

## Circles of Engagement

In our January newsletter, page 7, there was an explanation of “Volunteers First” and the idea of “Circles of Engagement.” At our January meeting, we asked our members to focus discussion on why we joined AAUW and what keeps us here.



We learned that some primary reasons include invitation, opportunity to meet new friends, to interact with educated women, to have social opportunities, and because of the AAUW mission. Using these focus factors, think about those people you know who might be interested in joining us - and then invite them!



*Did you know?*

Seniors aged 65 and older can enjoy free admission to the San Diego Zoo Safari Park throughout February, but must present a valid photo ID at the entrance.

#### Free Admission Details

- **Eligibility:** Guests aged 65 and older can receive complimentary admission during the entire month of February. A valid photo ID is required to gain entry.



Thank you, Beth Callahan, for sharing this information!



## Finance Officer's Report

### December General Fund

Beginning Balance	\$19,868.19
Ending Balance	\$19,886.19

### December Fund Account

Beginning Balance	\$17,177.91
Ending Balance	\$14,122.91



**Thank you to Lisa Swanson for sharing her interesting and informative “Journey of Environmental Activism” at our January meeting.**

**The following tips are important ways we can each make a difference in our own environmental journeys.**

1. Choose reusable! This includes items such as tupperware, water bottles, utensils, and coffee mugs.
2. Consider switching out your food storage routine. Instead of plastic wrap and plastic bags, try using glass containers, Bee's Wrap, or even take out containers from restaurants (Stasher bags are our favorite!).
3. Say NO to straws or bring your own reusable one. Not only are plastic straws not recyclable, they are detrimental to our oceans and marine wildlife!
4. Avoid plastic bags at your local grocery store by bringing your own.
5. Wear a reusable, washable mask and limit your use of latex gloves.
6. Pay close attention to the material of clothing you buy-- stray away from synthetic fabrics such as polyester, nylon, and acrylic and go for all-natural fibers!
7. Try out solid household products like shampoo, conditioner, deodorant in non-plastic packaging, and laundry stain treatment.
8. Visit a household products or Organics food products refill store such as EcoNow, Ritual Refill, and Fill Up Buttercup. Find more on the Green Business website.
9. Skip the disposable razor and switch your plastic toothbrush for a wood one.
10. Use swabs with cardboard and reusable floss holders instead of single use picks.
11. Support restaurants that have pledged to reduce their plastic use such as those certified through the CA Green Business Network and Surfrider Ocean Friendly Restaurant program.
12. When buying products at the store, select products in eco-friendly packing or glass containers. Reuse your clean jars to store food items and other essentials.

Remember: Be thoughtful and forgiving of those who do not have the means to live plastic-free. In order to make positive change on our planet, we must work together. Prioritize progress over perfection.

## Female-Only Scholarship Awards in 2027 May be Affected by Federal Government's New Definition of Discrimination



The federal government is challenging public institutions over their new interpretation of discrimination. This is true at the college level presently, and may affect our AAUW branch's scholarship awards in 2027, because the possibility now exists that Golden West College may by then be required to include men as candidates to receive our AAUW scholarships. State law mandates that our AAUW Branch Board and Scholarship Committee notify our members and endowment families of these changes, per California Government Code Section 12599.9, which regulates donations in our state.

### HOW FED LAW HAS CHANGED:

At the federal level, Title IX of the Education Amendments became law in 1972, prohibiting gender-biased discrimination in the U.S., such that no person "shall be excluded from participation in or denied benefits of....any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance". This plan for equity has recently been re-examined, and reinterpreted to include all genders, including men. This means that public institutions such as Golden West College can no longer comply with any group's request to award scholarships to women only.

### WHAT GOLDEN WEST COLLEGE MUST DO:

GWC's scholarship rep explained that the federal government audited several local public colleges recently. The audit revealed that GWC receives scholarship funds from 9 groups requesting female-only recipients, including AAUW. Since AAUW is a private entity, we are legally allowed to make this request, because we are not federally funded. However, since GWC is a public entity receiving federal funds, they won't be allowed to comply with the female-only request from donors. GWC must instead award these funds to persons of any gender, including men, and violation of this rule could result in their loss of much needed federal funding. GWC even hired lawyers to challenge the issue, but the feds won.

### WHAT WE CAN DO:

Since AAUW has awarded scholarships to women for over a century, we were very concerned about this change. We consulted AAUW at the state level for advice. We explained that our branch and endowment families have traditionally awarded GWC students who meet our criteria: Females who are returning students who maintain a "B" average GPA or higher, majoring in either nursing or education. AAUW California confirmed that we will in future have to remove only the "female" criteria, but suggested we replace this with "single parent in financial need," and that this strategy will most likely get our scholarship funds channeled to females only, without stating it as such. They let us know that this method has worked for local AAUW branches awarding scholarships to Saddleback College, Orange Coast College, and UCI. Although GWC will still retain the right to choose male scholarship recipients in 2027, we are told this will be unlikely.

GWC does not want to lose donors, and AAUW wants to maintain the right to award scholarships to women only, despite the federal pressure. Hopefully this will be a win-win. We don't want to lose a right AAUW has exercised for over 100 years.

Eleanor Demler  
Scholarship Chair

Please direct comments or questions to me under the subject  
AAUW Scholarships, at:  
granite5@msn.com

**IMPORTANT! PLEASE READ!**



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>**

**33<sup>rd</sup> 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 \***

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**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**



Dear Business Leaders,

The Westminster-Fountain Valley-Huntington Beach Branch of AAUW is requesting donations for a silent auction that will be held in conjunction with our 33rd Authors Luncheon.

All monies raised from this event will benefit programs such as scholarships for deserving students returning to college and Tech Trek (CA camps designed for young girls with a focus on math, science and technology).

The Authors Luncheon will be held **Saturday, April 18, 2026**, at Mile Square Golf Course. Acclaimed authors Georgia Jeffries and Ellen Byron, and a prior participant from the Tech Trek program are scheduled to present. This event is open to the public and we encourage you to attend. Please see our Branch website for ticket information later this year: [wfh-ca.aauw.net](http://wfh-ca.aauw.net)

Your donation of one or more items of merchandise, tickets, services, gift certificates or cash will be greatly appreciated and recognized in our program. A donor receipt is attached.

Please make arrangements for pick-up before Monday, April 13, 2026. Contact information: Ann Kajdasz, 7412 Seabluff Dr. #111, Huntington Beach, CA 92648 or the AAUW member that contacted you. If you have questions, please contact Ann at [ralphkaj@aol.com](mailto:ralphkaj@aol.com).

Thank you for your generosity and support as we work together to provide educational opportunities for women and girls.

Sincerely,

Ann Kajdasz

Ann Kajdasz  
Co-Funds Chairman, AAUW-WM-FV-HB branch  
For more information about AAUW – California website: [www.aauw-ca.org](http://www.aauw-ca.org)



Thank you for your donation to the Westminster-Fountain Valley-Huntington Beach Branch of AAUW. The silent auction will be held in conjunction with our 33rd Authors Luncheon on Saturday, April 18, 2026.

All monies raised will benefit programs such as Scholarships for Women Returning to College and Tech Trek.

Please mail or make arrangements for pick-up before **Monday, April 13, 2026**. Mail to Ann Kajdasz, 7412 Seabluff Dr. #111, Huntington Beach, CA 92648.

For questions, please contact: Ann Kajdasz at: [ralphkaj@aol.com](mailto:ralphkaj@aol.com)

**Name of Donor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Item(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Value:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Or Check No.** \_\_\_\_\_ **\$** \_\_\_\_\_ **donation made**  
**payable to AAUW : Wm-FV-HB**

**AAUW / Federal TAX ID # 23-7163865**

**Please return this original with your donation to Ann Kajdasz  
7412 Seabluff Dr. #111, Huntington Beach, CA 92648**

We appreciate your generosity and support as we work together to provide educational opportunities for women and girls.

Donna Kratter and Ann Kajdasz, Co-VPs Funds  
AAUW Westminster- Fountain Valley - Huntington Beach branch

For more information about AAUW, please visit AAUW-California website: [www.aauw-ca.org](http://www.aauw-ca.org)

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