



Torrance Telegram

SEPTEMBER 2022

AAUW TORRANCE BRANCH
CHARTERED IN 1968
PO Box 1392, Torrance, CA 90505 |
<http://torrance-ca.aauw.net> | aauwtorrance@gmail.com

Save the Date!

Welcome Back Celebration

Sunday, September 18

Time: 2 p.m.

Location: Torrance Airport Meeting Room

3301 Airport Drive, Torrance, CA 90505



Come, see old and new friends, and hear all about the programs, events and branch activities for 2022-2023!

Join us for a fun, informative Sunday afternoon gathering as we launch a new program year for the branch.

Refreshments will be provided.

Please feel free to invite guests!

RSVP to Judi Gerber, judiwrites@aol.com.



Torrance Telegram September 2022

President's Message

Hello Torrance Branch!

Welcome back Torrance Branch members to the new year 2022-2023!

See the cover of this month's Telegram detailing our Welcome Back Social on Sunday, September 18.

You do not want to miss meeting new members and returning ones, too. And please feel free to invite guests.

I hope to see many of you there.

Thank you to all the members who came to the August planning meeting at shady Paradise Park. It was a great gathering that helped us plan dates and programs to enjoy together as a branch this year.



It takes a lot of planning and time to put together interest groups, branch programs, and events. I want to thank everyone for the great ideas and hard work in putting it all together. But, there is still more work to be done and opportunities to get involved.

Our current open positions include the Telegram Editor/Branch Directory, Social Media and DEI, and at the end of October, Tech Trek Coordinator, as Peggy is stepping down. I hope you will consider getting involved and help our branch continue to move forward.

Judi Gerber

2022-20223 Branch Leadership

BOARD MEMBERS:

Judi Gerber, President

Gloria Liu, Finance

Lydia McCarver, Secretary

Cami Hamilton & Ann DuPuy, Program Co-VPs

Nancy Kenney & Alice Matthews, Membership Co-VPs

Additional Leadership Roles

Peggy Monga & Margot Sullivan, EPC

Keri Gilbert, Digital Communications

Indrani Chatterjee, AAUW Fund

Isabel Rodriguez, Public Policy

Gloria Liu & Alice Matthews, TTAG Advisors

AAUW Mission Statement

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

Diversity Statement

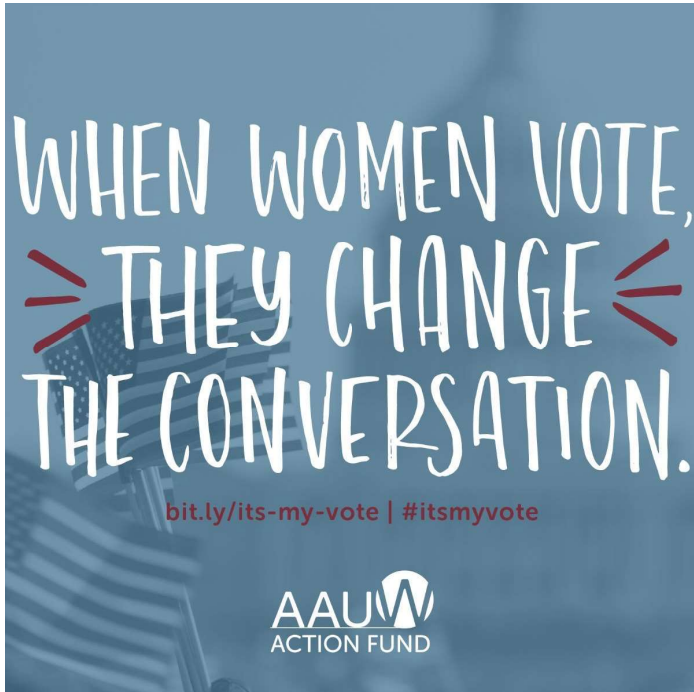
In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographic location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation or socioeconomic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



Public Policy



From AAUW CA

When Women Vote, We Change the Conversation!

Since 1881, AAUW has been a leading voice promoting education and equity for women and girls. AAUW encourages women voters to get involved in the political process and gain a better understanding of the impact legislative action can have on our lives.

The recent US Supreme Court Dobbs decision on abortion has stimulated action in many states across the nation, including California. Our legislature passed and Governor Newsom signed AB1666 which will enable a woman coming into California to receive an abortion to be protected from lawsuits originating in her home state. This bill was co-sponsored by AAUW CA! A further step protecting a woman’s right to make personal medical decisions is a Constitutional Amendment, Proposition 1, which will be on the November 8 ballot. It would amend the California Constitution to prohibit the state from denying or interfering with an individual’s reproductive freedom

in her most intimate decisions, which includes the fundamental right to choose to have an abortion and the fundamental right to choose or refuse contraceptives. AAUW CA supports this Constitutional Amendment.

Congressional races are particularly important this November. Redistricting after the 2020 Census has changed the boundaries of many Congressional districts. In the current partisan climate, we need to be aware of what is at stake in both our national and state upcoming elections. Your current member of Congress may no longer represent you – be sure to become informed soon on the candidates for Congress in your district. As you sort through all this, please reflect on priority issues affecting us and our daughters and granddaughters and evaluate candidates’ positions on these issues.

Here are resources to get helpful, non-partisan information:

AAUW CA website: aauw-ca.org. The Public Policy section will soon have more detail on priority issues and questions to ask of candidates.

AAUW website: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/advocacy-toolkit/> Ideas for branch activities, C/U partners and specifics for 501(c)3 and 501(c)4 branches.

CA Secretary of State website: <https://voterguide.sos.ca.gov/>.

State and County Voter Guides – mailed to all registered voters in October.

www.wedrawthelinesca.org – find maps of newly redrawn congressional districts.

Register to vote, if you haven’t already done so! And if you have recently moved, you need to update your information with your County Registrar of Voters. Voting is a powerful tool to bring about change.



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Membership Alice Matthews and Nancy Kenney – Co-VPs Membership

The initial 2022-2023 Membership Drive has been successful in acquiring renewing, dual and new members totaling 56 Torrance branch members. We are pleased to welcome new members: **Carol Gentry** and **Marion Joy**, as well as returning members **Bea Savellano** and **Kathleen Yip**. We also welcome our Dual members - **Fran Brown, Janice Cofer, LeAnn Roque, Jann Segal, Dayla Sims, Jina Wakimoto and Mary Watson**.

Thank you all for patiently working through the new computer program in order to achieve this. It has been somewhat challenging but is constantly being updated to correct some of the glitches and hopefully next year it will be a much smoother, more user-friendly process. We want to personally thank **Gloria Liu and Keri Gilbert** for their tireless persistence in trying to understand the system and get all renewals entered into the computer. It has been difficult because of the new renewal system - and it had a bumpy rollout. **Gloria** joined several very long calls to address our Branch issues. Please continue to look for other candidates to join our dynamic group and be sure to encourage them to join our branch. If you have any questions or need any help with membership, please don't hesitate to reach out. Nancy, Gloria or Alice will be happy to help!

Programs Cami Hamilton and Ann DuPuy - Co-VPs Programs

We've set out this year to create a monthly program offering that starts to return to in-person gatherings at the Torrance Airport Meeting Room while still opting for the convenience of Zoom on occasion, that includes more days of the week instead of just Saturday mornings, that reflects our mission and our interests and that offers inspiration to Cultivate and Grow.

Look forward to some featured presentations by Music Heals Minds founder Nandani Sinha in January, journalist and quilter Susan Bullington Katz on March 18 or 19, a Fundraising event for April which is now in the planning stages, the welcome return of Tech Trek Night in October, the election-year Ballot Review (with Nancy Mahr of LACIC), the annual Holiday Party on Wednesday, December 7 and the Installation Brunch on Saturday, June 10 at The Depot Restaurant.

We look forward to seeing you for a Welcome Back Gathering on Sunday, September 18 at 2:00 pm, scheduled for the Torrance Airport Meeting Room. Calling on all group leaders to be on hand to share what your plans are for the year.

One new dimension of monthly programs we are working out is offering group volunteering activities. This would be a great way to offer prospective new members and new graduates a chance to get to know us better by working alongside us. Volunteering opportunities (such as planting and gardening) are being considered AND we are always open to your suggestions. Please feel free to reach out to Ann or Cami and introduce yourself or find out more about planned programs.



WIT (Women in Transition)

Wednesday, September 7 on Zoom 7:00-8:30 pm
Feminist Organizations and Internal Struggles Over Choice
(RSVP to Susan Negrete 714.402.1322)
Meeting Location: Via Zoom

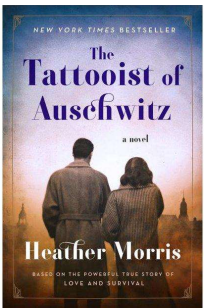
Start Smart

Elle Oliver will be facilitating the Start Smart workshop for the students at CSUDH as part of Michael Grimshaw’s Ei Speaker series on Tuesday, October 25. We will offer the workshop in three sessions, 4:00-5:00, 5:30-6:30 and 7:00-8:00 pm. Elle requests volunteers from AAUW Torrance to join her and help students participate in the exercises.

Please let Elle know so she can arrange carpooling. Call Elle with questions: 310-567-5018.

Diversity Book Group

Friday, September 16 @6:30 p.m. Meeting Location: Judy Hill’s home. RSVP to Lydia McCarver.
lydiaemcbh@yahoo.com



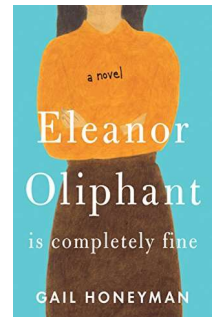
The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris, 288 p. In April 1942, Lale Sokolov, a Slovakian Jew, was forcibly transported to the concentration camp at Auschwitz. When his captors discover that he speaks several languages, he is put to work as a tattooist, tasked with permanently marking his fellow prisoners...an unforgettable story in the midst of atrocity.

Afternoon Literature

Meets fourth Monday of each month, 2:00 p.m. contact Betsy Adams for location at seamath@cox.net.
NOTE: Day and date change for September due to Rosh Hashanah

The recently renamed “Afternoon Literature Group” will meet on Thursday, September 29 at 2 p.m. at the home of Eunice Hargrove. The discussion book is *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman.

Soon to be a major motion picture produced by Reese Witherspoon, *Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine* is the smart, warm and uplifting story of an out-of-the-ordinary heroine whose deadpan weirdness and unconscious wit make for an irresistible journey as she realizes much about herself. All AAUW members are welcome to come for a discussion led by Gloria Liu. Please RSVP to Eunice.





Film Group

Meets second Tuesday of each month, Tuesday, September 13, 4:00 p.m.

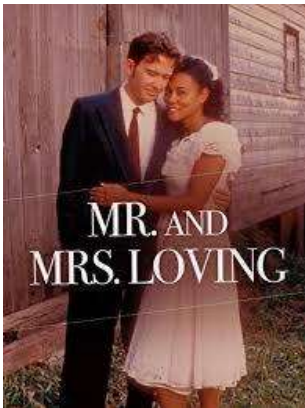
Watch the movies in the comfort of your home and then gather for discussion and light refreshments at our Film Group meeting.

Location: Margot Sullivan’s home. If you plan to attend, RSVP to Susanfhelm@gmail.com.

Pinky is a 1949 American drama directed by Elia Kazan and produced by Darryl F. Zanuck. The screenplay was based on Cid Ricketts Sumner’s 1946 novel *Quality*. It stars Jeanne Crain as the title character as a young light-skinned black woman who passes for white. It also stars Ethel Barrymore, Ethel Waters and William Lundigan. *Pinky* was released in the United States on September 29, 1949 by 20th Century Fox. It generated considerable controversy because of its subject of race relations and the casting of Crain to play a black woman. It was nonetheless a critical and commercial success and earned Crain, Barrymore and Waters Academy Award nominations



Pinky can be viewed on YouTube, Amazon Prime, VUDU, Apple TV or Vudu Movie & TV Store on your Roku device.



Mr. and Mrs Loving is a 1996 drama television film that aired on *Showtime*. It is based on a true story but with fictionalized parts. A racially mixed couple live in Virginia which violates the state's miscegenation laws. Arrested on the night of their wedding, Richard Loving [Tim Hutton] and Mildred “Bean” Jeter [Lela Rochon] are given the option to either be imprisoned or leave the state. The **Civil Rights Movement** and the fight for their marriage led to their win of the Supreme Court case *Loving v. Virginia*. I was unable to find Mr. & Mrs. Loving (1996) at local libraries nor free on YouTube. It can be viewed at

<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x3axsmh> PART 1 [52MINS]

<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x3axukx> PART 2 [49MINS]

Also available [with a few ads] on Roku Channel,

<https://therokuchannel.roku.com/watch/6f7f02dbac8e59ce8d3fd06947a934f9> 1:45 MINS

Educational Partnership Committee

Thursday, September 8, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

by Peggy Monga

NOTE: I am stepping down from EPC Chair and Branch Coordinator effective October 31, 2022. In order for Tech Trek to continue as part of the Torrance Branch, we need to have a new Chair/Branch Director. If interested, please contact me, Peggy Monga, and our President, Judi Gerber.



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The camps are completed. Our tasks now are to follow up with girls who have not sent in their After-Camp Activities report. We use this report to select topics for the campers to speak on at our annual October Celebration.

We hope to have our in-person Celebration on Tuesday, October 18 in the early evening. This plan is dependent on the school multi-purpose room availability and the willingness of the school to host outside events. Even though we will have roughly half the usual number of campers, it was thought that the large room would allow for ample spacing of the families, educators and sponsors who choose to come.

The next steps are to choose topics for each girl, inform her of the topic and instruct her in making a short speech about her Tech Trek experience. Follow-up is always needed here.

We usually also hand out certificates to the campers. This year the camps are sending out certificates via Camp Site, so we may consider if we want to also issue AAUW Torrance certificates.

We also like to have a Dorm Mom talk about the camps since members, educators and sponsors will not have heard about the on-site experience.

Our audiovisual exhibits at pre-Covid Celebrations included slides of each girl's name, camp and topic which greatly added to the presentations for the audience. We also had a loop of camp photos to show at the beginning and end of the program. In addition, CampSite, the on-line system from State, allows us to access the camp activities and photos taken during the week.

While our preparations are going on, I would like to say that my participation in 2023 Tech Trek will be to tell EPC members and hopefully a new Chair or Co-Chairs what needs to be done at any given time, what I did, how I did it and why I did what I did. But I will limit my activities to sending emails to the School Boards and schools introducing the new team and simultaneously giving the new people all the email addresses and educator names that I used in the initial stages of Tech Trek, usually in October and November. Tech Trek 2023 will include the schools that we did not include in 2022.

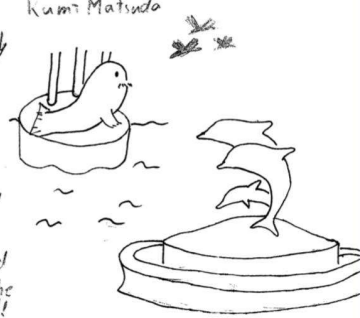
Here are a couple of thank you notes received from Santa Barbara campers:

1) July 24, 2022
Dear Torrance AAUW Branch
Thank you! Tech Trek has been a wonderful, amazing experience. Not only was I able to meet nice and smart friends/peers, but I was also able to make unforgettable memories! From being lost and confused on the first day, to easily being able to maneuver around the campus on a scavenger hunt, camp has been a wonderful experience.
Some of my most cherished memories from Tech Trek include playing Uno with my friends, making a rocket, and doing the group projects. It was the third day of camp and I had already met a lot of peers and made friends. So when night arrived and my friends and I finished preparing for bed, we played Uno! It was an experience in which was so mundane but so precious in some way that made me feel at home. As for creating the rocket, it was a project I did in my class, aerospace. The rocket had to fit around the launcher, snugly and mine got stuck on the top and would come down! It was too tight so I had to get the rocket open vertically, all the way to the top (rocket head), leaving only the outer layer and taped it back together in order to fit. Through this experience, I really had to think fast and act decisively, in order to make my rocket work. Finally, the group projects on a problem and a solution for the future, really made me feel connected with my fellow Tech

2) Treckers. On the second day of working on our project, we had to complete the poster board that would summarize our main points on the project along with pictures. In order to finish in time, our group of eight had to work together, with each person having a different job and things to do. We finished our presentation board and the goodness I felt was amazing! This experience really made me feel like a group and experience teamwork.
All in all, Thank you for sending me to Tech Trek! Through this amazing experience I created cherished memories and forever friends. So Thank you once again for sending me to Tech Trek!
Sincerely,
Rianna Yagy
Rianna Yagy

Thank you! for inviting me to Tech Trek. I really had A LOT of FUN!! The food were good, the rooms were nice and the university students were really nice to us! I enjoyed it so much!!
I had a lot of fun doing my projects. It was fun figuring out the problems, and sharing ideas together! I also had fun on the boat ride! Even though it was really cold, I had so much fun! I was able to see some sealions, dolphins, and the multi-colored oils. It was the best boat trip I've ever had!

Thank you so much for inviting me to this amazing camp! Appreciating this opportunity.
Kumi Matsuda





Tech Trek Alumnae Group (TTAG)

Gloria Liu & Alice Matthews

The next Tech Trek Alumni Group (TTAG) event, a West Basin Metropolitan Water District (MWD) water recycling (treatment) plant tour in El Segundo, has been rescheduled for Saturday, September 24, 10-noon. We need one adult companion for each ten girls and possibly help with transportation. If you would like to get involved in TTAG for Torrance girls or accompany / join the girls on this tour, please let Alice Matthews or Gloria Liu know.

Gloria Liu and Alice Matthews are Adult Advisors for Torrance Branch for the South Bay TTAG group which is made up of Torrance, Beach Cities and Palos Verdes girls who have completed a Tech Trek Camp. Torrance sent 16 girls to attend the Tech Trek Camps this summer (yay!) and are now eligible to become TTAG members. Around 25 TTAG members attended the summer picnic in August. The picnic was the first time in two years the girls got to meet face to face and interact. If you would like to get involved with the girls that Torrance sent to Tech Trek, please let Alice or Gloria know. You get to see the girls bloom during their high school journey from eighth graders to college application and admission.

September Birthdays



Kay Odgers- September 1

Mary Watson - September 25

Ann DuPuy - September 27

September Calendar

Wednesday, September 7 @ 6:00 p.m. WIT via Zoom

Thursday, September 8 @ 6:30 p.m. Zoom, EPC

Tuesday, September 13 @ 4:00 p.m. Film Group

Friday, September 16 @ 6:30 p.m. Diversity Literature

Sunday, September 18 @ 2:00 p.m. Branch Welcome Back Celebration

Thursday, September 29 @ 2 p.m. Afternoon Literature

<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/

Cultivate and Grow

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