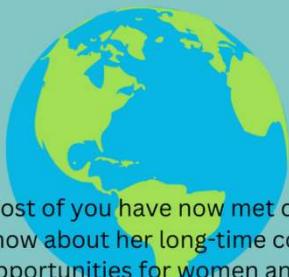


January 2026



Protect Our Planet

January 17, 2026

Most of you have now met our branch Co President Lisa Swanson and know about her long-time commitment to Tech Trek and STEM opportunities for women and girls. If you've lunched with her after a Quest or a hike, you may also be aware of her knowledge of CA environmental laws and heard her complain that straws are only supposed to be provided upon request.

In January you will get her full story on how a degree in chemical engineering led to an unexpected 30-year career in environmental affairs. She'll fill you in on the last 14 years of her career in the exciting ocean shipping industry and some of the unique environmental challenges she faced there. Following an early retirement in 2008, Lisa steered her interest in protecting our planet to volunteering for environmental nonprofits. She first got involved with the Climate Reality Project founded by former US Vice President Al Gore to train Climate Leaders to spread the word about the threat of climate change and what can be done about it. She has served as Policy Chair and founded the Green Living Committee of the Orange Co Chapter of the Climate Reality Project.

Lisa then joined the local chapter of Surfrider Foundation, an organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's oceans, waves, and beaches. Surfrider has been an active organization in our community for many years and hosts regular beach cleanups as well as paddle out cleanups in Huntington Harbor, and channel cleanups in the Santa Ana River. They also conduct volunteer water quality testing through the Blue Water Task Force. They also have a number of programs aimed at reducing the amount of pollutants in our oceans including the Ocean Friendly Restaurant program which Lisa leads for the North Orange County Chapter.

Please join us on January 17 and learn about Lisa's journey into environmental activism and actions that we all can take to protect our beautiful planet for future generations.



Speaker: Lisa Swanson



AAUW Branch General Meeting

Saturday, January 17, 2026

Center for Spiritual Living

7641 Talbert Avenue, HB

10:00 a.m.

We will be eating first this month. Please arrive at 10:00 to check in and then enjoy our breakfast buffet.

Brunch

Scrambled eggs with turkey sausages
Assortments breakfast pastries
Fresh fruit tray

Business Meeting

Program: "Protecting Our Planet" by Lisa Swanson

\$25.00 payment due by **January 7**

Mail check to: AAUW: WM-FV-HB
c/o Kathi Rand
306 Coral Reef #53
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

**** OR ****

Pay by Zelle:
aauw.wmfvhb@yahoo.com

February Newsletter Deadline

January 19, 2026

Please submit information as a complete article in an email or attached as a Word document (.doc or .docx) format. Include "AAUW Newsletter" in your subject line and send to cherylkelly48@gmail.com

Happy New Year

from your Co-Presidents

The Surfrider Foundation's motto is:

"The Surfrider Foundation is dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's ocean, waves, and beaches, for all people, through a powerful activist network."

Welcome everyone to a brand-new year, 2026! We are excited about our speakers, projects and interest group outings in the up-coming months. Our vacation home raffle was a big success and believe we will have another one soon. Our largest fundraiser is the annual Author's Luncheon which again will be held at Mile Square Park banquet room on Saturday, April 18 where we will enjoy interesting authors, a tasty lunch and the opportunity to bid on gift baskets filled with wonderful treasures.

We always keep in mind that our fundraisers are to finance the Tech Trek girls and the women continuing their education with a scholarship.

Thank you to those of you who have signed up to assist with hospitality – coming early to meetings to set up our tablecloths and centerpieces and with the clean up at the close.

Have fun and meet new friends by attending one or more of our great interest groups.

Best wishes for a fulfilling year,

• Janet Riness and Lisa Swanson

Finance Officer's Report

November General Fund

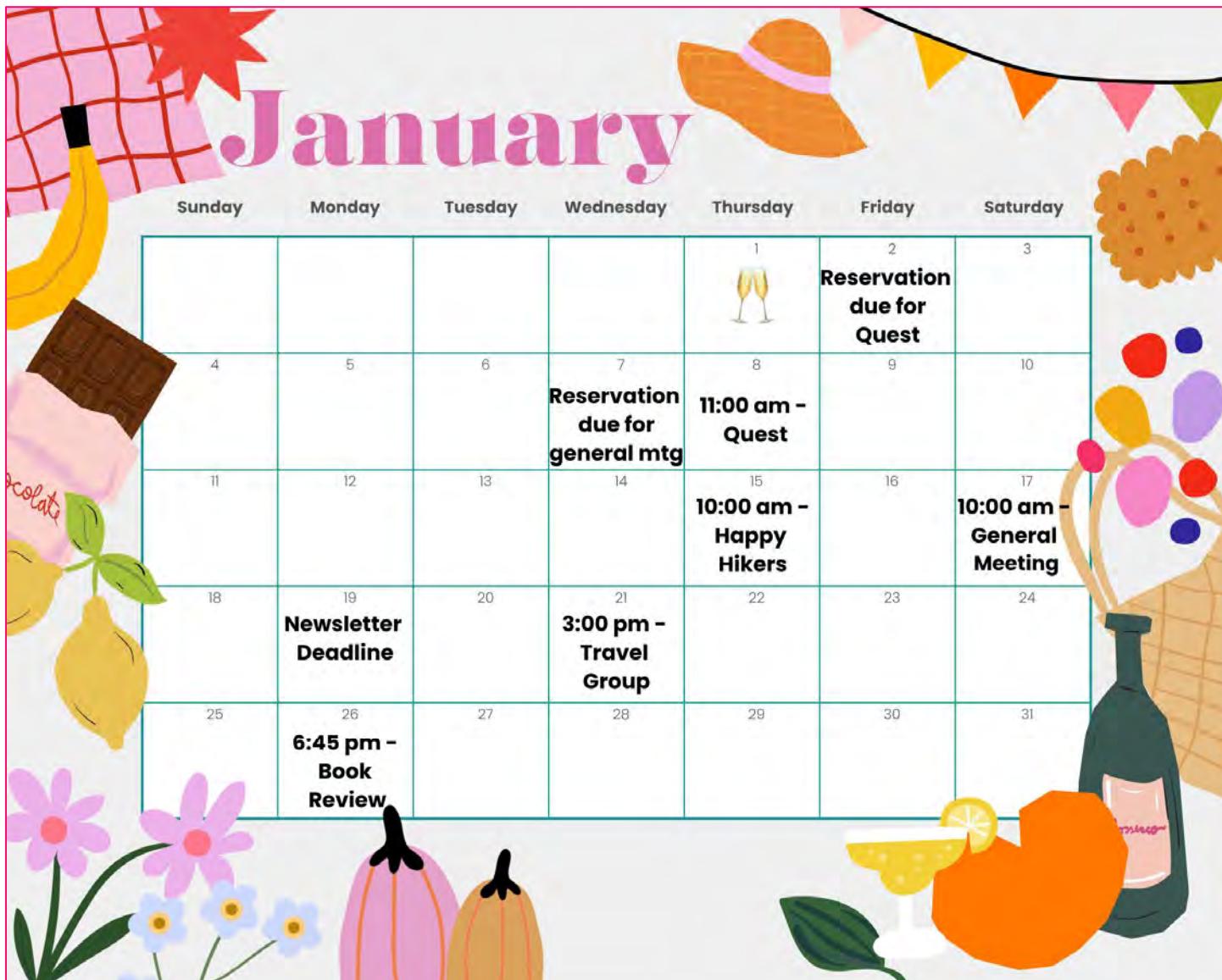
Beginning Balance	\$20,457.22
Ending Balance	\$19,868.19

September Fund Account

Beginning Balance	\$16,832.91
Ending Balance	\$17,177.91

BRANCH EMAIL ADDRESSES

Membership and new member:
sandraguerrero@me.com
Update member contact information: ralphkaj@aol.com
Programs: carolkanode@me.com
Newsletter/website submissions:
cherylkelly48@gmail.com



Funding Futures: Understanding Changes to Sex and Gender-Based Scholarship Programs

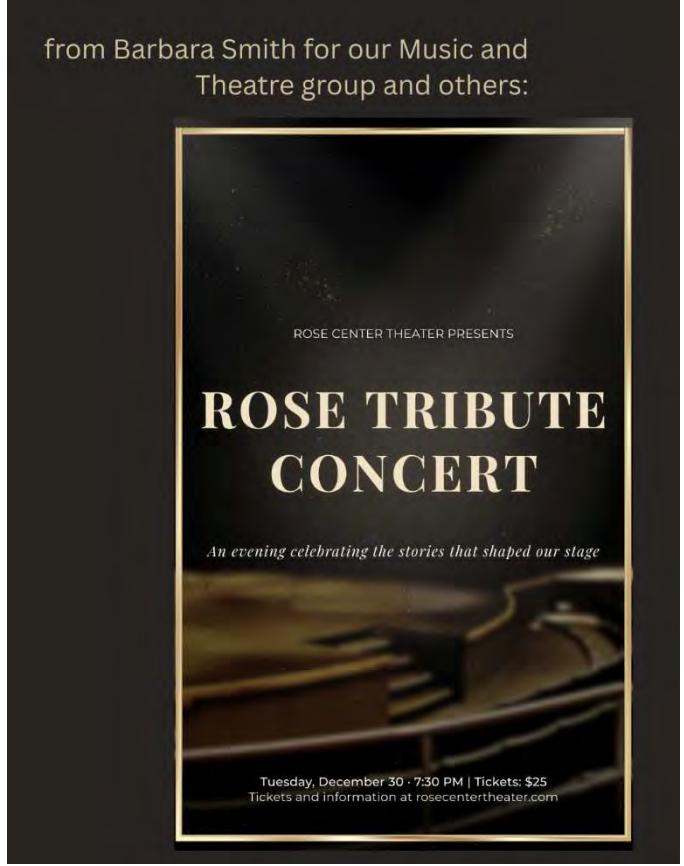
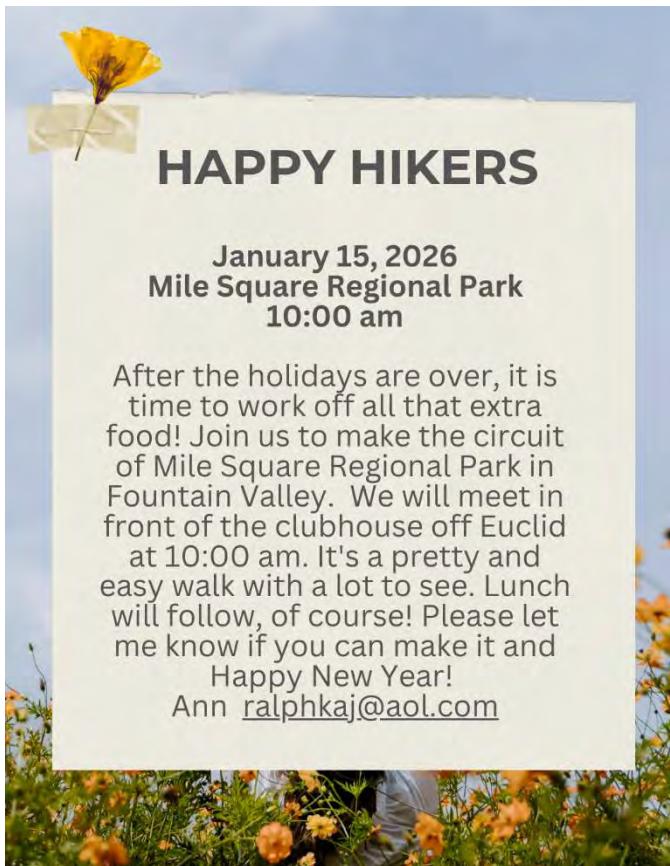
As you know, our branch's fundraising efforts are dedicated to scholarships for 7th grade girls to attend Tech Trek and women returning to pursue their education at Golden West College. We were recently contacted by Golden West and learned that they had to undergo an audit as a condition of receiving federal funding. This audit found that Golden West College is now in violation of non-discrimination practices interpreted under Title IX due to restricting some scholarships to only female students.

While it is upsetting to have to modify long-standing programs, National AAUW has provided good guidance on how local chapters can revise their scholarships to meet current legal requirements while still aligning with AAUW's mission. Our chapter board will keep our membership and families of former members who established scholarship endowments aware of these modifications in the coming months.

Cheers To The
New Year and
our New Members!



Marilyn Palomino - I am a mother of two adult sons and am married to a retired waste industry salesman. I had a squiggly career. It looked somewhat like this - teaching to career assessment and counseling to social work in children's protective services to school counseling to educational administration. I hold a MS in Counseling and several CA educational credentials. Currently I teach for UCR extension once or twice a year. I am a climate activist and am part of Climate Reality OC and the Surfrider Foundation. My hobbies are playing the piano, spending time with my family and dog, learning languages and staying active. I love to practice yoga, exercise, walk/hike, dance and travel. I am looking forward to going on a Quest!



QUEST Visit to the Christ Cathedral January 8, 2026

We will convene for lunch at CoCo's Restaurant, 12032 Harbor Blvd, Garden Grove at 11:00 for an early lunch and the opportunity to visit with attendees.

Then, we will travel to Christ Cathedral, 13280 Chapman Avenue, Garden Grove, CA 92840

Contact Linda
Macdonell
genelinhb@aol.com
by January 2, 2026

This modern style reflective glass building is the largest glass building in the world. We will learn the history of the building and explore its many innovations. The tour begins at 1:00 PM and will last about 90 minutes.

Following the tour there is the opportunity to visit the SHROUD OF TURIN EXHIBIT. It has been described as one of the most perplexing enigmas of modern times. (National Geographic Magazine, June 1080). Admission is \$17.00 and checks should be made out to Linda MacDonell. This tour also will last approximately 90 minutes.

We look forward to an interesting and dynamic program.



SAVE THE DATE: Thursday, February 12, 2026 - 9 am
Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanical Garden
301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA 91007



Friendship Corner



Welcome to our Friendship Corner. Check out the questions and comments from our members. Contact them directly if you wish to respond. Let's get to know one another!

looking for early morning walker at Huntington Beach

Sandi Guerrero
626-234-8501

Does anyone know of a good local travel agent? If so, please text or voicemail me at (714) 715-9789. Thank you!

Eleanor Demler

To get your question or comment printed here in the monthly Newsletter Friendship Corner, just email one or two sentences plus your full name and contact info, before mid-month to: cherylkelly48@gmail.com. Subject line "AAUW Newsletter Friendship Corner."

(If you have questions about how this works, text or call Eleanor (714) 715-9789.)



Support our Women of Mystery Authors' Luncheon

Before you tuck away those holiday gift cards or presents you may not use, consider giving them a second life for a great cause - continuing education scholarships and Tech Trek!

Please save these gifts and bring them to our next general meeting or our next planning meeting on February 13, 2026, at Donna's home (3899 Humboldt Drive, HB).

Every donation, large or small, helps us create auction baskets. Contact Ann (ralphkaj@aol.com) or Donna (dkratter@hotmail.com) for any questions.

Thank you for supporting our mission.

Gratefully,
Ann and Donna



we are looking for

Scholarship Chair

We need a volunteer for the Scholarship Chair position at our branch. I have enjoyed serving my two years, and it's been rewarding, easy and fun. However, other commitments are taking me elsewhere. Scholarship Chair is only active about six months of the year, and requires only one person. If you are interested, please text or voicemail **Eleanor at (714) 715-9789**. I will be serving for another few months, and can show you the ropes.

Volunteers First

Volunteerism worldwide has been in decline for over 20 years and AAUW, along with many nonprofits, has struggled to recruit and retain members. AAUW CA conducted state-wide research in 2022 and found that former active AAUW members said they left because they felt unwelcome, disconnected, and/or disinterested in engaging even for the cause. AAUW CA worked with Barry Atland who authored a guide titled *Engaging the Head, Heart, and Hands of a Volunteer*. From this they developed the Volunteers First program to increase member engagement through conversation and building and facilitating relationships.

One of the recommendations of Volunteer First is to have small group discussions through Circles of Engagement. Our branch already has this as a component of our monthly general meetings because we enjoy eating a meal together, and we even sit at circular tables. Starting at the January meeting, we would like to try focusing the discussions so that we can learn more about each other and our mutual interest in AAUW. While you're enjoying brunch, please share with the others at your table why you joined AAUW and continue to renew your membership. We will set aside some time so that we can share what we learn about each other after the program presentation.



WESTMINSTER- FOUNTAIN VALLEY- HUNTINGTON BEACH BRANCH
THE 33rd ANNUAL AUTHORS LUNCHEON

“WOMEN OF MYSTERY”



SATURDAY APRIL 18, 2026
MILE SQUARE GOLF COURSE
10401 WARNER AVENUE FOUNTAIN VALLEY
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

FEATURING AUTHORS :



Ellen Byron

Golden MotelMysteries
Vintage Cookbook Mysteries



Georgia Jeffries

TheYounger Girl
Angels in the Snow

**SILENT AUCTION BASKETS, BOOK SALES & SIGNINGS
RESERVATION FORMS AND INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE
AT <http://wfh-ca.aauw.net>**

33rd ANNUAL AAUW-WM-FV-HB AUTHOR'S LUNCHEON
"WOMEN OF MYSTERY"
Saturday, April 18, 2026

Mile Square Golf Course, 10401 Warner Ave., Fountain Valley, CA 92708
Menu: Grilled Marinated Chicken Breast, Chive Mashed Potatoes, Garden Vegetables, and Decadent Chocolate Brownie Dessert
10:00AM – 2:00PM
*AUTHOR LECTURES * SILENT AUCTION * BOOK SIGNINGS * RAFFLES *

RESERVATION FORM

Please cut and mail this form with your check for \$85.00 payable to AAUW: WM-FV-HB by April 4, 2026.

Tables of 8 may be reserved. In order to sit together send check/checks in one envelope along with list of names. Mail your reservation early to assure good seating. Please note any dietary needs (gluten free, Vegan, Vegetarian, etc.)

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____
(as you wish it to appear on name tag)

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Telephone/Cell _____

Email _____

Dietary Needs _____

Please feel free to duplicate this form for additional reservations.

Total Enclosed \$ _____ for _____ reservations

I am unable to attend but wish to make a 100% donation to AAUW:

Continuing Education Scholarships \$ _____

Or

Tech Trek (Ca science, math camps designed for young girls) \$ _____

*Mail reservation form and check(s) to:
Zelda Rice, 4565 Birchwood Ave, Seal Beach, CA90740*

NO WALK-INS, THIS IS A NON-REFUNDABLE EVENT

Your check is your reservation



Happy TOGETHER



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

The mission of AAUW is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

AAUW is California's most active and diverse organization for women offering action for equity, personal and professional growth, community leadership and friendship.

Co-Presidents: [Lisa Swanson & Janet Riness](#)

Membership Co-VPs: [Sandra Guerrero & Cheryl Kelly](#)

Programs Co-VPs: [Carol Kanode & Phyllis Sakioka](#)

Fund Co-VPs: [Ann Kajdasz & Donna Kratter](#)

Treasurer: [Kathi Rand](#)

Secretary: [Jennifer Solano](#)

Newsletter & Website: [Cheryl Kelly](#)

Facebook: [Lisa Swanson](#)

Address Correction Requested

American Association of University Women

Tri-City Dispatch

1431 Pelham Road #65K

Seal Beach, CA 90740

