends this novel.

4) Deacon King Kong by James McBride. This is at once a funny and sad novel. It is full of lovable characters who live in a housing project in Brooklyn, and it takes place in 1969. McBride shows the good and bad of these projects. This is also recommended by President Obama.

I would love to hear book recommendations from our members. We can also look at Asian authors and Hispanic authors. Racism is everywhere, and we must fight it with many tools including education.

P.S. In case you are wondering why I don't use the term African American in this article, a black friend asked me to stop saying that. He said that he is American, not African American, and that I should use the term black.

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 Payn

Tech Trek

Gillian Simcox

Technology Outreach

Lillian Payn

Time to Step up to the Plate

by Jane Niemeier

Just the other day Joe Musgrave, pitched the first no-hitter for our Padres baseball team. Joe's feat got the San Diego people enthusiastic and fired up about baseball. We need our own version of Joe Musgrave to step up and become Membership Vice President. Let's get people enthusiastic about AAUW. We have so much to offer the community.

The duties are as follows:

- 1) Is responsible for involving branch members in recruiting new members.
- 2) Plans new member activities.
- 3) Encourages new members to become active in meetings, join committees, or work with the board.
- 4) Promotes visibility of AAUW in the community.

I would add these two duties: sends out invoices to members to remind them of dues and organizes a committee to call those who haven't paid their dues.

We also need help with organizing programs and venues for programs when things open up again. According to the Standing Rules, "Programs will be the responsibility of elected and appointed officers and special interest groups in line with the AAUW Mission Statement." It further states that the branch should develop events beneficial to the community.

Be a winner, join the AAUW San Diego Board of Directors!

2021 – 2022 AAUW San Diego Slate of Officers

Officers	Current	Proposed
President	Jane	Jane Niemeier
Membership	Rosemarie	
Finance	Cathy	Cathy Burciaga
Public Policy	Shauna	Shauna Ruyle
Secretary / Sphere	Sherry	Sherry Eberling
Chairs	Current	Proposed
AAUW Fund	Donna	Donna Lilly
Historian	Rosemarie	Rosemarie Mallory
Communications	Shauna	Shauna Ruyle
Corresponding Secretary	Dawna	Dawna Bratten
College & University	Donna	Donna Lilly
Scholarships	Lillian	Lillian Payn
Tech Trek	Gillian	Gillian Simcox
Tech Outreach	Lillian	Shauna Ruyle

ELECTION INFORMATION

AAUW California Election

If we have your email address on file, you will receive an email with a link to your ballot on April 16, 2021. If not, you will receive a paper ballot by mail.

You can vote on:

- Board of Director positions. Click [HERE](#) for candidate information.
- Public Policy Priorities for 2021-2023. Click [HERE](#) for the proposed Public Policy Priorities
- Proposed changes to the AAUW California bylaws. Click [HERE](#) to see the bylaws language.

Please note

- You may only vote once.
- Voting ends on May 7, 2021.
- The ballot will contain your personal link. Do not forward or share it.

You will receive a confirmation email after you vote.



AAUW National Election

On Wednesday, April 7th, you should have received an email titled: Vote now to shape AAUW's Future from Shannon Wolfe (memberinfo@aauw.org) at AAUW with a link to your national election ballot. Online voting ends 5pm EDT May 17, 2021. This is your opportunity to determine the public policy priorities that will drive our advocacy efforts for the next two years, to select our national leaders, and to open our membership to all who support our mission of equity for all women and girls.

AAUW California's Board of Directors voted recently to support the proposed bylaw change to eliminate the degree requirement for membership in AAUW.

If you want more information on the amendment, please see openupaauw.org. Especially helpful is the 8-minute video explaining the need to pass the amendment, presented by Malinda Gaul, AAUW National Board of Directors Vice-Chair.

We hope you will join us in our support for moving AAUW to a more inclusive organization, one better positioned to advance gender equity.

Dues are Due

AAUW Dues, Fees, and Tax Deductibility Effective March 16, 2021 AAUW

California members pay a bundled payment for three organizational segments 1. AAUW National dues 2. State dues 3. Branch dues., if a branch member and are in addition to AAUW National and AAUW California Dues. Dues are typically paid in a single payment, collected by the branch or paid online by the member via the Membership Payment Program.

National and Lifetime Membership	Dues		
	National	State	Branch
National Membership* Individuals holding an associate or higher degree from a higher education institution accredited by a regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education	\$62	\$0	\$0
AAUW California Members-at-Large pay national and state dues only. Branch members pay national and state dues in addition to the applicable dues for each local branch of which they are a member.	\$62	\$20	\$0
Branch members pay national and state dues in addition to the applicable dues for each local branch of which they are a member	\$62	\$20	\$18
Paid Life Membership* Individuals who qualify for national membership may pay 20 times the national rate one time and become exempt from further national dues.	\$1,240 onetime payment	\$20 per year	\$18
Honorary Life Membership Individuals who qualify for national membership and have been members for 50 years can apply for honorary life membership and become exempt from further national and state dues	\$0	\$0	\$18

*Tax Deductibility

AAUW national membership dues are \$62 of which \$59 is tax deductible as a charitable contribution.

AAUW national paid life membership dues are \$1,240 and is fully tax deductible.

How do I pay my dues?

As a member of the San Diego branch which participates in the Membership Payment Program (MPP), you will be paying all of your dues – branch, state, and national – at once.

There are two ways to renew.

1. Online: You should have received a personalized email from membershipinfo@aauw.org with a link to make a payment. Please review your contact details and note any changes with your finance officer. Questions, contact Connect2AAUW at connect@aauw.org or call 800.326.2289 weekdays, 10am - 5pm ET.
2. By check: Make check payable to AAUW San Diego. Mail to:

Rosemarie Mallory
11110 Portobelo Dr
San Diego, CA 92124-4013
Phone: (858) 279-9002
Email: ggmilly@aol.com

We hope you will join us again this year. Together, we can drive meaningful change in 2021.

EDequity.Global Announces Winners of the '21 Amazon Alexa Skills Challenge

The goal of the Alexa skills competition is to support women from around the world to imagine the future with voice and to gain 21st century workforce skills

April 21, 2021 – Powered by artificial intelligence (AI), the winning applications of the voice competition provide technology solutions that leverage Amazon Web services (AWS) to address one or more of the 17 United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals:

1st Place Award: “Glow Up, Damas” recognized as a technology solution that leverages AWS to address United Nations (UN) SDG 5: Gender Equality. In the event of a domestic violence threat, Glow Up, Damas would use coded language and responses to arrange an escape from an abuser. By covertly calling a free self-driving taxi, Glow Up, Damas could help women get away from an abusive environment.



2nd Place Award: Sudavoco, recognized as a technology solution that leverages AWS to address United Nations (UN) SDG 1: No Poverty. The Alexa application is called “Southern Voice” and uses Alexa to create a digital club allowing people to overcome their condition of poverty. Through social collaboration, users who need income can use the digital club to offer their skills and be united with people in need of services.

3rd Place Award: Edubox, recognized as a technology solution that leverages AWS to address United Nations (UN) SDG 4: Quality Education. The Alexa skill is designed to impart knowledge, help in skills development and generally improve the academic performance of any high school student. The first version of the skill is designed specifically to address current challenges in West Africa such as lack of access to digital preparation for WAEC and JAMB testing and to increase the female literacy rate.

4th Place Award: Eco P.A., recognized as a technology solution that leverages AWS to address United Nations (UN) SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities and SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production. Alexa’s Eco P.A is designed to be your conservation personal assistant and encourages users to consume responsibly and bring awareness to their consumption habits. Eco P.A. focuses on the consumption of water and energy with eco facts that are presented to users.

In advance of the summit, participants included 46 women, marginalized college/university students, and entrepreneurs from Nigeria, North America, India, Kenya, Brazil and Mexico, completed the Global Amazon Alexa Skills Challenge, a five-week foundational-level AI training program that results in Alexa-powered business ideas that address one or more of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The participants go on to present at the Global Innovation Summit, where this year, four teams received recognition and scholarships to support their ongoing cloud education.

EDequity.Global founder Shauna Ruyle said of the Global Amazon Alexa Skills Challenge:

“In the face of a global health, economic and education crisis, these program graduates decided to take on the Global Amazon Alexa Skills Challenge to gain a foundational understanding of artificial intelligence, learn in-demand cloud skills and prepare themselves for the future of work. This is what today is about, we are celebrating their accomplishments and innovative Alexa skills that address

the United Nations SDGs [Sustainable Development Goals]. This generation is facing some of the most challenging global issues of our time, and our goal is to help them to use AI for good.”

Sponsors and partners of the Global Innovation Summit include [AWS](#), [American Association of University Women \(AAUW\)](#), [Google](#), [Netflix](#), [ThingLogix](#), [African Leadership University](#), [De Cero a Ciencia De Datos](#), [California State University Office of the Chancellor](#), [The Basement UCSD](#), [Southwestern College](#), and more.

2020 African Descent Fellow, U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN Human Rights), Founder and President Bell Global Justice Institute, National Council Member, United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA) London J. Bell, J.D., LL.M., opened the event as keynote speaker.

As part of the We Connect The Dots organization, this program enabled participants to not only learn about innovation in AI but to solve problems collaboratively utilizing Microsoft Teams to support participants, trainers, volunteers and mentors from around the world.

The esteemed panel of judges included:

- Dr. Silvia Mah – Founder of Adastra Ventures, Forbes Council Member, angel investor and TED Talks speaker
- Kjell Hegstad – Chief Innovation Officer at CirrusLabs, Co-founder of ING Direct – most successful U.S. digital Bank, TED Talks speaker
- Ruth Stanbridge – Creative Director, Vocala
- Mike Roberts – CEO, Creating Coding Careers
- Dr. Mary Bonk Isaac - Founder of HEDGE Co.

“Judging the Global Amazon Alexa Skills Challenge participants at the Global Innovation Summit was invigorating, as we witnessed how a conversational gateway like the Alexa platform can be applied to address critical needs, from the environment to economic empowerment to gender equality,” said Mah. “At the core of every idea was at least one UN Sustainable Development Goal, so to watch entrepreneurs from across the globe creatively tackle world challenges and pitch their nascent ideas was inspiring and invigorating. I’m grateful to have been included.”

Visit the [EDequity.Global](#) web site where the final competition video will be shared to learn about each of the winning teams.

About We Connect The Dots and EDequity Global

[We Connect the Dots \(WCTD\)](#), a non-profit educational organization founded by Laurie Carey in 2013, seeks to use learning and coaching models to create positive outcomes across education and professional development communities and provide engaging learning experiences. We Connect the Dots exists in-concert with Ms. Carey’s for-profit entity, Nebula Academy (a D.B.A. of Laurie Carey Consulting). Nebula Academy’s mission is to use cognitive learning and coaching models to create positive outcomes across education and professional development communities, where technology is used as a tool for supporting productive and engaging learning experiences. <http://www.we-connect-the-dots.org>.

[EDequity Global](#), is a brand within the WCTD organization, founded by Shauna Ruyle in 2019, EDequity.Global is a global coalition of partners advancing cloud education and economic equity for women and BIPOC youth leveraging Amazon Web Services (AWS). www.edequity.global.

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 1st 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 1st 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!

23RD 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

Mark Your Calendars

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY

3/01 10 am La Mesa-El Cajon Branch 19th Annual Scholarships Benefit Everything's
Coming up Roses.



3/ 15 10 am Poway Penasquitos 23rd annual Cover to Cover

JUNE

Annual Meeting – Former Scholars



Beth Coleman
Eileen Lussier
Rachel McDonald Hernandez
Pat Stilwell

Calendar of webinars from the AAUW California website. Local webinars are in red.						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						Everything's Coming up Roses 10 Am
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
						International Day of Families Cover to Cover 10 AM
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
			Don't Hesitate...Communicate! oral, written, non-verbal communication skills Speaking across generational divides 7:00 pm			
30	31	 <p>“Freedom makes a huge requirement of every human being. With freedom comes responsibility.”- Eleanor Roosevelt</p>				

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.