



Torrance Branch Leadership

Alice Matthews, President
Keri Gilbert, Finance Officer
Lydia McCarver, Secretary
Cami Hamilton & Suzanne Siney
Program Co-VPs

Committee Leadership

Peggy Monga, EPC
Cami Hamilton, Telegram Editor
Michele Croci, Public Policy
Janet Flynn, Telegram Mailing
Ann DuPuy, Webmaster
Keri Gilbert, Digital Communications
AAUW Funds VP, *Open*
Membership VP: *Open*

Interest Group Leadership

Peggy Monga, Educational Partnership Committee (EPC) and Film Group
Susan Negrete, Women in Transition (WIT)
Lydia McCarver, Diversity Book Group
Donna Trimmingham, Evening Literature Group
Out & About, *Open*

President's Message from Alice Matthews

On June 20, we had a branch meeting to thank the current officers of our branch and install the new officers for the 2020-2022 period. First, I want to thank those who served in the past year who have passed on their batons. First and foremost to Keri Gilbert who stepped in last year to take on the role as President. This past year has not been an easy task with the pandemic and quarantining of our members. I also want to thank Nancy Kenney for her many years of service as the Secretary and Gloria Liu for her many contributions to the branch, and her great job of keeping the AAUW Fund in our minds. Others behind the scenes that are equally important are Elle Oliver, Michele Freck, Janice Pomerantz, Peggy Monga, Ann DuPuy, Pat Arnett, Pat Carroll, and Cami Hamilton. Cami has held many hats – including Membership, newsletter – and will be taking on the role as Co-VP of Programing. Please take time to thank each of these ladies for their willingness to serve in 2020-2022 term.

2020 has been a trying year for all — with meetings, fund raisers, businesses and restaurants all closing during the pandemic. It does not show any sign of fully going back to “normal” anytime soon. Most of the interest groups have morphed into virtual meetings on Zoom, so please check those out.

A couple of ideas discussed in our Branch Zoom meeting include: a Phone Tree and a Birthday List. The phone tree is intended to make sure that our members who are sheltering-in-place alone are safe and have access to what they need. The birthday list (month and day) would be posted in the Telegram on a monthly basis so members can send birthday wishes each month. Someone will be reaching out to you to get that information. Feel free to contact me with your information or let me know if you would like to *not* to participate.

~ Alice Matthews

2021



○ SAVE THE DATE ○

Branch Planning Meeting
on Sunday, July 19 at 10:00 am
via Zoom • RSVP to Alice Matthews

Educational Partnership Committee

by Margot Sullivan

Although there will be no Tech Trek Camps on college campuses this summer, ideas are being exchanged to provide some virtual STEM experiences to the campers.

UCSD Tech Trek Director Mary Isaac, in partnership with Qualcomm, the Society of Women Engineers and Laguna Beach AAUW, are sponsoring a virtual robotics camp that will be held for a week in August. Forty campers were selected by lottery after going through an application process and happily three of our six UCSD girls were selected. It sounds like an excellent and very involved program where the girls will create a robotic hat using Arduino technology.

TTAG members are working on the possibility of Tech Trek camp teachers offering some virtual versions of their classes. Webinar sites are being sent to campers to provide some STEM education this summer.

AAUW-CA is preparing T-shirts for this year's campers. We are hopeful that, in conjunction with Beach Cities and Palos Verdes Peninsula branches, we will find some ways to celebrate and enrich this year's Tech Trek campers. We welcome your input.

At this time no face to face meetings are planned. Peggy Monga will continue as our Branch Tech Trek Coordinator as well as our EPC chair. We are grateful for her leadership and commitment.

Thank you so much to those of you who added a donation to Tech Trek when you sent in your dues. Michele Freck continues to reach out for funding for next year's campers. As the future of our meetings is still unknown, we will keep you posted on any activities or virtual meetings that we may have.

Wishing you a fun, healthy, and interesting summer!

Update from Financial Officer

by Alice Matthews

The Branch is in good financial shape in spite of not having a fundraiser this year. A budget will be presented to the Board this summer for approval and then the branch will give final approval at the September meeting.

There are 45 renewals of our current 59 Members, which reflects a 76% renewal rate.

Officially your 2021-2020 AAUW membership ends on June 30 when the new fiscal year starts for our Branch. Thank you to all who have already renewed and please encourage those who haven't yet to go ahead and renew. Our branch depends on each and every one of you!

Title IX and Call to Action

In May, the Department of Education issued a long-anticipated but extremely harmful rule designed to substantially weaken Title IX, rolling back important protections for student survivors of sexual harassment and assault. Schools will have to comply beginning August 14, 2020 — but we need your help today to stop the rule from ever going into effect!

Will you write a letter to the editor in support of protecting Title IX?

Letters to the editor (LTE) in local community papers are an especially effective communications and advocacy tool. To assist in this call to action, we have collected resources on writing, key talking points, and background information on Title IX and the proposed rule to inform your work. Use these media outreach tools to correct and clarify facts on the matter, spur news editors to cover the issue, and urge readers to support Title IX.

AAUW advocates were key to the passage of Title IX and we continue to fight today to realize the full promise of the law — take action now and defend students!



AAUW is 2018 United Nations Global
Citizen Award winner

LACIC Update

Our own Kay Odgers is the chair of the Los Angeles County Interbranch Council (LACIC). There are fourteen branches in Los Angeles County and we meet on topics relevant to the county. In March, LACIC held a successful tea, just before shutdowns.

In July, the LACIC Steering Committee will hold their planning meeting and announce plans for the coming year. Updates will be posted on <https://sites.google.com/site/aauwlacic/>

Please call Kay at 310-367-0621 if you want to get involved with LACIC or have questions.

Ever consider entering public service? Even if you can't see yourself running for office, consider helping another woman run. National organizations like AAUW can help you. Connect with the LACIC to learn more.

Both meetings will be held via Zoom and all members are encouraged to join. No driving required!

**Friday, July 17
6:00 pm**

Diversity Book Group

Becoming by Michelle Obama

In her memoir, a work of deep reflection and mesmerizing storytelling, Michelle Obama invites readers into her world, chronicling the experiences that have shaped her—from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago to her years as an executive balancing the demands of motherhood and work, to her time spent at the world's most famous address. With unerring honesty and lively wit, she describes her triumphs and her disappointments, both public and private, telling her full story as she has lived it—in her own words and on her own terms. Warm, wise, and revelatory, *Becoming* is the deeply personal reckoning of a woman of soul and substance who has steadily defied expectations—and whose story inspires us to do the same.

**Wednesday, July 1
7:00 pm**

WIT (Women In Transition) Group

Where Are We Now?

Zoomers and Non-Zoomers: watch for Kathy G.'s information a couple days before the meeting.

Non-Zoomers: See Kathy's Zoom instructions with the call-in number on July 1.

If you have questions, please contact Susan Negrete at 714-402-1322 or susimone@aol.com.

**Friday, August 21
6:00 pm**

Diversity Book Group

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens

In Delia Owens' first novel, the story is set in the 1950s and revolves around a young woman named Kya Clark who is from extremely rural North Carolina. Known by others as the Marsh Girl, she lives alone in nature—but the draw of other people, and specifically love, brings her into contact with the greater world. This novel has a mystery at its core, but it can be read on a variety of levels. There is great nature writing; there is coming of age; and there is literature. *Crawdads* is a story lovingly told—one that takes its time in developing its characters and setting, and in developing the story. You'll want to relax and take your time as well, and when you're done you will want to talk about it with another reader. —Chris Schluep, *Amazon Book Review*

Spend 5 Minutes and Take the Inclusion and Equity Survey

Started in 2018, the Inclusion & Equity Committee is one of AAUW's newest volunteer committees, and they want to hear from you on the best way to inform, support and engage our community. Please take their survey to share your perspective. For a link to the survey, please contact diversity@aauw.org. (article in June *Mission & Action* newsletter)

What have you been up to while sheltering-in-place?

“Walking daily, all along! Would not be sane without my walking buddy.

Swimming daily, once the West End Raquel Club pool opened.

Just got back from Yosemite. A week of solitude, solo walks, the OMG I can’t believe it, strenuous Mist Trail up Nevada Falls. See my photos on Facebook.”

“Recovering from knee replacement now and wishing I could eventually travel. I’m on FB, email and the phone a lot, but nothing as great as human contact.”

“Miss being with friends here.”

“Being able to hug and be with my grandchildren. Theater, eating out. Live book club.”

“Miss eating out, gym and yoga classes, seeing friends.”

“I miss my family this most, my friends as well. Travel, concerts on the pier, the list goes on.”

“I miss having options.”

“Missed getting a haircut most of all.”

“I miss the safe, readily available restrooms. All these precautions we have to take to get armored up before going out is tiring. I miss theater and music events.”

“Going through nine dresser drawers of family photos. We used to process the whole roll, unlike now when we can just delete them from our i-phone or digital camera. The photos are now in three bags; one for each son and one for us.”

“I’ve been doing dishes endlessly and talking on the phone, plus cooking and arranging for groceries. Also tutoring – from my friend on Gmail and Zoom and general computer skills to helping someone improve their English pronunciation.”

“I am working at least 10 hours per day during the shutdown and have not had the chance to get bored — or to do any great home projects that everyone around me is bragging about. I am cooking more than usual, but nothing fancy.”

What do you miss the most from life pre-Pandemic?

“I MISS big events that never happened, like graduations and championships.”

“People and conversations, laughing more, feeling safe enough to go into stores, both to buy and just to wander. Not being able to get an actual doctor’s appt.”

“Gardening, it looks the best ever as neither weeds or grass grows there despite all the wonderful rain — it is a wonderful way to get rid of anger, upset or sadness.

Completed seven face masks for senior citizens in snazzy fabric.

Painted a scene of sailboat competition for my son-in-law, but liked so much we kept it... maybe he will get at our demise.”

“We did a lot of cooking. I got instantly tired of washing pots and pans.”

“Before the pandemic, I went to movies, museums, restaurants and traveled. I miss all of these. Some are starting to reopen; so I am looking forward to that.”

“What a weird several months. With golf courses and the club closed, all my activities and events canceled, including a visit East to see my son, it was difficult sometimes to figure out what day of the week it was. There was Zoom and the Internet to keep in touch, but certainly not the same.”

“Grateful for comfortable surroundings, incredible neighbors who shop for us so we can be safe at home. Beach Cities Health District provides assistance for those who need it.”

“I have tackled a lot more ‘need-to or want-to-do’ projects. Spent more time with my husband.”

What are your take-aways from this four-month lock-down experience?

“Can’t wait for real meetings and outings!”

“I definitely am looking ahead to feel more normal when this virus leaves us (if ever). This has been an unprecedented experience. At times, I felt like I was living in the “twilight zone” and lately, in a war zone. As time went on, I heard less and less “we will get through this together” and “we are in this together.” I believe in “this too shall pass.” I suppose in this case, patience is a virtue.”

“Silver lining: we are communicating and zooming with our out-of-town family more. We’re also probably saving money.

We’re watching way too much TV, binging on a few shows and are looking for recommendations for comedies... the shows we are watching have been a little heavy!”

“Apparently I lied when I said I had projects that would wait until I had the time. They are still waiting.”

“Going out takes practice, remember your mask, find places you feel more or less comfortable, follow the rules, take gloves and hand sanitizer. We need to figure out how to live with this stuff.”

“Different people have different levels of risk assessment. What some would do, even in my age group, is not what I would do. Some of my friends will not travel or go in crowds until the second round of vaccine is out. When the polio vaccine came out, there was not much quality control and they shipped vaccines with live virus, which was administered. Eventually, they got it right.

South Coast Botanic Gardens is open with timed reservations. Huntington Library Gardens is open, gardens only, to members now, and to the public July 1, with timed reservations. Both gardens charge admission, unless you are a member. You can have a Facetime call with several participants.”

“One take away has been to figure out how to manage the vast quantities of information coming at us. I like the email newsletters from the NY And LA Times. They give me a bit more than the headlines so that I can get an overview and then decide which rabbit holes to go down.”

“I highly recommend meditation.

We tend to become uptight and anxious being alone. Take the opportunity to begin to understand the peace of silence. Start slowly. Give yourself at least ten minutes. After you relax, calm down with three deep breaths (in for a count of 4, out for a count of 5, hold for 2,). It sometimes takes multiple breaths to get the routine down. Don’t give up. It’s the concentration on the breath that relaxes your monkey brain and allows you the stop thinking.”

“We have rediscovered badminton and yard darts during this quarantine – fun for our grandkids.

The ease of ordering online and using pickup. Grocery stores have these available for use.”

“Stay strong and carry on, perhaps with an ice cream cone instead of tea.”

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

Membership

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

Diversity Statement

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

Mission Statement

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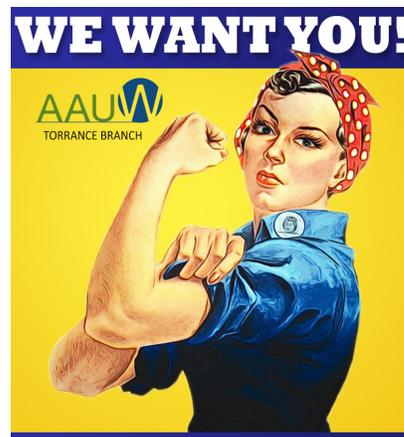
Wednesday, July 1
WIT Meeting

Friday, July 17
Diversity Book Group

Sunday, July 19
Branch Planning Meeting • Zoom
RSVP to Alice Matthews

Friday, August 21
Diversity Book Group

Have a Great Summer!
Stay Safe. Be Well.



Renewals

Thank you to those who have already renewed your membership! – it is greatly appreciated. The last few renewals still outstanding that we hope to see come in this summer — online or by sending a check.