



AAUW TORRANCE TELEGRAM

June, 2019

President's Message

Dear Torrance Members,

What a year! Thanks to you, the AAUW Torrance branch has witnessed the passing of an exciting year filled with successful monthly meetings and fruitful time spent on new endeavors.

We turned 50! We turned the golden age of 50 in 2018 and celebrated together on June 2, 2018 at the Depot Restaurant in Torrance. The event was so wonderful and we were able to pay homage to past leaders, lifetime members and the movers and shakers of our community. As a lasting legacy gift, a donation of \$900 in books was given to the Torrance Public Library to be put into circulation immediately.

The Torrance branch launched fiscal year 2018-19 with a successful and well-attended "Welcome Back Breakfast" meeting on September 8, 2018. October 2018 showcased two events, the Tech Trek celebration on October 16, 2018 and "Start Smart," a salary negotiation workshop held on October 11, 2018. Tech Trek is the longest successful branch project, providing a STEM-related education opportunity within a college environment to local area middle school girls. AAUW Start Smart was successfully launched in October 2017, designed specifically to teach college graduates to negotiate salaries for their first and future jobs.

The year 2019 started with an exciting event for Torrance branch. On Saturday, January 12, 2019 at Torrance Airport Center, AAUW Torrance, Beach Cities and Palos Verdes Peninsula branches together hosted a very successful program "Celebration of Women Empowerment: The State of Women's Equity in Los Angeles County Today."

In February, the AAUW Torrance monthly meeting highlighted a special popular topic, "Social Media Discussion," and it was well-attended and very educational for all. March saw the AAUW Torrance branch honor Kitty Felde, KPCC journalist and speaker. We all enjoyed her book and her insight into the political world.

Congratulations to the Tea Committee! On May 4, the branch witnessed an outstanding fundraising event with 110 attendees at Chado Tea House. It was eventful and very exciting for all those involved. As June ends the fiscal year, the branch is welcoming newly elected board members at the DoubleTree Hotel on June 8, 2019.

President's Message

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the board and committee members who have contributed their volunteer hours to keep the branch active and successful. As I humbly pass the torch to the next leadership group, I trust that the seeds of progress that we were able to sow together will bear fruit for years to come, helping to grow the membership and in initiatives. I am very proud to be member of AAUW Torrance Branch and will continue to do so for years to come.

Respectfully,
Indrani Chatterjee

“With the new day comes new strength and new thoughts”
– **Eleanor Roosevelt**

Torrance Board & Committee Members 2018-2019

<http://torrance-ca.aauw.net>

President	Indrani Chatterjee
Treasurer	Alice Matthews
Secretary	Nancy Kenney
AAUW Fund VP	Gloria Liu
Membership VP	Cami Hamilton
Program Committee	Janice Pomerantz
EPC	Peggy Monga & Margot Sullivan
Web Manager	Ann DuPuy
Editor & Communication	Keri Gilbert
Mailing & Publicity	Janet Flynn
Corresponding Secretary	Billie Lee Langley

AAUW Fund – Tea and Silent Auction

Gloria Liu, AAUW Fund VP

The 2019 AAUW Torrance Tea and Silent Auction at Chado Tea Room was a smashing success! Everyone had a good time. Thank you all for coming and for your help and support! We sold out at 110 tickets. The silent auction was very active, with many people bidding on items. Our donors were very generous. The buzz in the room was happy, fun and excited. And we made a lot of money for AAUW Fund Economic Security and for AAUW CA SPF Torrance Tech Trek.

Kudos to the Tea committee: Athena Paquette Cormier, Keri Gilbert, Cami Hamilton, Judith Hill, Nancy Kenney, Kabita Kumar, Gloria Liu (Chair), Alice Matthews, and Suzanne Siney. Pat Arnett did a terrific job as Emcee. The interest groups did a wonderful job with their baskets. Many branch members procured donations for the silent auction. Thank you to Chado's Tea Room, which did a good job with the food and serving, and had a wonderful ambiance. Additionally, Dan Liu (my brother) borrowed and set up the sound system and music, and took photos. Thanks to all the volunteers who stepped in, including recent member Rachel Mariscal, our ticket sellers / hosts, those who made or arranged donations. Special thanks to Judith Hill for selling more than 30 tickets! And thanks to all the guests who bought silent auction items.

The preliminary financial summary is as follows:

Category	Ticket Sales	Silent Auction Donation to Tech Trek Fund	Donations for Tech Trek	Donations for AAUW Fund
Income	\$4,120.00	\$3,581.79	\$720.00	\$140.00

AAUW Fund – Tea & Silent Auction

Gloria Liu, AAUW Fund VP

Thank You to our Many Donors!



We are very grateful to our generous donors. Many members donated to the silent auction baskets and to the gift card tree. Thanks to them and to the members who took responsibility for them and packaged the baskets. We had forty silent auction item donations!

Pat Arnett
Athena Paquette Cormier
Client Hair Salon (Denise Contreras)
Ann DuPuy

Body Oasis Day Spa (Sequita)
Cheesecake Factory (Redondo Beach)
Chado Tea Room
Destination: Art (Suzanne Kuuskmae)

DoubleTree Torrance
Kitty Felde
Hermosa Nail and Lash, donation organized
by Lori Lee. (Traci Mato (owner), April
Kristen Adams, Kim Nowak, Linda Meyer,
Azy, Lu, Linda Stevenson, Erica, Lori Lee)
Kirari West
Kabita Kumar
Premier Chiropractic & Sports Medicine,
San Pedro
Vickie Sekits Fine Art
South Coast Botanic Gardens
Torrance Cultural Arts Center
Trader Joe's at Rolling Hills Plaza
Martha Vasquez (candles)
AAUW Women in Transition (WIT) Interest Group
AAUW Torrance Diversity Book Group (2 baskets)
AAUW Torrance Evening Literature Book Group
AAUW Torrance Film Group
AAUW Torrance Educational Partnership Committee (2 baskets)

Edible Arrangements (Torrance)
Vicki Goorchenko
Japanese Auto Center
Suzanne Kuuskmae
Parker Hearing Institute
Red Car Brewery & Restaurant
Skin by Bobbi, Medical Grade Mobile Skin
Care
Scott Robinson Honda
Torrance Theatre Company
Torrance Historical Society
David Wolfram (artist)

When you patronize them or see our donors, please extend our thanks!

Membership Update

Cami Hamilton, Membership VP

Educator's passion to support Tech Trek camper

AAUW recognizes the participation of fifty-year members with a pin and honorary life member status (exempt from Association dues). AAUW Torrance honors Pat Carroll at the June brunch and Installation meeting for her membership of fifty years. It is thanks to the dedication of members like Pat and the vision of charter members that AAUW Torrance continues fifty years strong to the present.

Many members know Pat as the face of hospitality at our monthly meetings. She laughs remembering all the “heavy lifting” of the hospitality duties in the past —tall metal coffee urns and coffee-making supplies that needed to be stored safely and brought out to each meeting; no easy task. “I guess I volunteered because I was shy,” Pat explains. “Hospitality offers a chance to meet and talk with members without leading a committee.”

Pat is no stranger to helping others. She is a past president of the Torrance branch (1980-82) and a past co-president (2007-09). She is a volunteer leader of CDA Court of St. Catherine (#1378). She is a retired elementary school teacher who is still connected with fellow teachers from her college years. Pat and husband Tom are proud parents of two adult sons and even prouder grandparents of three lively grandsons.

As she retires from hospitality chair duties for the branch, Pat offers encouragement to new members: “join a group, be in a network, a women’s organization with like-minded women and allow yourself to grow personally and professionally. When you surround yourself with others who share your interests, you meet people who give you the anchor to be more yourself. Stay involved, be inspired and find your belonging.”

Thank you, Pat, for your dedication, to your family, to our community, and to always making people feel like they belong.

Educational Partnership Committee (EPC)

Margot Sullivan - EPC Committee

Our next EPC meeting will be held Thursday, June 13, 2019 at 6:30 pm. at the home of Kabita Kumar, 1928 W. 183rd St., Torrance. Please join us!

Tech Trek Orientation will be held on Sunday, June 2, 2019 at Hull Middle School MultiPurpose Room, 2080 W. 231st St., Torrance from 1-4 pm. Pat Arnett and Janice Pomerantz are co-chairing this “get acquainted” event for our 36 new campers. It is always a lot of fun as the girls participate in different activities to help them get to know each other and learn about Tech Trek Camp. Light refreshments, organized by **Karen Hassen, Rachel Creasey and Pat Carroll** will be served. **Susan Negrete** will be speaking to the parents during the 3:00 question and answer session from her perspective as a Dorm Mom. Many of our EPC members are involved in this activity. If you would like to help please contact Pat or Janice. Set up begins at 11:00. We are also very fortunate to have the help of West High Interact and TTAG. All AAUW members are welcome to attend. It is a great way to learn more about Tech Trek and meet our wonderful campers.

Torrance School Board will honor our Torrance Middle School campers on **Monday, June 3** at 7:00 at West High Auditorium. Pictures will be taken at 6:30 pm. **Susan Negrete** will introduce the campers to the School Board and will present the girls with certificates of congratulations from Torrance Branch AAUW, Senator Ben Allen and Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi. The school board will also present certificates to the girls to make it a wonderful event. You are welcome to attend. We are grateful to Susan’s husband who has offered to take pictures of the presentation.

Redondo Beach School Board recognized the campers from Adams and Perras Middle Schools on Tuesday, May 28. **Peggy Monga** introduced the campers and presented them with certificates from Senator Allen, Assemblyman Muratsuchi, Torrance Branch AAUW and the School Board. This is always a very proud moment for the campers and their families as they receive such special recognition.

We are very proud to announce that our very own Susan Negrete and Alice Hill will be assuming new state leadership roles for Tech Trek effective August 1, 2019. They will be the State Tech Trek Program Coordinators. **Alice** will be the State Tech Trek Finance Officer. Congratulations and very best wishes!

Thank you to all of our members and friends who supported the Tea and the Silent Auction. Educational Partnership Committee is very grateful for your generosity in support of our Tech Trek program. We hope that you would consider becoming a member of EPC. Contact Peggy Monga or any EPC member for more information or come to our **meeting on June 13.**

Branch Interest Groups

Diversity Book Group

Date: Friday, June 21, 2019

Place: The home of Alice Matthews

Time: 6:30 PM

Book: Readers of the Broken Wheel Recommend, by Katarina Bivald

Broken Wheel, Iowa, has never seen anyone like Sara, who traveled all the way from Sweden just to meet her book-loving pen pal, Amy. When she arrives, however, she finds Amy's funeral guests just leaving. The residents of Broken Wheel are happy to look after their bewildered visitor—there's not much else to do in a dying small town that's almost beyond repair. You certainly wouldn't open a bookstore. And definitely not with the tourist in charge. You'd need a vacant storefront (Main Street is full of them), books (Amy's house is full of them), and... customers. The bookstore might be a little quirky. Then again, so is Sara. But Broken Wheel's own story might be more eccentric and surprising than she thought.

Evening Literature Group

Date: Tuesday, June 18, 2019

Place: The home of Betsy Adams

Time: Noon

Year-end potluck lunch and discussion about selection of books for August 2019 to May 2020.

“The highest education is that which does not merely give us information but makes our life in harmony with all existence.”

– Rabindranath Tagore, Nobel Prize in Literature 1913

Branch Interest Groups

Film Group

Date: Tuesday, June 25, 2019

Place: TBD

Time: 4 PM

Join us on **our new day, Tuesday, and new TIME, 4 pm**, for light refreshments and conversation. Everybody's a critic!

LE SAMOURAI (1967) (2005) (Rated PG) After professional hitman Jef Costello is seen by witnesses, his efforts to provide himself an alibi drive him further into a corner. Starring Alain Delon, who was given the Palme d'Honneur at this year's Cannes Film Festival, and directed by Jean-Pierre Melville.

MIDNIGHT LACE (1960) (Rated NR) Kit Preston is the elegant newlywed wife of British financier Anthony Preston. Shortly after moving to one of London's wealthiest neighborhoods with her husband, Kit is threatened by an unknown party. The tension mounts as the menacing phone calls continue and Anthony shows little concern, until Kit begins to doubt her own sanity and the motives of everyone around her. Starring Doris Day in an outstanding performance, Rex Harrison and Myrna Loy.

Women in Transition (WIT) Meeting

Date: Wednesday, June 12, 2019

Place: Private Residence

Time: 7 PM to 9 PM

Topic: **Here's What's Keeping Me Up at Night!**

If you plan to attend, please RSVP by June 10 to Susan: susan.e.negrete@gmail.com or call: 310-377-0642

Nomination Update

The following slate of nominated officers for 2019-2020 branch year:

President:	Keri Gilbert
Secretary:	Nancy Kenney
Program VP:	Open
Membership VP:	Open

Voting for the candidates will take place at the June 8, 2019 branch meeting. If you or anyone you know is interested in serving on the board in any of the open positions, nomination will be accepted on the floor.

AAUW National

AAUW National New Strategic Plan Statement

Mission

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Vision

Equity for all.

Values

Nonpartisan.
Fact-based.
Integrity.
Inclusion and
Intersectionality.

<https://www.aauw.org/who-we-are/strategic-plan/>

Women Hurt Most by Student Loan Crisis

When women take the stage to get their diplomas this spring, they'll be graduating to staggering student loan debt. As of early 2019, women hold almost two-thirds (\$929 billion) of the country's \$1.46-trillion student debt, according to a new analysis by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) report, *Deeper in Debt: Women and Student Loans*. (<https://www.aauw.org/article/women-hurt-most-by-student-loan-crisis/>)

AAUW California

AAUW California Files Title IX Letter

Last year, the Federal Department of Education issued a plan to make sweeping changes to Title IX's regulations, which would impact students' civil rights and federal enforcement of the law.

The federal plan could make it more difficult for students to report incidents of sexual harassment and violence—and easier for schools to ignore them when they do. The U.S. Department of Education announced a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking which would diminish protections under Title IX, the 1972 law that bars gender discrimination at schools and colleges receiving federal funds.

Specifically, the proposed rule would weaken Title IX's protections by narrowing the definition of sexual harassment, which could exclude much of the abuse students experience. It would also limit how schools will respond to reports of sexual harassment and violence. In addition, the rule would allow processes that make it harder for students to come forward and receive the support they need when they experience sexual harassment or assault.

The proposed rule changes were subject to a 60-day comment period before taking effect. AAUW California joined other states and the national office is objecting to the proposed changes. Alicia Hetman, AAUW California's Title IX Coordinator and an expert in Title IX issues, composed a letter which we sent to the Department of Education.

<http://www.aauw-ca.org/aauw-california-files-title-ix-letter/>

Branches were also encouraged to send letters to the DOE and to post letters to the editors of local newspapers.

AAUW helped to deliver over 100,000 letters from advocates who urged the Department of Education to protect and preserve the Title IX guidance that keeps students safe.