



AAUW TORRANCE BRANCH  
CHARTERED IN 1968

# Torrance Telegram

JANUARY 2022

PO Box 1392, Torrance, CA 90505 | <http://torrance-ca.aauw.net> | [aauwtorrance@gmail.com](mailto:aauwtorrance@gmail.com)

## Gun Violence in America: Myth and Reality

Featuring guest speaker, Josh Sugarmann



**SATURDAY, JANUARY 29 • 2:00 PM**  
**ZOOM MEETING**

**Josh Sugarmann** is an American activist for gun violence prevention in the United States. In 1988, he founded the Violence Policy Center (VPC) [www.vpc.org](http://www.vpc.org), a national non-profit advocacy and educational organization.

A native of Newtown, Connecticut, Josh is the Executive Director of the Violence Policy Center. Prior to establishing the VPC, he served as a press officer in the national office of Amnesty International USA, and the communications director for the National Coalition to Ban Handguns. He is also the author of: [NRA: Money, Firepower & Fear](#) and [Every Handgun is Aimed at You: The Case for Banning Handguns](#).

**All branch members, guests, Tech Trek alumna are invited!**

For more information, contact Gloria Liu.

## President's Message

### Hello Torrance Branch!

Our Holiday Celebration was a huge success! Over 20 of our members attended. Thank you to our gracious hostess! We had a great talk on the Foster Care system and the needs of these institutions. Thank you Keri for making this possible. Thanks also to our generous members who donated **many gifts** for the kids. I wish you could have attended, because due to Omicron spreading quickly, we probably will not have another opportunity to meet face to face until Spring (hopefully).

Thank you to all the members that have continued to participate through Zoom this year. It is not the ideal format but at least allows us to have a somewhat "face to face" interaction. If you have not participated in the past, please consider getting on a Zoom activity in the coming months. It is very easy - just literally click the "Join Zoom" link that is usually in Bold Blue. sent by email. It will automatically take you to the meeting.

Last year Torrance Branch worked together with Beach Cities Branch and our SouthBay TTAG group to provide non perishable goods to the Warrior Pantry at El Camino College. Great news! We accomplished this again in December! In May-June, we will be filling many of our branch positions for 2022-2024 starting in July. If you are interested in serving, please let me know. We have a nominating committee that you can reach out to as well: Gloria Liu, Nancy Kenney, Ann DuPuy and Cami Hamilton. They will be reaching out to you to encourage you to consider filling one of these positions.

Wishing you all a safe and Happy New Year!

— Alice Matthews



**Psst, NOW NOMINATING for Next Year...**

### AAUW Mission Statement

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

### Diversity Statement

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.

### Membership

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.

 **zoom** meeting links sent by email

## Torrance Branch Leadership

Alice Matthews, President

Keri Gilbert, Treasurer

Lydia McCarver, Secretary

Cami Hamilton & Suzanne Siney,  
Program Co-VPs

Peggy Monga & Margot Sullivan, EPC

Cami Hamilton, Telegram Editor

Ann DuPuy, Webmaster

Keri Gilbert, Digital Communications

## Public Policy

by Claire Noonan,  
AAUW California Public Policy

By January 22, 2022, the 49th anniversary of the Roe v Wade decision, SCOTUS (the Supreme Court of the United States) will have heard arguments on Texas SB 8 legislation banning pregnancy termination after six (6) weeks and Mississippi's legislation (Dobbs vs Jackson Women's Health Organization) to ban abortion after fifteen (15) weeks.

What are the issues? For Texas, it isn't about the constitutionality of the legislation, i.e. the fundamental right decided by Roe v Wade. Instead, a decision will be made on the tactics used by the Texas legislature – delegating their enforcement duties to citizens – to preclude lawsuits against the State.

The decision on the Mississippi legislation will be straightforward. One, SCOTUS could overturn Roe v Wade. Two, the court could limit legal standing to challenges on state law, e.g. doctors wouldn't be able to challenge on behalf of patients. Three, new legal standards for the evaluation of abortion regulations may be created so states aren't required to show that the benefits of an abortion ban outweigh the undue burden to patients – reversing Planned Parenthood v Casey. (Women's Health Policy, 11/21/2021)

One hundred six (106) state laws have been passed to restrict abortion in 2021. Activists, like AAUW, are bringing lawsuits before the Supreme Court. AAUW has submitted an amicus brief for Whole Women's Health v Dobbs as to the constitutionality of the Mississippi law.

In addition, the ACLU and others have brought lawsuits against other Mississippi abortion-related legislation like regulations for informed consent, a waiting period before the procedure, and ban on telemedicine visits.

Surveys show that 60-70% of Americans approve of abortion in all or most circumstances. Only 20% think abortion should be illegal in all circumstances. (New York Times, Upshot (5/19/2021). AAUW and AAUW California stand with the majority, and the time to act is now. We must pressure the Senate to pass the Women's Health Protection Act. The legislation must become law in this session. Unfair changes in representation have occurred with redistricting. Voters in the 2022 mid-term elections who would elect representatives who would vote for this bill could be suppressed.

Detailed information on the current position for women's reproductive health is available from the Guttmacher Institute [www.guttmacher.org](http://www.guttmacher.org).



## In Remembrance

“Sarah Weddington, Who Successfully Argued Roe v Wade, Dies at 76” | NYTimes article

“I thought, over a period of time, that the right of a woman to make a decision about what she would do in a particular pregnancy would be accepted,” she added, “that by this time, the 30th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the controversy over abortion would have gradually faded away like the closing scenes of a movie and we could go on to other issues.

“I was wrong.”

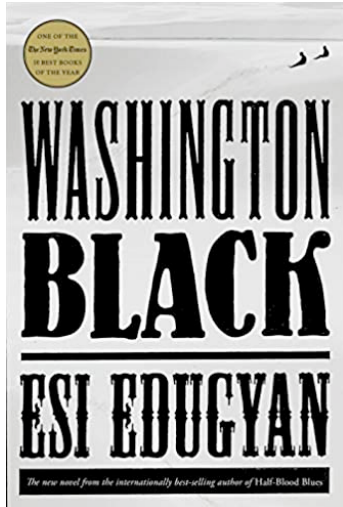
<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/12/27/us/politics/sarah-weddington-dead.html>

## Women In Transition (WIT)

Wednesday, January 5 @7:00p, via Zoom  
by Susan Negrete

This confirms that our first WIT meeting of the year will be on Zoom...and we'll play it by ear from month-to-month on whether our meetings will pivot between virtual/in-person based on the COVID status and weather reports. Please bring your thoughts, ideas or suggestions for how we can improve or adjust WIT meetings to better suit our participants. We'll also review our membership and birthday lists. We look forward to seeing you in a safe environment. In the meantime, we hope everyone remains safe and well.

Non-Zoomers: You can dial in, listen and participate!  
For meeting questions contact Susan: 714.402.1322



## Diversity Book Group

Friday, January 21 @6:30p, via Zoom

Washington Black by Esi Edugyan

Washington Black, a young field slave, is initiated by an eccentric new master Christopher “Titch” Wilde, into a world where a flying machine can carry a man across the sky; where two people, separated by an impossible divide, might begin to see each other as human; and where a boy born in chains can embrace a life of dignity and meaning. But when a man is killed and a bounty is placed on Wash’s head, Titch abandons everything to save him. A story of friendship and betrayal, love and redemption, of a world destroyed and made whole again.

RSVP to Lydia McCarver to receive Zoom link.

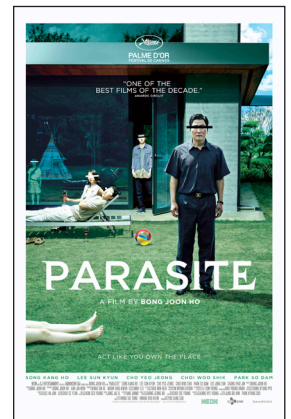
## Film Group

Tuesday, January 11 @4:00p, via Zoom

**Crazy Rich Asians** (2018) Native New Yorker Rachel Chu accompanies her longtime boyfriend, Nick Young, to his best friend’s wedding in Singapore. Excited about visiting Asia for the first time but nervous about meeting Nick’s family, Rachel is unprepared to learn that Nick has neglected to mention a few key details about his life. It turns out that he is not only the scion of one of the country’s wealthiest families but also one of its most sought-after bachelors.



**Parasite** (2019) Kim Ki-teak’s family are all unemployed and living in a squalid basement. When his son gets a tutoring job at the lavish home of the Park family, the Kim family’s luck changes. One by one they gradually infiltrate the wealthy Park’s home, attempting to take over their affluent lifestyle.



In a historic Oscar night, Parasite won four of the six Academy Awards it was nominated for, and became the first foreign language film named as Best Picture. Contact Susan Helm or [glb7891@gmail.com](mailto:glb7891@gmail.com) for Zoom link to attend.

Film selections are typically available at Torrance, Redondo, and PV libraries as well as streaming services.

## Evening (Afternoon) Literature

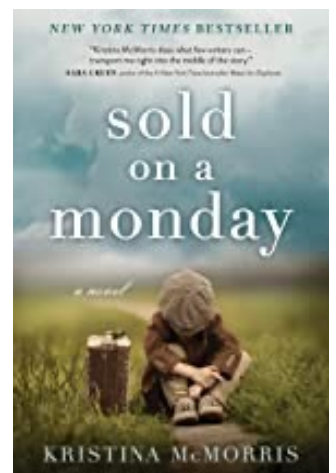
Tuesday, January 25 @2:00p, via Zoom

Sold on a Monday by Kristina McMorris

“2 CHILDREN FOR SALE.” The sign sits on a farmhouse porch in 1931, but could be found anywhere in an era of breadlines, bank runs and broken dreams. For struggling reporter Ellis Reed, the gut-wrenching scene evokes memories of his family’s dark past. He snaps a photograph of the children, not meant for publication. But when it leads to his big break, the consequences are more devastating than he ever imagined. Inspired by an actual newspaper photograph that stunned the nation.

Coming in February: How Much of These Hills is Gold by C. Pam Zheng, 2020

Contact [glb7891@gmail.com](mailto:glb7891@gmail.com) by January 15 for Zoom link to attend.



## Educational Partnership Committee

Thursday, January 13 @6:30p, via Zoom

by Peggy Monga

Thank you to Gloria Liu for hosting our Dec 9 EPC Zoom session. We have received no further communications from State regarding camp locations, costs or dates. Also, we have not received the usual MOU and Code of Conduct materials that we are required to sign. I expect that January will be a scramble to get these done. And there has been no word on what on-line system will be used. Nevertheless, I have updated a previous nomination form, adding emails for student and parent, and sent it out to our schools. I included a previous Teacher Flyer that details our requirements for selecting Tech Trek nominees. We need to get our process started!

### 2022 Tech Trek

#### Preliminary Timeline:

- Dec 12 Nomination requests were sent to participating schools
- Jan 5 Nominations due from TUSD schools
- Jan 13 Nominations due from LAUSD schools  
Update Application materials when State forms are available
- Jan 17-28 Arrange and complete Zoom School Buddy meetings with nominees
- Jan 17-28 Distribute printed application forms to schools to give to nominees
- Feb 18 Applications due  
Teacher Recommendations due
- Week of March 7 Readers collect materials for their schools
- March 16 Rankings due
- March 18 Assign campers to camps, notify camps, notify State as required

These dates are subject to change for any due dates that State may establish.

### School Buddies Needed

So what I need now are SCHOOL BUDDY volunteers! We have only seven schools to go to, and as I stated last month, I expect that these will be Zoom sessions,

to be arranged with each school, or even 2 schools at a time. These meetings would be between Jan 17 and 28, so let me know if you can do this. The timing of these meetings is open to the convenience of the School Buddy and school. I expect these meetings to be 30-45 minutes max. You do not need to be able to host a zoom meeting yourself. In addition, each SB will deliver the Application materials to the school to distribute to the nominees.

### Readers Needed

After that, we will need READERS! Let me know if you can read during the March 7-16 timeframe. Our reading process and evaluation methods have not changed. Many branch members like to do this part and contribute to our efforts to send girls to Tech Trek!

Contact Peggy at [filmgroup@earthlink.net](mailto:filmgroup@earthlink.net) as soon as possible.

### TTAG Food Drive

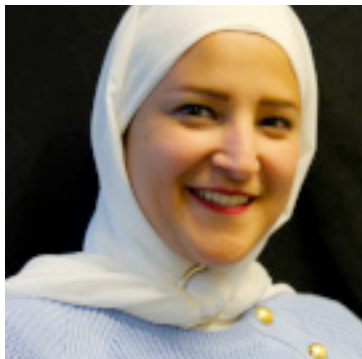
by Alice Matthews

The Food Pantry Pick up went really well. My entire car was filled up including my front seat. Thanks to all who contributed.

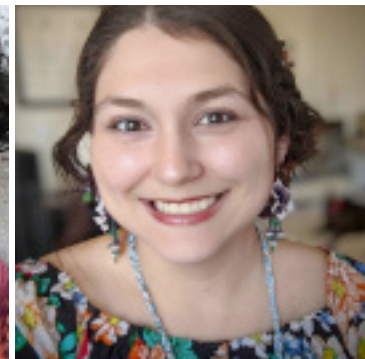
**NOTE:** I will continue to pick up donations until January 10 and will deliver the items to El Camino Warrior Food Pantry. You can drop off any contributions at Keri Gilbert's house. If you need me to pick them up let me know.

Eunice Hargrove, in action, delivering the donated goods.





**Gun Violence:  
Myth and Reality  
Jan 29  
Zoom Mtg**



**Wednesday, January 5 @7:00p  
WIT Group**

**Tuesday, January 11 @4:00p  
Film Group**

**Thursday, January 13 @6:30p  
EPC**

**January 15 –Telegram Articles Due**

**Friday, January 21 @6:30p  
Diversity Book Group**

**Tuesday, January 25 @2:00p  
Evening (Afternoon) Literature**

**Saturday, January 29 @2:00p  
Gun Violence: Myth and Reality  
Featured Speaker via Zoom**

### January Bdays

Indrani Chatterjee	Jan 27
Pat Arnett	Jan 31
Karen Hassen	Jan 31

## Monthly Programs In Progress for 2021-2022

After a lengthy and fun planning meeting during the summer, the dates of proposed programs have been identified for 2021-2022 year. Care was taken to not hold meetings *only* on Saturdays, per the request of members who reserve that time for religious observance. No weekday programs will be held during standard working hours, per the schedules of our working members. The programs will be a mix of in-person (vaccinated attendance) and Zoom gatherings. ALL MEMBERS are warmly encouraged to attend and invite guests.

### 2021

Sun 9/19	1:00 pm	Columbia Park, Welcome Back Picnic
Wed 11/10	6:30 pm	Beach Cities program on Zoom
Sun 12/19	2:00 pm	Holiday Party hosted by Judy Hill

### 2022

Sat 1/29	2:00pm	Featured Speaker, Violence Policy Center
Wed 2/16	6:30 pm	TBD
Sat 3/19	9:30 am	Madrona Marsh Spring Bloom tour with <b>Karen Peters</b> , RSVP required
Sun 4/24	2:00 pm	TBD
Fri 5/6	4:00 pm	Restaurant TBA, Happy Hour, <i>Seis de Mayo</i>
Sat 6/11	9:30 am	Depot Restaurant, Installation brunch

## Find Out More

<https://torrance-ca.aauw.net/calendar/> • [www.aauw-ca.org/public-policy/](http://www.aauw-ca.org/public-policy/)

[www.aauw.org/resources/news/media/](http://www.aauw.org/resources/news/media/) • [www.aauw.org/resources/programs/tech-trek/](http://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/tech-trek/)



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**2021-2022**

**We Rise By Lifting Others Together**