



Who is that Safe-at-bloom? See Page 5

Torrance Branch Leadership

Keri Gilbert, President
Alice Matthews, Finance Officer
Nancy Kenney, Secretary
Gloria Liu, AAUW Fund VP

Committee Leadership

Peggy Monga, EPC
Cami Hamilton, Telegram Editor
Michele Croci, Public Policy
Kay Odgers, Member Profiles
Janet Flynn, Telegram Mailing
Ann DuPuy, Webmaster
Keri Gilbert, Digital Communications

Volunteer Leaders Needed

Membership VP
Program VP
Branch Tech Trek Coordinator

President's Message from Keri Gilbert

Hello Torrance Branch!

I hope you are all safe, healthy and connected.

During these challenging times, we have had to cancel many events and hold many others online. We canceled our April fundraiser and will cancel the face to face May meeting as well as the June installation. We will hold the latter two online via Zoom and will hold our election via e-mail.

At the May 20 Zoom meeting, we will present our slate of candidates and discuss how we are handling Tech Trek and Start Smart during the quarantine. We will also have a recap of the state convention which was held online earlier this month. *If you have anything else you would like us to discuss, please let me know right away.*

Please make sure you are able to login to Zoom before May 20. AAUW-CA held some training sessions earlier this month.

Our nominating committee chaired by Cami Hamilton has been working hard to fill the open positions for next year. We still need a Secretary and we cannot have a branch without one.

Have you renewed your membership? If not, please do so today! It is a very simple process to login and renew and pay online. Alice Matthews will send your unique link which will make it even easier.

Please reach out if you need anything or are feeling isolated. We cannot get out, but we can still connect with each other!!

I hope to see you all on May 20!

~ Keri Gilbert

**SAVE
THE DATE**

**Wednesday, May 20
7:00 pm
Branch Meeting on Zoom**

Please send Torrance Telegram articles by May 20 to heycamster66@gmail.com

Branch Meeting on Wednesday, May 20, 7:00 pm via Zoom

All members are encouraged to attend!

1. A link will be sent for you to join the meeting
2. Download the app to your computer or smart phone
<https://zoom.us/signin>
3. Make sure you can login beforehand. Practice with a friend ahead of time or check out the AAUW training.
4. Join us online at 7:00 pm on May 20



AAUW Convention • April 18

We didn't let the COVID-19 pandemic stop us from gathering to share the 2019-2020 accomplishments of AAUW California. On Saturday, April 18, more than 300 AAUW California members attended the virtual Annual Meeting. AAUW-CA Co-Presidents Jane Niemeier and Cathy Foxhoven presented the meeting, various panelists, program updates, awards and branch recognition.

Although it was live-streamed on Zoom, you can benefit from the Convention at your convenience using the links posted.

Highlights

<https://www.aauw-ca.org/2020-aauw-california-state-annual-meeting-recap/>

Although not live, you can access much of the content and announcements from the website.

Presentation Slide Deck

<https://www.aauw-ca.org/documents/2020/04/2020-annual-meeting-presentation.pdf/>

Branch Program Recognition

<https://www.aauw-ca.org/2020-program-recognition/>

Public Policy

<https://ctweb.capitoltrack.com/public/publish.aspx?session=19&id=920d3c91-39f9-4e59-a017-b2d993254aef>

Virtual Visit by Kim Churches, AAUW CEO

<https://www.aauw-ca.org/documents/2020/04/2020-annual-meeting-churches-presentation.pdf/>

Churches charged all members not to lose the advancements we have fought for. The 2020–21 Fellows have been selected, with more than 200 awards and \$3.5 million in funding for fellows and grantees in the 2020–21 award year, continuing our legacy of empowering this type of work.

State Named Gift Honoree:

Donna Lilly, Past AAUW-CA President, was announced as the 2019 California Named Gift Honoree. Each year the AAUW Fund Committee selects one honoree from submissions by members and branches who has made a significant contribution to the AAUW mission and AAUW Fund. Donna is an active member of the San Diego and Del Mar-Leucadia Branches as well as many community organizations. She is a director on the San Diego Air & Space Museum Board, the YMCA, and the San Diego Chapter of the United Nations Association. Donna is the current Chair of the AAUW California College/University Relations Committee and a former California Membership Vice President. She is a promoter and facilitator for both Start Smart and Work Smart.

Speech Trek Results

<https://www.aauw-ca.org/2020-speech-trek-results/>

YOUR Membership is Critical to Branch Survival

By Alice Matthews

Renewal Memberships:

An initial e-Invoice was sent out in April to all members. Thank you for the initial response to this email. Thirteen have already responded with their renewal at this point. We have two LIFE-50 members that will need to respond, but will not have any dues required.

Thank you to those of you who have already renewed your membership – it is greatly appreciated. Please look for another e-invoice coming in May. I hope everyone is staying home and staying safe during these difficult times.

If you need help with the e-invoice or have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Alice Matthews (619) 851-4328

**YOUR
MEMBERSHIP
MATTERS!**

Evening Literature Book Group

No meeting in May. At the June meeting we will be picking our books for the coming year.

WIT (Women In Transition) Group

No meeting in May.

Website Updates for AAUW

As part of our ongoing work, AAUW is pleased to announce the launch of our new website, www.aauw.org and we hope it will help us to stay more connected than ever.

The Member Services Database that many of you rely on will get an upgrade later this year, but meanwhile you can still access it on the new site. And your branch and state websites haven't changed.

Please take a look and let National know what you think.

Friday, May 15

New time this meeting only: 5:30 pm

The Diversity Book Group

Friday, May 15 at 5:30 pm

Zoom meeting

The Pearl That Broke Its Shell by Nadia Hashimi

Afghan-American Nadia Hashimi's literary debut novel, *The Pearl that Broke Its Shell* is a searing tale of powerlessness, fate, and the freedom to control one's own fate that combines the cultural flavor and emotional resonance of the works of Khaled Hosseini, Jhumpa Lahiri, and Lisa See.

Let Elle Oliver know if you want to join us and she will invite you to the Zoom meeting.

Thursday, May 28

7:00 - 9:00 pm

Film Group

Thursday, May 28 at 7:00 pm

location TBD, contact Peggy Monga

Is anybody up for a face-to-face Film Group meeting at the end of May? If so, let me know.

SMILES OF A SUMMER NIGHT (1955)(2004)(Rated NR) Director Ingmar Bergman weaves an intricate romantic ruse about a country estate... in turn-of-the-century Sweden. "The film is entirely about adultery. Most unusual for Bergman, it is a comedy. It flirts at times with screwball, but chooses more decisively to use the kind of verbal wit that Shaw and Wilde employed."—Ebert ★★★★★ One of Ebert's Great Movies.

Available at Redondo and Torrance libraries and DVD Netflix.

SARABAND (2003)(2005)(Rated R for brief nudity, language and a violent image) Writer-director Ingmar Bergman's tale of a once-broken family and another that's beginning to fall apart. "Saraband is a meditation on the pathology of selfish relationships.... life will end on the terms with which we have lived it. If we are bitter now, we will not be victorious later; we will still be bitter."—Ebert ★★★★★

Available at Redondo libraries and DVD Netflix.

Educational Partnership Committee (EPC)

by Margot Sullivan

During the COVID-19 quarantine, we are following the guidelines and not holding in-person meetings. We have been advised that the Tech Trek camps for this summer are cancelled.

This year's 28 selected campers will not be attending camps next year. New campers will be selected next year.

It is hopeful that online activities may become

available to give the girls STEM enrichment experiences similar to some they may have received during the week at camp.

Thanks to everyone who worked so hard this year on our Tech Trek program! Hopefully we will meet soon and can plan a way to acknowledge this year's campers.

We hope that you are all staying safe and well, and we look forward to seeing you soon.

L.A. County Interbranch Council (LACIC)

by Susan Negrete

Our scheduled May LACIC meeting is cancelled.

On Tuesday, March 24, LACIC and other SoCal members joined AAUW CEO Kim Churches for her webinar, "AAUW and the Impact of the Coronavirus."

Kim expressed National's concerns for the safety and well-being of AAUW members and the larger community during the unprecedented time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

While the office is closed and staff are working from home, she shared the national office's plans to continue AAUW's critical work during this safer-at-home period. All branches and members were encouraged to share best practices during these difficult times.

Keeping a community spirit in the time of social distancing can be difficult, but Kim urged the membership to remain resourceful and to share with the national office the ways in which you are staying connected.

Start Smart

by Michele Freck

On Wednesday, March 11, Elle Oliver and Michele Freck presented an AAUW Start Smart Salary Negotiation workshop to the Latino Student Business Association at California State University, Dominguez Hills. The President of the Association had made the request after attending an earlier workshop last Fall presented to the Entrepreneurial Institute at CSUDH. Twenty-eight students attended and participated most enthusiastically in the role-play sessions. After the event, they presented Elle, Michele and Nancy Kenney with Certificates of Appreciation.

Unfortunately, additional workshops scheduled for the following week at the Entrepreneurial Institute were canceled because the campus closed down as a precaution due to the Coronavirus. If these workshops are rescheduled, we will advise our members and encourage you to become involved in these most worthwhile and rewarding exchanges with such remarkable young people.



AAUW
**START
SMART**
salary negotiation
for students



Public Policy

Reproductive Health for All in 2020

by Kathi Harper, Co-Chair Public Policy Committee
submitted by Michele Croci

As the coronavirus was starting to appear in California (before the Governor’s shelter-in-place orders), the AAUW-CA Public Policy team decided to improvise the annual legislative meeting with our Advocate in Sacramento. Co-Chairs Kathi Harper and Sue Miller, and Jane Neimeier, AAUW-CA Co-President, met with Advocate Magaly Zaval at her office on March 13. Exercising caution however, we communicated with all other committee members via serial e-mails throughout the day.

Although challenging, the meeting was productive. We reviewed 44 bills with the following resolutions:

- Co-Sponsor 1 bill (SB973)
- Support 26 Bills in the following categories:
 - > Product Regulation – 3

- > Family Planning – 5
- > Education – 6
- > Labor/Wages – 2
- > Gender Equity/Discrimination – 4
- > Family Protection – 3
- > Sexual Assault and Sex Education – 2
- 8 Bills will be “watched” for further developments
- 10 Bills were dropped

We have also learned that the Legislature may not reconvene until May 4. We are not sure what impact that will have on this legislative session, as we are advised that their focus is going to be on coronavirus bills, housing and wildfires. The state budget must be approved by June 15, so this too will be an area of focus. We will keep members updated as we learn more.

Finally, we have learned that our long-time Advocate Shannon Smith-Crowley is still healing from the concussion she sustained in an accident last year, please keep her in your thoughts for a successful recovery.

AAUW-CA Public Policy Bill Summary (26 Support, 8 Watch)

<https://ctweb.capitoltrack.com/public/publish.aspx?session=19&id=920d3c91-39f9-4e59-a017-b2d993254aef>

Visit the South Coast Botanic Garden

by Karen Peters

During this Safer-at-Home time, it is a joy to have the South Coast Botanic Garden open. As things change all the time, please note that I am writing on April 21.

Purchase your ticket or buy a membership online.
<https://southcoastbotanicgarden.org/>

There are two-hour windows available daily. The third Tuesday of the month is free to everyone.

We arrived at 9:00 am and social distancing was easy. We are asked to wear face masks, so be sure to bring yours. The flowers are in spring glory. The roses are fabulous. There are large sculptures on loans from LACMA that add a wonderful accent.

We picnicked on a lawn. Next time I’ll bring a ball to kick with my three-year-old friend and his grandmother. It was an adventure for us all. The dark shady areas were cool and cavelike. The lizards were quick. The Coopers Hawk and Black Phoebe are a couple of my favorite birds. My little friend especially enjoyed the koi. A couple of the regular volunteers, who are not officially allowed to weed, were visiting and just couldn’t help themselves. I wanted to pull a few weeds too!

I encourage you to take advantage of this local treasure.





AAUW California has cancelled the nine upcoming Tech Trek camps scheduled on seven college campuses in June and July of 2020.

AAUW's first priority is the health and welfare of Tech Trek's 7th grade campers, dedicated camp leaders, their staff and branch volunteers, and hosting campus communities.

This is to advise all California Tech Trek teams that the results of our recent surveys were presented to the AAUW California Board of Directors at their April 18, 2020 meeting.

The Board reviewed and accepted the survey results and reached the majority decision that 2020 students shall not attend the 2021 camps.

We understand many branches will be disappointed by these results, and we encourage every branch to honor your students in an appropriate way when the time is right.

Please continue to read the monthly Board to Board leadership communication, as we will provide ongoing Tech Trek updates and information. Thank you all for your participation in the decision-making process. We look forward to working with you as we begin planning for a successful 2021 season.

We thank our many branch members, school affiliates, camp leaders, and the remarkable girls who worked so hard in anticipation of the 2020 camp season. None of us could have predicted the enormous impact the COVID-19 pandemic would have on our families, communities and social interactions.

We thank you for your continued dedication and commitment to the AAUW California Tech Trek Program and the 7th-grade students that it serves.

If you have questions or comments, please contact us at techtrek@aauw-ca.org.

Alice Hill and Susan Negrete, AAUW California Tech Trek Co-Coordinators

Will Sponsor Money Be Returned?

The 2020 corporate sponsorships were contributed to the program through EPC and not tied to individual campers. Funds can be carried over to camps and camperships for 2021.

What is the Biggest Concern for 2021?

Branches need to prioritize their fundraising efforts and continue building on relationships with corporate sponsors. The economic impact of the pandemic will change budgets for 2021 and beyond.

office or voting.
pate in all AAUW activities except for holding
that degree, a student affiliate may partici-
qualified institution. Until graduating with
for anyone now studying for a degree at a
Student affiliate status in AAUW is available
a regionally accredited college or university,
who hold an associates or higher degree from
AAUW offers membership to all graduates

Membership

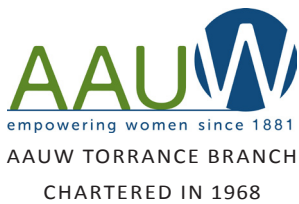
orientation or socioeconomic status.
national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual
gender, gender identity, geographic location,
nation on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity,
no barriers to full participation in this organi-
seeks a diverse membership. There shall be
in principle and in practice, AAUW values and

Diversity Statement

The purpose of AAUW is to advance gender
equity for women and girls through research,
education, and advocacy.

Mission Statement

PO Box 1392
Torrance, CA 90505



Friday, May 15
Diversity Book Group via Zoom
5:30 pm

Wednesday, May 20
Branch Meeting via Zoom
7:00 pm

Thursday, May 28
Film Group, contact Peggy



*AAUW is 2018 United Nations Global
Citizen Award winner*

Be a Virtual Advocate Today!

#WorkSmart #StartSmart

“Men, their rights, and nothing more;
women, their rights, and nothing less.”

— Susan B. Anthony



Read more: <https://www.google.com/doodles/susan-b-anthonys-200th-birthday>