



AAUW TORRANCE BRANCH
CHARTERED IN 1968

Torrance Telegram

FEBRUARY 2022

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Preserving the History: Japanese Farming of the Palos Verdes Peninsula and Greater South Bay

INFORMATION OFFICE TURN IN
PALOS VERDES ESTATES



**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26 • 10:00 AM
ZOOM MEETING**

Join us for a joint AAUW Torrance and Palos Verdes Library District (PVLD) program with presentations on the Japanese farming history of the Palos Verdes Peninsula and efforts to preserve the broader history of Japanese agriculture in the South Bay region.

Featured guest speakers include PVLD's Archivist and Local History Librarian, Monique Sugimoto, and Greg Williams, Director of the Gerth Archives and Special Collections at California State University, Dominguez Hills and lead on the Japanese American Digitization Project, <https://csujad.com>

For additional program information:
contact Monique Sugimoto at 310-377-9584 ext 213 or msugimoto@pvld.org

**GUESTS OF PVLD AND AAUW WELCOME
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**



President's Message

Hello Torrance Branch!

February is Black Heritage Month - Below is a short synopsis of how this came about historically.

Carter G. Woodson, known as the "Father of Black History," developed Black History Month. Woodson was an author, historian, a Howard University Dean and the second African American to earn a Ph.D. at Harvard University, the first whose parents were enslaved. February was selected because of the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln (Emancipation Proclamation) and Frederick Douglass (Abolitionist, author and orator). In 1976, Black History Month was endorsed by President Gerald Ford and has since been acknowledged by all subsequent Presidents. Woodson believed that we should celebrate the individuals in Black History rather than race: "what we need is not a history of selected races or nations, but the history of the world void of national bias, race hatred and religious prejudice."

Among the trailblazers of history, multicultural California is home to :

Georgia Ann Robinson, 1st woman officer on LAPD



Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, 1st in California legislature

Kamala Harris, 1st woman Vice President

Amanda Gorman, 1st National Youth Poet Laureate

Dorothy Dandridge, 1st Academy Award Best Actress nominee

Paul Williams, award-winning architect, 1st AIA Fellow

Ralph Bunche, 1st Nobel Peace Prize winner

Mary Ellen Pleasant, Civil Rights activist and millionaire investor (1860s)

Biddy Mason, Los Angeles real estate mogul and founder of First AME Church (1850s)

Magic Johnson, athlete, businessman, community leader, HIV/AIDS prevention and safe sex activist

Hopefully, in our lifetime, we will not default to using racial identifiers, Black, Asian, etc., with someone's name when recognizing their accomplishments.

— Alice Matthews

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.

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 Julia Brown, Esq.,
AAUW Board Chair

Did you know that, as an AAUW member, you have the right to comment on any proposed changes to our organization’s bylaws before they are put up for a member vote? As we prepare for AAUW’s national election in the spring, now is the time to share your thoughts! The comment period is open, and we invite members to weigh in through **February 2**, at 5:00 pm EST/2:00pm PST.

The changes recommended by the AAUW Board of Directors and AAUW Governance Committee this year would streamline two important organizational functions: nominations for the board and timing for those eligible to vote in AAUW elections.

To learn more about the proposed changes and submit your feedback, please visit the election page on the AAUW website < <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/>>.

We encourage your participation and look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Tech Trek Announcement

by Dianne Owens, AAUW State President

“...I wanted to let you know that the board of directors, made the decision that our Tech Trek program will always include a state-wide virtual camp option with a standardized curriculum. In other words, the board endorsed having a single type of virtual camp instead of versions at each site....

It is not the board’s intention that the virtual option will ever replace our beloved residential camps. But, for 2022, our traditional program will be dependent on campus availability and, of course, the state of the pandemic. We are certainly working hard to host residential camps, but are grateful to have a virtual alternative with a volunteer to direct it.”

Please also see EPC article on page 4.

The Branch Needs You

by Cami Hamilton, Nominating Committee update

“We Don’t Talk About Bruno” with music and lyrics by Lin-Manuel Miranda, is capturing lots of attention these days and but it just doesn’t apply to AAUW Torrance. Let’s Just Talk About It!

Volunteers are needed to step up and serve in branch leadership positions for a two-year term. The new term starts in July. Not the life of glamour but great camaraderie.

Recently, members of the volunteer Nominating Committee have reached out to long-time and new members alike to consider taking on a Board position or co-serve with another member.

We started our search for: Treasurer, Membership Chair, Program Chair, Public Policy Chair, AAUW Fund (fundraising) Chair, Newsletter editor, and Webmaster.

I am proud to report that in our first round of calls, many members have agreed to be nominated, yet the key position still needing candidate(s) is:

→ **President**

Without a President (or co-Presidents) our branch would fold and our legacy of making a difference in the community and the world would close. I’m not ready for that.

Are you ready to talk about it? We need you.

Women In Transition (WIT)

Wednesday, February 2 @7:00p, via Zoom

by Susan Negrete

Topic: Languishing in COVID

Zoom meeting ID, Link & Password: Watch for Susan’s email a few days before the meeting.

Non-Zoomers: You can phone it in, listen and participate! Watch for our Zoom invite and reminders.

For meeting questions contact Susan: 714.402.1322

Non-Zoomers: You can dial in, listen and participate!

For meeting questions contact Susan: 714.402.1322

Educational Partnership Committee

Thursday, February 10 @6:30p, via Zoom

by Peggy Monga

Thank you to Alice Matthews for hosting our Jan 13 EPC Zoom session. Nomination requests were sent and I have received nominations from 6 schools. Sorry to say, Fleming LA has notified us that they will not participate this year.

News from Karen Manelis, State Tech Trek Program Director and Susan Steckclair, AAUW California Financial Liaison in the latest communication as of Jan 27:

“We will be using the SAME PAPERLESS ONLINE PROCESS for the application and selection process that was developed for the virtual camp last year. Once campers are selected, the camp directors will switch over to a new software program that is being implemented in a few weeks...”

Also info on camps and costs:

“The best news is that we now have heard from all the colleges/universities —except Stanford— CSU Fresno, Sonoma State, UC Davis, UC Santa Barbara and Whittier College have all responded YES, we want you on campus in summer 2022! UC San Diego camp staff has made the decision not to have an in-person camp in 2022.” With the prepaid camp fees from 2020 and camp reserves, we think we can keep the sponsorship fees at 2019 levels: \$900 for Fresno and Davis; \$950 for Whittier and \$1,000 for Sonoma, UC-Santa Barbara and Stanford (if they invite us on campus). The virtual camp will be \$500 as it is anticipated that core class offerings will be expanded to include more than just the Qualcomm Thinkabit™ curriculum. Maximum capacity for the virtual camp is anticipated to be 1,000 campers, so should any/all residential camps be canceled, all selected campers can go to the virtual camp if they so choose.”

Branch packets are expected the first week of February. “Rather than having a lot of attachments, you will receive a series of emails with the forms embed. Some reference documents such as the national policies and procedures remain on the AAUW California website.” These will include the Application form which will [reflect] the virtual camp option and clarifies instructions for opting for residential vs virtual. “I believe the Code of Conduct is contained in the national policies and procedures referenced above.”

The MOU is “about to be released to the branches. As last year, the MOU will be in electronic form.” We are

going to have to estimate how many residential and virtual spots we may need.

Previously, our plan was to distribute documents to the schools, and have copies that the School Buddies could show during their Zoom sessions. A second issue from last year was that we could not get good “copies” of the applications for our readers. It was a big task to reduce each of the 65+ 7-page on-line Applications and essay and questions to a 2-page document for our readers. (aarrgh!!)

So our timeline is completely out the window, until we get the proper forms or links and info. Until we do I will not be asking our schools to coordinate Zoom sessions, as they had to do for last year’s virtual teaching.

School Buddy Update

I still need SCHOOL BUDDY volunteers! We have only 6 schools to go to, these will be Zoom sessions, to be arranged with each school, or even 2 schools at a time. It looks like now these meetings will not start until the middle of February. I want names to be able to give the teachers about who will be their contact for a possible Zoom session, 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 maximum. You do not need to be able to host a Zoom meeting yourself. Our schools are: Markham LA, White LA, Casimir, Hull, Bert Lynn and Madrona. Email to Peggy at filmgroup@earthlink.net as soon as possible.

Michele Freck, our Finance person, is sending to our donors some of the wearable tech videos that our girls made for last summer’s virtual camp. We can now say what camps and estimated costs there will be for 2022. Thank you Michele!

***Please see the “Tech Trek Announcement” on page 3**

My comment is that I have no idea how we, the branches, would be able to support both the virtual and in-person camp options. Last year’s virtual camp required a great amount of staff volunteers.

In any case I will keep you posted on the latest developments.

Diversity Book Group

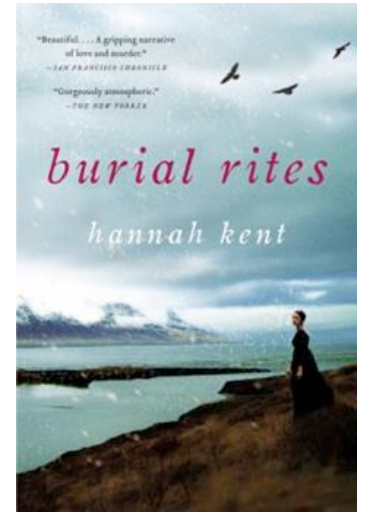
Friday, February 18 @6:30p, via Zoom

Burial Rites by Hannah Kent (2013)

Inspired by a true story: the final days of a young woman accused of murder in Iceland in 1829. Set against Iceland's stark landscape, Hannah Kent brings to vivid life the story of Agnes, who, charged with the brutal murder of her former master, is sent to an isolated farm to await execution.

Horrified at the prospect of housing a convicted murderer, the family at first avoids Agnes. Only Tóti, a priest Agnes has mysteriously chosen to be her spiritual guardian, seeks to understand her. But as Agnes's death looms, the farmer's wife and their daughters learn there is another side to the sensational story they've heard.

RSVP to Lydia McCarver to receive Zoom link.



Film Group

Tuesday, February 8 @4:00p, via Zoom

A Raisin In The Sun (1961) starring Sidney Poitier and Ruby Dee w/Daniel Petrie as director.

Members of an African American family living in a cramped Chicago apartment, in this deeply resonant tale of dreams deferred. Following the death of their patriarch, the Youngers await a \$10,000 life insurance check they hope will change their circumstances, but tensions arise over how best to use the money. Decisions will need to be made on how to best spend the money, from buying a new family home, buying a liquor store or even paying for medical school tuition. While no choice is easy, life on the South Side of Chicago in the 1950s is even harder.



Sidney Poitier

Documentary (1996) 43 mins via YouTube

A 1996 cable TV documentary on the iconic motion picture star.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HsH5f4FCBRg>

Contact Susan Helm or glsb7891@gmail.com for Zoom link to join group meeting.

Film selections typically available at Torrance, Redondo, PV, L.A. County Library Systems as well as streaming services.

Evening (Afternoon) Literature

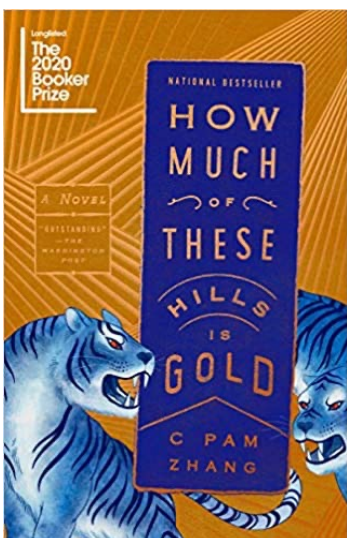
Tuesday, February 22 @2:00p, via TBA (Zoom or backyard)

How Much of These Hills is Gold by C. Pam Zheng (2020)

Both epic and intimate, blending Chinese symbolism and re-imagined history with fiercely original language and storytelling. A haunting adventure story, an unforgettable sibling story, it explores race in an expanding country and the question of where immigrants are allowed to belong. But page by page, it's about the memories that bind and divide families, and the yearning for home.

Contact Betsy Adams or Gloria Liu by February 18 if interested in attending. If it isn't by Zoom, it will be in Alice Matthew's backyard.

Coming March 22 - The Fountains of Silence by Ruta Sepetys (2020)





Welcome New Dual Member LeAnn Roque

I grew up in a small town in Oregon and graduated with a B.S. in Sociology from the University of Oregon. Somewhat later, I got a master's in Public Administration from Cal State Dominguez Hills. Career-wise, I retired from the Los Angeles Community College District as a Financial Aid Director.

I'm currently one of the Co-Chairs for the Palos Verdes Peninsula Branch and I'm enjoying my dual membership with the Torrance branch. Two grown children, David and Debbie, are my main contribution to society and they are the best idea I ever had. Only one grandchild, Alexander, is much loved, of course.

I used to travel a lot (enough said). I enjoy reading and have added Jigsaw puzzles, crosswords, coloring and Zooming to my not-so-busy schedule.



Welcome Returning Member Gloria Abernathy-Lear, PhD

I originally joined AAUW when I moved to Redondo Beach. The social and intellectual opportunities were just what I wanted and needed. I always have been a life-long learner. It was a necessary feature in my adult life, as I always worked while attending college. Even after retirement, I became involved in Olli and Omnilore.

I am retired and love traveling. My last adventures were in 2019: 1) Cuba and 2) Civil Rights Tour which included the Legacy Museum in Montgomery, Alabama. I love watching tennis and football, like attending tennis matches—especially at Indian Wells.

I forgot to add I love visiting museums! I miss jazz outings on Saturdays at The Lighthouse and Fridays at LACMA! Among my favorites are the Walton family's Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, Arkansas and the nearby Eureka Springs community; Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture in DC; and The National Civil Rights Museum, in Memphis, Tennessee.

I was born in St. Louis, Missouri. We moved to Los Angeles in 1951. I attended K-12 LAUSD schools. I completed my undergrad education at Cal Poly Pomona, and moved to Madison, Wisconsin for graduate school. After working in Chicago until I returned to California in 1999. I live in Redondo Beach and consider California my home.

Welcome New Dual Member Janice Cofer

I have been a member of the PVP branch since 2003. I probably consider Palos Verdes Estates to be home because that is where I grew up, but I have lived in Torrance for almost 20 years.

I first joined AAUW years ago, and most years I only joined the national organization since I didn't have time for branch activities until I retired. I was attracted to AAUW because of its focus on supporting women in what we now call STEM. In PVP branch, I have been Secretary, Treasurer, chaired our book group, Eclectic Readers, also the Communications Chair and webmaster.

I feel fortunate to have attended an outstanding liberal arts college where I learned more about how to learn. I began my career as a high school math teacher. I studied computer programming in the late seventies after earning my master's degree in math and became interested in adding computer science to the school curriculum. In addition to all of the career-related learning, I tried to find the time to learn more in other areas. This is much easier now that I have retired.

My hobbies include Ballroom and Swing dancing, travel, bridge, cooking, and reading. You would think we would be really good by now (dancing), but it doesn't seem to work that way. I also do as many as four online Zumba classes a week and an in-person dance exercise class a week. I have been married to my husband Tom for 23 years and have one married son from a previous marriage.

Take 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. AAUW vigorously opposed this change for more than a year but schools will have to comply beginning August 14, 2020. Now we need to work together to stop this rule from ever going into effect.

This is where you come in: Commemorate the 48th anniversary of Title IX on June 23 by writing a letter to the editor!

Letters to the editor and op-eds in local community papers are especially effective communication and advocacy tools. Below we have collected resources on writing, key talking points, and background information on Title IX and the final rule to inform your work. Use these media outreach tools to correct and clarify facts for the public, spur news editors to cover the issue and urge readers to support protecting 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 to defend students!

Write a Letter

Writing a letter to the editor (LTE) or an op-ed is a great way to educate and energize advocates, reach elected officials and spread the word about important issues while calling for change. First, you will need to:

- Research the guidelines for your local paper.
- Find a local angle: Has your paper covered the topic or published an LTE or op-ed yet? Is there a local campus that will have to comply? Do you know a student survivor who is willing to share their story?
- Assume nothing: Do not assume readers know the details about Title IX and be sure to include some concise background on both the topic and proposed changes.
- Avoid sending the same letter to competing papers: Select one to submit to and make sure your work is personalized.
- End with a call to action: Demand that the rule be rescinded.
- Encourage others to do the same.

Making a Difference

Greetings FROM THE CEO: New Year, New Unity

Happy New Year! I'd like to start the year with a huge thank you to everyone who contributed to AAUW's year-end giving campaign. I'm delighted to report that—because of you—our donations far exceeded our largest-ever matching gift of \$75,000 in honor of AAUW's 140th anniversary. The match was made possible through the generosity of AAUW's board, volunteers and staff. Combined with your generosity, we're poised to do great things for women and girls in 2022.

This is also an opportune time to reflect on all we accomplished together in 2021. AAUW's Year in Review highlights the year in activism, research, learning, programs and partnerships. And our shareable 2021 By the Numbers graphic emphasizes the breadth of our efforts, from four new research reports to \$5 million in educational funding to women scholars and community projects. Never doubt the difference you're making!

Sincerely,

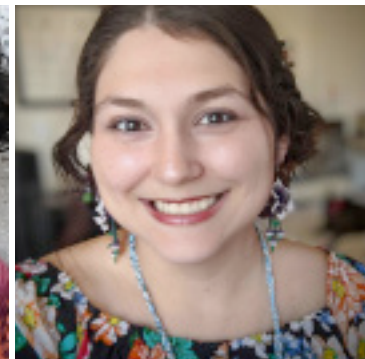
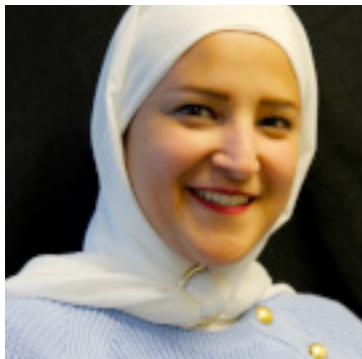
Gloria L. Blackwell
Chief Executive Officer

AAUW Anniversary

AAUW's 140th Anniversary Celebration: Relive the Magic

In November, we held a truly special celebration to honor AAUW's 140th Anniversary. If you weren't able to attend, you can access the recording online. We hope you're as inspired as we were by 2021 AAUW Alumnae Recognition Awardee Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, director-general of the World Trade Organization and one of Time magazine's 100 most influential people of 2021.

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/140-anniversary/?emci=7bef2fce-5a79-ec11-94f6-c896650d4442&emdi=b9b78b35-0e7a-ec11-94f6-c896650d4442&ceid=941716#video>



Wednesday, February 2 @7:00p
WIT Group

Tuesday, February 8 @4:00p
Film Group

Thursday, February 10 @6:30p
EPC

February 14 –Telegram Articles Due
Happy Valentine’s Day!

Friday, February 18 @6:30p
Diversity Book Group

Tuesday, February 22 @2:00p
Evening (Afternoon) Literature

Saturday, February 26 @10:00a
Preserving History: Japanese
Farming in PV Peninsula

February Bdays

Elle Oliver	Feb 17
Margot Sullivan	Feb 17
Donna Larrivee	Feb 18
Jessica Hassen	Feb 20

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	2:00 pm	Josh Sugarmann, Violence Policy Center
Sat 2/26	10:00 am	Preserving Japanese Farming in PV Peninsula
Sat 3/19	9:30 am	Madrona Marsh Spring Bloom tour with Karen Peters , 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

 **zoom** meeting links sent by email

Find Out More

<https://torrance-ca.aauw.net/calendar/> • www.aauw-ca.org/public-policy/

www.aauw.org/resources/news/media/ • www.aauw.org/resources/programs/tech-trek/



AAUW TORRANCE BRANCH
CHARTERED IN 1968

2021-2022

We Rise By Lifting Others Together