

## San Diego Branch

April 2022

### 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*

The photo below from our March meeting, featuring four powerful women who are making a difference in the lives of immigrants and refugees. I was so impressed with the four women and with their organizations.

I am on the far left, and next to me is Donna Duvin, executive director of the International Rescue Committee. In only one year, the IRC helped 7000 people rebuild their lives in San Diego County. Next to Donna is Debbie McGraw, president of Women's Empowerment International. Among other things, they help people by providing micro-loans to those who want to stay in their country. The next person in line is Elizabeth Lou, the founder of Nile Sisters Development Initiative. After only a short time here, Elizabeth started a training program so that refugee women could become nurses. Next to Elizabeth is Carmen Chavez, who works for a law firm that does pro bono work to help immigrants and asylum-seekers. I would be happy to hear all of them speak again individually. We really ran out of time. And of course, the person on the far right is our own Anne Hoiberg, who helped arrange this program.



## Officers

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### President

Jane Niemeier

### Finance VP / Treasurer

Cathy Burciaga

### Funds VP

Donna Lilly

### Membership VP

Lynne Batchelor

### 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

Shauna Ruyle

## April 9 Meeting - Trafficking

We are having a Zoom meeting on April 9th from 10 to 11:30 am with Denise Thompson, who works for San Diego County helping child victims of trafficking. Jane has heard her speak twice and she is a force of nature! Watch for an invite from Jane.



Denise Thompson serves as Outreach Specialist for San Diego Youth Services, I CARE Program. I CARE supports youth, up to age 21, who are at risk for or have experienced sex trafficking or other commercial sexual exploitation.

The program provides a mental health clinic and a drop-in center.



What is it? Have you been confused by the term? Click the image below for the link to gain a better understanding of critical race theory. Dr. Marvin Lynn, featured in the

webinar linked below, is an authority on Critical Race Theory from California State University, Stanislaus. The speaker is an expert in the state and did an excellent job at demystifying it. He gave permission to share with colleagues, friends and anyone else who might want clarity on the topic.



### [Critical Race Theory: Addressing the Debate \(Ep. 8\) - YouTube](#)

Marvin Lynn, Ph.D. Dr. Lynn is a critical race scholar and professor of race and education at Portland State University. [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)



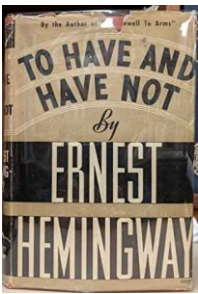
## Did you know our branch has had a book club for decades?

Here's the scoop:

AAUW Book Club meets on the second Wednesday morning of each month. We read one book a month, a mix of fiction and nonfiction. We read current books and classics! We are currently meeting via Zoom. We hope to eventually return to meeting in our members' homes.

Our book for April is ***To Have and Have Not*** by Ernest Hemingway. We'll meet to discuss it on April 14 at 10:30 AM. Meetings last an hour or so. We hope you'll join us! Email Ann McDonald at [amcd92119@gmail.com](mailto:amcd92119@gmail.com) to be added to the Zoom Invitation. If you have questions, email Marie Skillman at [marie@theskillmans.com](mailto:marie@theskillmans.com)

Can't come in April? May's is ***Dear Life*** by Alice Munro.

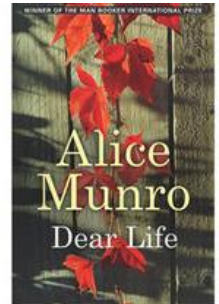


### ***To Have and Have Not*** by Ernest Hemingway

*To Have and Have Not* is the dramatic story of Harry Morgan, an honest man who is forced into running contraband between Cuba and Key West as a means of keeping his crumbling family financially afloat. His adventures lead him into the world of the wealthy and dissipated yachtsmen who throng the region and involve him in a strange and unlikely love affair. Harshly realistic, yet with one of the most subtle and moving relationships in the Hemingway oeuvre, *To Have and Have Not* is literary high adventure at its finest.

### ***Dear Life*** by Alice Munro, Raymond Verdager (Illustrator), Mónica Naranjo Uribe (Illustrator)

Suffused with Munro's clarity of vision and her unparalleled gift for storytelling, these tales about departures and beginnings, accidents and dangers, and outgoings and homecomings both imagined and real, paint a radiant, indelible portrait of how strange, perilous, and extraordinary ordinary life can be.



Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter, and those who matter don't mind. Dr. Seuss

Marie Skillman [marie@theskillmans.com](mailto:marie@theskillmans.com)

## AAUW Fund

Lynne Batchelor, Secretary, AAUW Fund Committee Chair, [aaufund@aauw-ca.org](mailto:aaufund@aauw-ca.org)

Thank you again for all the support you provided for AAUW Fund. California raised \$494,020 to support women and girls—Congratulations! Don't forget that contributions to AAUW Fund are accepted all year. Money contributed after January 1, 2022, will be counted towards next year's awards. You can click [HERE](#) for the certificate you can download and present to contributors of \$100 or more. In addition to sending thank-you cards to contributors, many branches design their own certificates to give to members who contribute in any amount. See you at our April Annual Event!

## Local Scholarships



## Untea Party!

**Now that you have enjoyed your cup of tea, please send in your donations, if you haven't already done so. There's still time to contribute to our Local Scholarship Fund, so we can support more young women in their journey to earn a university degree. Thank you!**



**Please complete this form and return it with your check.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SCHOLARSHIP  
DONATION:**

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**\$**

**AAUW San Diego, Inc., Scholarships, P. O. Box 262012, San Diego, CA 92196**

## NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS

Charmen Goehring, Nominations & Elections Chair, [nominating@aauw-ca.org](mailto:nominating@aauw-ca.org)

WE HAVE A FULL SLATE—AND THEN SOME! The Nominations and Elections Committee is excited to announce that we have candidates for each of the seven open director positions as well as the secretary position, and we will have a contested election for the director slots. We thank everyone who stepped up to serve on the State Board and wish them all well. Nominations are now closed. The voting period runs April 23-May 15 and all members will receive an email with their ballots. Members may also request a paper ballot. You can click [HERE](#) to read most of the candidates' bios on the state website. Check back for additional bios to be posted soon.



Vote for our own Shauna Ruyle!



And vote for our own Stormy Miller Sabia!

Go to [www.aauw-ca.org](http://www.aauw-ca.org), and read about the candidates. Shauna and Stormy are running for a one-year position as director for AAUW California. They will do a great job representing us. Three positions are open, so you can vote for both of them. The voting period is from April 23 to May 14<sup>th</sup>. Be sure and vote!!



I have also served on the board with both Shawna and Stormy and would be happy to add my Support for them as well.

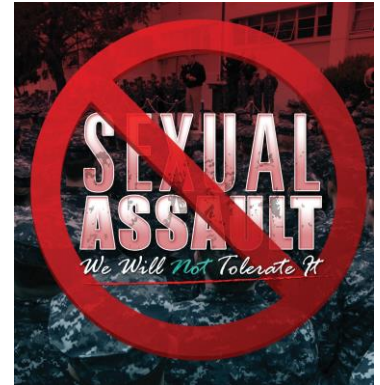
Lynne Batchelor

## Sexual Assault on College Campuses

By Amy Hom

AAUW Public Policy Committee

College campuses should be safe spaces where students can study, learn, pursue academic goals and engage in social activities. Unfortunately college campuses have also long been places where students can face sexual violence. A 2019 study conducted by the Association of American Universities found the rate of undergraduates who experienced rape or sexual assault through physical force, violence, or incapacitation to be 26.4 percent for females, 23.1 percent for transgender, genderqueer, or nonconforming (TGQN) students, and 6.8 percent for males.



A crucial first step toward solving problems is accurate reporting and measurement. While numerous studies show that campus rape is common, an analysis by AAUW found that the vast majority (89%) of 11,000 American college and university campuses reported zero incidents of rape. This speaks to the inadequacy of reporting structures rather than the frequency of assaults. Only 1 in 5 female undergraduates report their sexual assault to authorities, with victims often reluctant to notify officials because they worry that they won't be believed or might face retaliation. Many schools make it difficult for students to come forward, and a majority fail to properly report incidents of sexual violence when they occur.

Further exacerbating the problem, in 2017 the U.S. Department of Education, led by then-secretary Betsy DeVos, rescinded a number of sexual harassment protections under Title IX. The DeVos rule expanded protections for those accused of sexual misconduct. It subjected sexual abuse claims to higher standards of evidence than other claims. It gave the accused the rights to a live hearing and to cross-examine accusers, which was not previously allowed. As a result of these changes to Title IX, it has become even more challenging to report sexual assaults through university channels.

In March 2021 President Biden signed an Executive Order directing Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona to suspend, revise or rescind the DeVos-era rule, or begin the process of collecting comments to draft a new rule. The Department of Education started that process in June 2021, and announced in December that it will unveil new proposed Title IX rules in April 2022. The AAUW CA Public Policy committee will be looking out for the Department's new proposed Title IX revisions in the spring, and will provide updates as they become available.

Once critical protections for students are restored and further protections established, additional focus will be needed to fully enforce Title IX and to provide oversight of schools' compliance with the laws. AAUW will continue to defend Title IX and promote its effective enforcement as a key to fair and equitable education for women and girls in the United States.

# Mark Your Calendars

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Dates, locations, and times are subject to change

Date	Time	Location	Topics
Saturday, April 9	10 am	Zoom	Denise Thompson, who works for San Diego County helping child victims of trafficking.
Saturday, April 30	all day	Zoom	AAUW California state meeting
Saturday, May 14	10 am	TBA	Anne Hoiberg launches her new book!
Saturday, June 4	11:30 am	Casa Guadalajara	Luncheon and Installation - Scholarship winners will speak.
Saturday, June 25			rescheduled IBC Luncheon

April

**Dali Collins**  
**Donna Keenan**  
**Carol Patrick**  
**Judy Seerey**

