



**Torrance Branch  
2017 – 2018**

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*Public Policy*  
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## AAUW TORRANCE CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



with  
**Melissa Liu Cruz**



Melissa is a second generation Asian American who has earned both a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Computer Science & Business. She is a Product Manager for Mobile Apps based in San Diego, CA.  
(She is also Gloria Liu's niece!)

Melissa will share her thoughts about:

- Her ethnic upbringing
- Education
- Women's role in today's vs yesterday's workplace
- Women's empowerment

**Saturday, March 10, 2018, 9:30 am**  
at the Torrance Airport Community Room  
3301 Airport Drive, Torrance  
(Between Hawthorne & Crenshaw at Zamperini Way)

**ENJOY COFFEE OR TEA AS WELL AS A LIGHT SNACK  
and BRING A FRIEND!**

**Schedule:**

- 9:30 am – Networking & light refreshments**
- 9:45 am – Welcome and announcements**
- 10:00 am – Our speaker presentation followed by Q & A**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Torrance Members,

The days are flying! The Torrance Branch has about 102 days left before it will turn 50 in June! The celebration is set to be held on Saturday, June 2, 2018 at The Depot Restaurant in Torrance. Please mark your calendar for the celebration. A flyer with all the relevant details will be coming your way soon!

Every month, we highlight a special area to focus upon and learn more about through the experiences of others. This past month, February 10, 2018, AAUW Torrance member Dr. Kathleen Yip shared her mesmerizing success story from being a Tech Trek camper to pursuing education in medicine to achieving her MD! The meeting was well attended by AAUW Torrance members, Tech Trek Alumni, donors and volunteers.

March is always a notable month for women - Women's History Month & International Women's Day. To celebrate International Women's Day, on March 10, 2018, Melissa Liu Cruz will share her success story from her upbringing in an Asian-American household to becoming a Mobile Product Manager in Cubic Transportation as a second-generation Asian-American. I look forward to seeing you all at the March meeting.

Thank you all for donating your hours to fulfill AAUW missions. *Indrani*

**Next board meeting: Tuesday, Mar. 6, 7:30 pm, at Indrani's home. RSVP: [ichat905@gmail.com](mailto:ichat905@gmail.com)**

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## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Gloria Liu, Membership VP, 310 683-3695, [glsb7891@gmail.com](mailto:glsb7891@gmail.com)

### ACT IMMEDIATELY - LIFE MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Avoid the price increase in AAUW National dues! Act now! Life memberships are \$980 if received by National by March 15. National dues are going from \$49 per year to \$59 per year. Life memberships (20 times annual National dues) are consequently going from \$980 to \$1180 at that time, and will be deductible. You will still need to pay CA state dues and Torrance branch dues annually. Click on <https://www.aauw.org/resource/in-it-for-life/> National will send you a link to pay by credit card.

### DUES INCREASE

Here's a heads up that it is almost time to renew your AAUW membership. Dues for National are increasing so a regular branch member (member of National, CA AAUW, and Torrance Branch) will pay a total of \$101. A renewal form will appear in your April, May and June Telegrams.

## AAUW National Dues, Fees, and Tax Deductibility

Effective March 16, 2018

| National and Lifetime Memberships  | Dues    | Amount Tax Deductible | Amount Not Tax Deductible |
|--|---------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>National Membership</b><br>Individuals holding an associate or higher degree from a higher education institution accredited by a regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education pay yearly dues of \$59. <b>Branch members</b> are also national members and may be required to pay local branch and state dues in addition to the national dues. | \$59    | \$56                  | \$3                       |
| <b>Paid Life Membership</b><br>Individuals who qualify for national membership may pay 20 times the <a href="#">national rate one time</a> and become exempt from further national dues.   | \$1,180 | \$1,180               | \$0                       |
| <b>Honorary Life Membership</b><br>Individuals who qualify for national membership and have been members for 50 years can <a href="#">apply for honorary life membership</a> and become exempt from further national dues.   | \$0     | \$0                   | \$0                       |



**EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Please note our next meeting will be **Thursday, March 15 at Village Court Del Amo, 21345 Hawthorne Blvd, Torrance.** (Please use the call box to be buzzed into lobby. Take the elevator to the 1<sup>st</sup> floor community room. Contact Nancy Brock's cell 650-678-5522 if you are unable to enter.)

**IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ALL THOSE WHO WILL BE READING THE TECH TREK NOMINEE APPLICATIONS ATTEND THIS MEETING ON MARCH 15 TO PICK UP THE READER MATERIALS AND TO GET INFORMATION ABOUT THE EVALUATION PROCEDURE AND FORMS.**

If you are interested in being a Reader in the selection process to choose our 30 campers for camp this year, please contact **Peggy Monga, [filmgroup@earthlink.net](mailto:filmgroup@earthlink.net)**. Thanks to all those who have already volunteered. School buddies act as Reader captains with 3 readers per school. **Reading takes place March 15 to Friday, March 23. All rankings will be due by March 23 to Alice Hill.** If you are unable to attend the meeting, please contact **Peggy Monga** to make other arrangements. We will be scanning and **assembling the Reader packets the week of March 11<sup>th</sup>** at a date to be determined. If you would like to help with the collating, etc., please contact **Peggy Monga**.

**Michele Freck** is working on gathering scholarships for our campers. If you or someone you know would like to help send a camper to one of the 5 wonderful Tech Trek camps this summer, please contact **Michele at [Micfreck@gmail.com](mailto:Micfreck@gmail.com)**. **Dorm moms are also needed at the camps.** If this is something in which you have an interest, please contact **Alice Hill [alicemhill@verizon.net](mailto:alicemhill@verizon.net)**. **Susan Negrete and Judith Hill** have been dorm moms and can help with questions you may have.

**This is the 20<sup>th</sup> year anniversary for Tech Trek!** A special celebration will be held during the April State Convention at the **Irvine Marriott**. The luncheon on **Sunday, April 29 will feature former Tech Trek campers who have gone on to STEM careers.** After the luncheon there will be a Tech Trek reunion. If you have worked at a camp or attended a camp, you surely won't want to miss this very special event. We are planning to send several of our Tech Trek alumnae as guests to the luncheon and reunion. Contact **[techtrek@aauw-ca.org](mailto:techtrek@aauw-ca.org)** for more information at the state level or **Peggy Monga** or **Michele Freck** in our branch.

Hope to see you on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Margot Sullivan, EPC, [margotsullivan@aol.com](mailto:margotsullivan@aol.com)

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**LOS ANGELES INTERBRANCH COUNCIL  
(LACIC)**

**"Friends in Deed"  
Sunday, March 11, 2018  
2-4 p.m.**

PIH--Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital  
12401 Washington Boulevard  
Whittier, CA 90602

LACIC's March 11 meeting will feature "Friends in Deed," an innovative organization that provides supportive services to meet basic human needs, so our homeless and at-risk neighbors can rebuild their lives.

"Friends in Deed" programs include: The Food Pantry, The Women's Room, The Bad Weather Shelter, Norma's Nook, and the Homeless Prevention Program.



April 27 – 29

Irvine Marriott Hotel  
18000 Von Karman Avenue, Irvine, CA

AAUW California's biennial convention is coming up soon! The convention theme is a counterpoint to today's social media-driven hysteria. There has never been a time in which we have been more challenged to advance our mission, nor has there ever been a greater opportunity.

Come celebrate the advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research we do to achieve equity for women and girls! Meet state and national leaders. Attend informative and revitalizing workshops. Hear inspiring and entertaining speakers, including plenary sessions on grassroots advocacy, women peacebuilders, advancing equity for all, and this year's Speech Trek competition: "How Can We Stand Up to Sexism?" The convention's grand finale will be a celebration of the 20th anniversary of Tech Trek! Additional details and registration materials are in the winter issue of the California Perspective and on our AAUW CA website. Register now for reduced registration and hotel rates. Here is a link to the convention registration page:

<http://www.aauw-ca.org/register-aauw-california-convention-2018/>

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## AAUW-CA CONVENTION

### WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS

**April 28, 2018 Women in STEM Globally.** A panel of women from local universities will speak about the value of encouraging STEM careers internationally. They will speak on the importance of advocacy and funding for STEM careers for women world-wide.

**Host:** Indrani Chatterjee, International Advocacy AAUW-CA Program Committee, President Torrance Branch and Member Long Beach Branch

**April 29, 2018 Honoring Your Branch Legacy.** An overview of AAUW programs that honor branch legacy: Past, Present & Future. Members will learn methods of engaging and retaining new and current members in creative ways by researching and presenting AAUW branch and individual histories. The workshop will encourage community outreach for technical support and public awareness of AAUW's mission and local accomplishments.

**Facilitator:** Susan Negrete, Chair, Los Angeles Interbranch Council; Member Torrance, PVP and CA Online

# INTEREST GROUPS

## Diversity Book Group



**Date & Time:** Fri., Mar. 16, 6:30 pm  
**Location:** Home of Nancy Kenney;  
 see your directory for address.  
**RSVP:** Nancy, 310 373-2441 or  
[nancykenney365@msn.com](mailto:nancykenney365@msn.com)

### ***Underground Railroad,*** by Colson Whitehead

Cora is a slave on a cotton plantation in Georgia. Life is hellish for all the slaves but especially bad for Cora; an outcast even among her fellow Africans, she is coming into womanhood - where even greater pain awaits. When Caesar, a recent arrival from Virginia, tells her about the Underground Railroad, they decide to take a terrifying risk and escape. Matters do not go as planned and, though they manage to find a station and head north, they are being hunted.

In Whitehead's ingenious conception, the Underground Railroad is no mere metaphor - engineers and conductors operate a secret network of tracks and tunnels beneath the Southern soil. Cora and Caesar's first stop is South Carolina, in a city that initially seems like a haven - but the city's placid surface masks an insidious scheme designed for its black denizens. Even worse: Ridgeway, the relentless slave catcher, is close on their heels. Forced to flee again, Cora embarks on a harrowing flight, state by state, seeking true freedom.

As Whitehead brilliantly re-creates the unique terrors for black people in the pre-Civil War era, his narrative seamlessly weaves the saga of America from the brutal importation of Africans to the unfulfilled promises of the present day. *The Underground Railroad* is at once a kinetic adventure tale of one woman's ferocious will to escape the horrors of bondage and a shattering, powerful meditation on the history we all share.

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## Women in Transition (WIT)



**Date & Time:** Wed., Mar. 7, 7 pm  
**Home of Susan Negrete;**  
 see your directory for address.  
**RSVP:** by Monday, March 5, to Susan  
 Negrete, 310 377-0642 or

[susimone@aol.com](mailto:susimone@aol.com)

**Topic:** Back to Our Roots – Women in Transition



## Evening Literary Group



**Date & Time:** Tues., Mar. 27, 7:30 pm  
**Location:** Home of Sue Fishman;  
 see your directory for address.  
**RSVP:** Sue, 310 372-4222 or  
[fishman212@verizon.net](mailto:fishman212@verizon.net)

### ***The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane,*** by Lisa See

**Latest by favorite author Lisa See. Set in China, 1986-2016, the novel focuses on the personal story of a young woman of a Chinese ethnic minority and how she brings her entire village into the modern era. Lisa See at the top of her form.**

Coming in April: *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah

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## Film Group



**Date & Time:** Wed., Mar. 28, 7 pm  
**Location:** Home of Margot Sullivan;  
 see your directory for address.  
**RSVP:** Margot, 310 316-7916 or  
[margotsullivan@aol.com](mailto:margotsullivan@aol.com)

### **Political thrillers from two eras.**

Join us for light refreshments and conversation.  
 Everybody's a critic!

### ***The Manchurian Candidate***

(1962)(Rated PG-13) Frank Sinatra considered his role in this film as his best, with co-stars Laurence Harvey and Angela Lansbury. Raymond Shaw (Laurence Harvey) is a Korean War hero with a lethal secret: He's been brainwashed by the communist Chinese. With one phone call, Shaw can be transformed into a deadly assassin -- unless fellow veteran Bennett Marco (Frank Sinatra) can stop them first. Some thrillers remain as suspenseful -- and timely -- as when they were first released, and this classic from director John Frankenheimer is one of the best. One of Ebert's Great Movies. Available at Torrance Library and Netflix DVD.

### ***The Manchurian Candidate***

(2004)(Rated R, violence and some language) In this very effective update from director Jonathan Demme of the 1962 political thriller, two U.S. soldiers are taken captive during the first Gulf War and brainwashed so they're programmed to rebel once they return home. Several years later, one of them lands on the vice presidential ticket, fulfilling the ambitions of his politically connected mother. With an all-star cast, including Denzel Washington, Liev Schreiber as the candidate, and Meryl Streep as his mother. --Ebert 3 stars. Available at Torrance Library and Netflix DVD.



Torrance Branch  
PO Box 1392  
Torrance, CA 90505



TO:

## CALENDER OF EVENTS 2018

- Mar. 06** Tuesday, 7:30 pm, Board meeting, Pg. 2
- 07** Wednesday, 7:00 pm, WIT meeting, Pg. 5
- 10** Saturday, 9:30 am, Branch meeting, Pg. 1
- 15** Thursday, 6:30 pm, EPC Meeting, Pg. 3
- 16** Friday, 6:30 pm, Diversity Book Gp. meeting, Pg. 5
- 27** Tuesday, 7:30 am, Evening Lit. meeting, Pg. 5
- 28** Wednesday, 7:00 pm, Film Gp.,Pg. 5

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

**AAUW Mission Statement:** *AAUW advances equity for all women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.*

**The DEADLINE for newsletter articles is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.**