

**BRANCH**

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**ED. PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Karen Hassen,  
[TechTrek-Torr.khassen@yahoo.com](mailto:TechTrek-Torr.khassen@yahoo.com)  
Peggy Monga,  
[filmgroup@earthlink.com](mailto:filmgroup@earthlink.com)

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Newsletter Editor Janice Pomerantz  
[jbpomerantz@yahoo.com](mailto:jbpomerantz@yahoo.com)

Proofreader & Branch E-  
Notifications

Keri Gilbert [Kerig9@gmail.com](mailto:Kerig9@gmail.com)

Web Managers Ann DuPuy  
[Ann.dupuy@gmail.com](mailto:Ann.dupuy@gmail.com)

Mailing & Publicity Janet Flynn  
[Res09i98@verizon.net](mailto:Res09i98@verizon.net)

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARIES**

Becky Dyer  
[rebeck@aol.co](mailto:rebeck@aol.co)

[m](#) Billie Lee  
Langley  
[eslexpert\\_99@yahoo.com](mailto:eslexpert_99@yahoo.com)

**BRANCH HISTORIANS**

Pat Carroll [tnpcarroll@aol.com](mailto:tnpcarroll@aol.com)  
Rachel Ambrose,  
[rambrose@rocketmail.com](mailto:rambrose@rocketmail.com)

**PARLIAMENTARIAN**

Pat Arnett, [acashel@att.net](mailto:acashel@att.net)

**HOSPITALITY** – open



**TEATIME TOGETHER**

with

**Elise Benavidez**

**Owner/Executive Chef of Elise's Tea Room speaking  
about "The Grand Traditions of Tea"**

Elise Benavidez opened Elise's Tea Room in Long Beach, CA, in 1996. Among her many other accomplishments:

- The Southern California Restaurant Writers have awarded Elise's Tea Room with their Gold Award for the last ten years.
- In Washington, DC, Benavidez was recognized as Businesswoman of the Year and appointed to the Small Business Commission.
- Elise's Tea Room was recently given the Certificate of Recognition by the U.S. Congress for the participation and sponsorship of the city's cultural events.

**A fundraiser in support AAUW's Eleanor Roosevelt Fund**

**Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 to 4:00 pm**

**TOYOTA AUTOMOBILE MUSEUM**

**19600 Van Ness Ave., Torrance 90501**

**Cost: \$25, (\$30 after April 15) \***

**Reserve & pay by Wednesday, April 15, for lower price.  
Reservations close April 24**

**Questions, reservation info:**

**[aawtorrance@gmail.com](mailto:aawtorrance@gmail.com) or Keri Gilbert, 310 963-5374**

**For order forms visit: <http://torrance-ca.aauw.net>**

**\*Tables for 8 may be reserved with prepayment by April 15th**

### President's Message

<b>2016-17 EXECUTIVE BOARD</b>
<b>PRESIDENT</b> Elaine Bohrer <a href="mailto:elnbohrer@aol.com">elnbohrer@aol.com</a>
<b>TREASURER</b> Keri Gilbert <a href="mailto:Kerig9@gmail.com">Kerig9@gmail.com</a>
<b>MEMBERSHIP VP</b> Gloria Liu <a href="mailto:Glsb7891@gmail.com">Glsb7891@gmail.com</a>
<b>PROGRAM VP</b> Jamie Watson <a href="mailto:Hightea322@yahoo.com">Hightea322@yahoo.com</a>
<b>RECORDING SECRETARY</b> Nancy Kenney <a href="mailto:Nancykenney365@msn.com">Nancykenney365@msn.com</a>
<b>AAUW FUND VP - open</b>

Thank you to our VP Program, Jamie Watson, for bringing us former Torrance City Clerk Sue Herbers as our first branch meeting speaker for 2017. Sue outlined the importance of "Civil Discourse" and the "Importance of Listening" to our community. A very timely topic indeed.

As mentioned on page one, we are actively seeking members for board positions for our upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. Please contact a current board member with your ideas or to volunteer.

AAUW was well represented in the Women's March in Washington, D.C. as well as at the Sister March in Los Angeles. This is a time for coming together and staying strong. We need organizations such as AAUW now more than ever.

Plans are well underway for our fourth annual AFTERNOON TEA FUNDRAISER, coming up on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Please see the notice below from Pat Arnett, our Tea Committee Chair.

There will be no board meeting in February. Our next meeting will be at my house on March 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.

Elaine



### TEATIME TOGETHER

April 29, 2017



Happy St. Valentine's Day! The Teatime Committee is so happy to welcome our Program VP Jamie Watson to the Stagers Committee. This makes 15 tables for the Tea. Please consider staging our # 16 table to enable us to offer seating for the attendees we had last year.

Thanks to the efforts of Judy Hill, we will be spotlighting a delightful speaker for the tea: Elise Benavidez, Owner/Executive Chef of Elise's Tea Room speaking about "the Grand Traditions of Tea". Elise's Tea Room has received the Southern California Restaurant Writers Gold Award for last 10 years and she provides the scones and sandwiches for our Teas.

If you are in the process of cleaning out drawers and closets, perhaps you have come across gift cards you forgot you had or don't need to use. We are collecting gift cards to hang on a faux tree as an auction item and would love your donations. Please contact either Judy Hill or myself for collection. Also, we are in need of many other auction items and hope you will reach out to your vendors for contributions.

Thank you for sharing your heart with your efforts on behalf of the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund of AAUW. As members, we should relish the national impact this Fund has in the lives of women and girls. Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Pat Arnett, Teatime Together Coordination

## Educational Partnership Committee

Our next meeting of EPC will be held on **Thursday, February 9 at 6:30 pm at the residence of Nancy Brock and Janice Pomerantz, 21345 Hawthorne Blvd. (Village Court)**. To gain entrance, please follow directions on call box to reach Nancy or Janice. They will buzz you into lobby. Take the elevator to the 1<sup>st</sup> floor community room. If you experience a problem, call Nancy's cell 424-237-2249 or Janice's cell 310-892-9349.

Our committee has been hard at work! Thank you to everyone who helped prepare the camper and school buddy packets: Athena Paquette Cormier, Pat Arnett, Nancy Brock, Maymie Chenoweth, Inetha Foster, Nancy Kenney, Peggy Monga, Janice Pomerantz, Susanne Siney, and Margot Sullivan. Thank you to our 12 school buddies who have made their visits and interviewed the 7<sup>th</sup> grade nominees from the 15 middle schools from Torrance, Redondo Beach, and LA Unified. The girls' applications and teacher recommendations are due by February 9<sup>th</sup>.

Athena Paquette Cormier has volunteered to scan the girls' application materials. Thank you so much Athena! After the scans are printed, they will be given to the Readers who will select the camper or campers from each school. The Readers will get their materials at the March 9<sup>th</sup> EPC meeting. Rankings will be due March 20<sup>th</sup>.

If you would like to be a Reader of the camper applications and essays and then rank the girls (this is done with a team of 2 other readers), please contact Peggy Monga at [filmgroup@earthlink.net](mailto:filmgroup@earthlink.net). We will provide instructions on how this is done....and you can read in the comfort of your own home! Thank you in advance!

Would you like to sponsor a camper or do you know a person or a company that would be interested in providing a scholarship or partial scholarship so that we may send additional girls to Tech Trek Camp this year? Please contact Michele Freck [mich.frek@yahoo.com](mailto:mich.frek@yahoo.com) or Peggy Monga. Currently Tech Trek camp costs \$900 per camper. We are grateful for any help with this and would also love to have some Redondo Beach sponsors as we have campers from our 2 Redondo Beach middle schools. We hope you will consider this earnest request.

Please keep Karen Hassen in your thoughts and prayers as she continues her recovery from knee surgery.

Margot Sullivan

---

## Interest Groups

### Diversity Book Group

Date & Time: Friday, February 17, 6:30pm

At the home of Rachel Ambrose

RSVP to Lydia Hachmeister McCarver at [lydiaemcbh@yahoo.com](mailto:lydiaemcbh@yahoo.com)

### Rooftops of Tehran by Mahbod Seraji

In this poignant, eye-opening and emotionally vivid novel, Mahbod Seraji lays bare the beauty and brutality of the centuries-old Persian culture, while reaffirming the human experiences we all share. In a middle-class neighborhood of Iran's sprawling capital city, 17-year-old Pasha Shahed spends the summer of 1973 on his rooftop with his best friend Ahmed, joking around one minute and asking burning questions about life the next. He also hides a secret love for his beautiful neighbor Zari, who has been betrothed since birth to another man. But the bliss of Pasha and Zari's stolen time together is shattered when Pasha unwittingly acts as a beacon for the Shah's secret police. The violent consequences awaken him to the reality of living under a powerful despot, and lead Zari to make a shocking choice.

### Evening Literature Group

Date & Time: Tuesday, February 28, 7:30pm

At the home of Karen Gottlieb

RSVP to Lisa Blank at 310-835-9613 or [girlphd@juno.com](mailto:girlphd@juno.com).

### On the Move: A Life by Oliver Sacks

When Oliver Sacks was twelve years old, a schoolmaster wrote in his report: "Sacks will go far, if he does not go too far." As Sacks recounts his experiences as a young neurologist in the early 1960s, we see how his engagement with patients comes to define his life. With unbridled honesty and humor, *On the Move* is the story of a brilliantly unconventional physician and writer—and of the man who has illuminated the many ways that the brain makes us human.

Coming in March: The Girl on the Train by Paula Hawkins

### WIT

TOPIC: How My Life is Different from My Mother's/Daughter's/Niece's/Daughter-in-Law's

Date & Time: Wednesday, February 1, 7:00 - 8:30 pm

PLACE: Private Residence

Please RSVP BY Monday, January 30 to Susan at [susimone@aol.com](mailto:susimone@aol.com)

Or, for questions, call 310-377-0642.

### Film Group

Date & Time: Wednesday, February 22, 7:00 pm

At the home of Margot Sullivan

RSVP to 310-316-7916 or [margotrsullivan@aol.com](mailto:margotrsullivan@aol.com)

Immigrant Indians facing the demands of two cultures. Join us for light refreshments and conversation. Everybody's a critic!

MEET THE PATELS (2014)(2015)(Rated PG) Caught between his American dreams and Indian culture's complex social imperatives, 29-year-old Ravi Patel -- fresh on the heels of a breakup -- initiates a global search for a woman whom he and his family both deem acceptable. Filmed by brother and sister Ravi and Geeta Patel, with

---

## Interest Groups, continued

### Film Group, cont.

lively animation intercuts. Won the Audience Award for Best Documentary at the LA Film Festival. "*Meet The Patels* is more than just a hoot. Its candor and empathy allow it to make keen points about love, marriage, family and the unexpected complications that American freedoms can bring."--Kenneth Turan, LA Times. Available at Torrance and Redondo (nonfiction) and Netflix DVD

ENGLISH VINGLISH (2012)(Rated NR) The story of a quiet, sweet tempered housewife who endures small slights from her well educated husband and daughter every day because of her inability to speak and understand English. She is resourceful and open-minded but is unappreciated. On a trip to Manhattan she enrolls in an English Learners class and meets new people who teach her to value herself beyond the narrow perspective of her family. This film is Gauri Shinde's directorial debut and stars beloved Indian actress Sridevi. 3.5 stars from Access Bollywood and was considered for India's Oscar entry for Best Foreign Language film. Available at Torrance Libraries, not at Netflix!

\*\*\*\*\*

## Membership

Torrance AAUW has 71 members, including 14 Life members and three dual members.

### Life Membership

★ Congratulations to Indrani Chatterjee for joining as a Life Member! ★

If you want to join as a Life Member, it is 20 times annual national dues (currently \$49, so Life Membership currently costs \$980). You would then only pay state and branch dues when you renew. You would also avoid National dues increases.

### Passing

We mourn the passing of former member **Helen Ball**. Helen took leadership roles in the Friends of the Torrance Library. She was a former school psychiatrist. At age 75, she sailed from Hawaii to Tahiti and back on a sailboat with her late husband's nephew for a six-month voyage. Helen was an avid cook and had quite a cookbook collection. Her potluck contributions were very authentic. She led an AAUW Out and About to a famous ceramics studio. Her husband Howard, a sculptor, created the very large fiberglass imperial mammoth, which is still at the La Brea Tar Pits. About five years ago, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art displayed the LA Times article and picture of him towing the sculpture behind their VW bug. We'll miss Helen.

----- Gloria Liu, Membership VP, [GLSB7891@gmail.com](mailto:GLSB7891@gmail.com), 310-683-3695