
LACIC MAY PROGRAM

**SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026, 2-4 PM,
JOIN US FOR AN IN-PERSON EVENT**

Don't miss this opportunity to meet one of our International Fellows, Syeda Shah Bano Ijaz, as LACIC meets in person this month. It's been too long since we had the chance to gather together, to renew friendships and discuss all things AAUW. Our May meeting provides a great way to end our LACIC program year and tackle the challenges facing our AAUW mission.

Syeda Shah Bano Ijaz studies the political economy of development and distributional politics of foreign aid. Her research, teaching, and public scholarship is situated at the cusp of international and comparative politics: she is most interested in the domestic consequences of foreign aid. In 2023, she received a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of California at San Diego (UCSD). At Occidental College, she will be teaching courses on international development, globalization, foreign aid and democratic processes in South Asia.

Her book project "Aiding Accountability" examines how seemingly marginal last mile services help resource-constrained local politicians gain relevance. By reducing bureaucratic costs these services enable localized accountability and may improve how foreign aid benefits reach underserved communities.



Sunday, May 17, 2026

2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Faith Presbyterian Church, Fellowship Hall

5000 Colfax Boulevard

Valley Village, CA 91601

(Parking lot adjacent/enter through gate)

Catered lunch, \$20 per person

Reply requested by: May 14th

RSVP Ginny Hatfield at ginnyaauw@gmail.com

Take stock and look over our accomplishments.

As our year end approaches, it's time to take stock and look over our accomplishments for the year. First and foremost we are still here.

AAUW-CA has had many successes. Hope most of you attended the Annual Event on the 18th. It was a chance to see what other branches are doing, what the state committees are doing, successes and more.

Hope you all like the State Named Gift Honoree for 2026, Sandi Gabe. She sure is a member favorite.

Chair's Message

We all need to connect and see each other in person. Don't miss this chance at our May meeting. Some of my strongest friendships are with other AAUW members that I met at state meetings, Fund Luncheons (I am dating myself here), committee days, LACIC planning meetings and more. I look forward to spending time with each of you that attend.

We are all volunteers and we need all of you to make this work. Please come to pitch in some of your time.

Questions, concerns, want to help, want to vent - contact me at deannaaaauw@gmail.com.

DEANNA ARTHUR, CHAIR



Upcoming LACIC Meeting Dates

May 17, 2026 – Meeting **IN-PERSON** Faith Presbyterian Church, Fellowship Hall, 5000 Colfax Boulevard, Valley Village, CA 91601

(For future LACIC Zoom meetings, use this recurring meeting link, ID and Passcode)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89246630038?pwd=boOllaYaAaM6UJDZyYKJyYlOWwA2.1>

Meeting ID: 892 4663 0038

Passcode: 750330

2026-27 Newsletter production schedule:

Newsletter Issue Month	Issue date	Content deadline
September	Aug. 15	Aug. 1
November	Oct. 15	Oct. 1
January	Dec. 15	Dec. 1
March	Feb. 15	Feb. 1
May	Apr. 15	Apr. 1



Remember: **Next Deadline: Aug 1 for the Sep. Newsletter** going out to branches approximately on Aug. 15th, to cover any news or events you wish to share for September and October. Please make sure to have the updated branch email contacts prior to the publication on Aug. 15, if your leadership will change.

PAT REES, NEWSLETTER EDITOR

LACIC LEADERSHIP

Co-Chairs

Deanna Arthur, deannaaauw@gmail.com,
cell: 626.818.6536
Sharon Heck, s.heck4peace@gmail.com,
cell: 562.858-9253

Program Chair

Ginny Hatfield, ginnyaauw@gmail.com,
cell: 818-970-4577

Secretary/Treasurer

Sharone Westafer, sharwest1@hotmail.com,
H: 562.493.4749
C: 562.481.5171

Newsletter Editor

Pat Rees, patricia.rees@gmail.com (volunteer
needed for 2026-2027)



AAUW Glendale Presents

Lian Dolan

Writer, Podcaster, Speaker

<https://www.liandolan.com>

You are invited to join AAUW members and members of the local community in welcoming our special guest, Lian Dolan.



June 13, 2026

11 AM

Oakmont Country Club

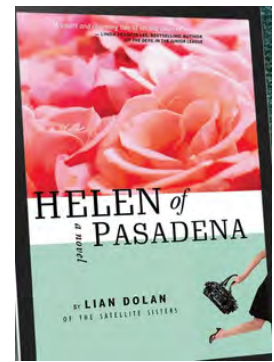
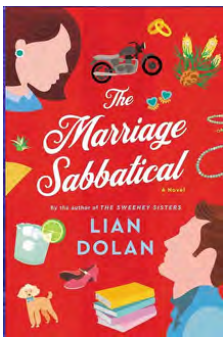
\$65

Hungarian Stroganoff

[the price Includes: meal, hot/cold beverages, room rental, room setup, gratuity, valet service and tip, table service, including linens and china, AV equipment, wifi access, room take down]

Registration and Payment Required by June 10th using Zeffy:

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/author-luncheon-lian-dolan>



Lian Dolan is a writer and talker. Her latest novel, *Abigail and Alexa Save the Wedding*, a USA Today Bestseller, is out now. She's the author of six bestselling novels, including *The Sweeney Sisters*, *Helen of Pasadena* and *Elizabeth the First Wife*, and *Lost and Found in Paris*. Her novel, *The Marriage Sabbatical*, was a USA Today Bestseller and a People Magazine Pick. For more than two decades, she hosted and produced *Satellite Sisters*, a top-rated podcast for women that she created with her four real sisters. She's a popular speaker with women's organizations, at literary and business events and at book clubs across the country. She graduated from Pomona College with a degree in Classics. She lives in Pasadena, California with her husband and two adult sons.

Upcoming Events for Spring 2026

Paperback Tour for Abigail and Alexa Save the Wedding

May 19, 2026

Paperback Release! *Abigail and Alexa Save the Wedding*

Special Release Day Events TBD

June 2, 2026

Nike Women Online Book Club

Details TBD

June 6, 2026

A Book Launch Party: *Abigail and Alexa Save the Wedding*

Wednesday, June 10 from 6:00-7:30 PM

Azusa City Library Outdoor Learning Space

(729 N Dalton Ave, Azusa, CA 91702 – Veteran's Freedom Park)

Free, Open to the public

June 13, 2026

American Association of University Women

Oakmont Country Club

Glendale, CA

September 2026

Book Club Spectacular!

Choose *Abigail and Alexa Save the Wedding*

(Or any of Lian's Books...) for you Book Club

And I'll be there! In person or on Zoom.

I'll do my best to accommodate your schedule

Send me details at my Contact Page: Who, when, where, how.

Let's get these scheduled!

**Minutes of Los Angeles County Interbranch Council
General Meeting March 8, 2026**

Attendance, ten including speaker.

Leadership present: Deanna Arthur, Co-Chair; Sharon Heck, Co-Chair; Ginny Hatfield, Program; Sharon Westafer, Treasurer, Secretary; Paula Ocampo, Steering Committee

Branches in Attendance: Long Beach, Alhambra-San Gabriel, San Fernando Valley, Greater Whittier Area, Pasadena, Antelope Valley, Palos Verdes Peninsula

Deanna called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. and welcomed attendees.

Program: Chice Davidson introduced Megan Juba, Development Associate with Friendship Bridge, a non-profit, NGO, micro credit organization that gives small loans to indigent women entrepreneurs in Guadalajara. The average income for these women is \$3.68 per day. 100% of their clients are women, many of whom don't write and only speak their indigenous Mayan language. Because of their low income and lack of education, these women are considered unbankable, in other words not eligible for loans. Friendship Bridge began in Viet Nam, then moved to Guadalajara. These women's main goals are to provide opportunities for their children to be educated and to be fed. Friendship Bridge provides loans averaging \$617, follow up with clients to be sure their needs are being met, classes on business, women's rights, health care and family care, and other support. 99% of the loans are repaid. Trust banks are established by groups of women to ensure that loans are repaid. Health for Life, another program within the program, provides access to culturally responsive healthcare services and health education programs via in home or mobile clinics that travel to client's communities. All of the care is provided by women health care providers who speak the client's language. There is also a Women's Agriculture Credit and Training program which provides advanced training and tools to small farm holders. There are 866 clients in that program. Bridge to Success is a more intensive business development program that provides micro-loans, technical assistance, connections to peer networks and access to new markets. There are 388 clients participating. Handmade by Friendship Bridge involves 33 artisans who sell their handmade products globally.

Reports:

The minutes of the January meeting were approved as presented in the newsletter by Sharon Westafer.

Treasurer: Sharon Westafer reported that the balance in the bank account remains the same; \$1688.28. There will be some expenses for the May meeting.

Public Policy: Ginny reported that the state public policy committee met this weekend to go through one hundred bills to decide which will be priority bills, A bills, B bills, and bills that will be dropped. She also gave information regarding Lobby Days and encouraged members to read the Public Policy Newsletter found on the AAUW CA website.

Announcements:

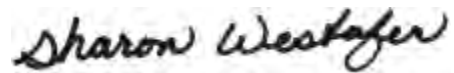
Deanna requested nominations for board positions for LACIC. Contact her with suggestions. Deanna and Sharon Heck will continue as chairs, Ginny will continue as program chair and Sharon will continue as Secretary/Treasurer unless someone steps forward to serve in one of the positions.

The May IBC meeting will be in person at the Faith Presbyterian Church in Valley Village and will feature one or two Fellowship recipients.

The Greater Whittier branch will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in April.

Meeting adjourned: 3:15 p.m.

Next meeting: Sunday, May 17 at 2 p.m. More details in the May newsletter.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Westafer". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with the first name "Sharon" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Westafer".

Sharon Westafer, Secretary.