



# Torrance Telegram

JANUARY 2023

AAUW TORRANCE BRANCH  
CHARTERED IN 1968  
PO Box 1392, Torrance, CA 90505 |

<http://torrance-ca.aauw.net> | [aauwtorrance@gmail.com](mailto:aauwtorrance@gmail.com)

**Wishing You All a Happy New Year!**



**Please join us for our first meeting of the New Year**

**When: January 7, 2023**

**Time: 10 a.m. to Noon**

**Where: Torrance Airport Meeting room**



MUSIC  
HEALS  
MINDS

<https://www.mhmla.org>

## President's Message

As we start 2023, I am now halfway through my first year as President. That makes it a good time to review the last six months and to share what we have planned for the next six (see list of upcoming programs on page 5).

We have a number of programs scheduled for the New Year. The good news is that we are planning to have most of our programs in-person. However, because Covid can still make in-person meetings challenging, be sure to check one of our online resources for the most up-to-date information.

**Visit the Torrance Branch website: <https://torrance-ca.aauw.net/>**

**Want to keep up with branch news but can't wait for the next Telegram? Want to connect with other branch members more frequently?**

**Visit our new and improved Facebook Page:**



**<https://www.facebook.com/AAUWTorranceBranch>**

Since we do not have a dedicated office or building, I think it is more practical to have our board meetings virtually. Our next board meeting will be on Monday, January 23 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. I hope you can join us.

I look forward to many more activities in the year ahead and to seeing many of you in person!

**2022 Highlights** - While we were still navigating the difficulties of Covid 19, we were fortunate to have several in-person events. Here are some highlights from the last half of 2022.

### **Planning Meeting, August 14, 2022**

Twelve members attended our annual Planning Meeting at breezy Paradise Park to share their ideas for this year's programs and meetings.



## Welcome Back Brunch, September 18, 2022

Eighteen members attended our Welcome Back brunch to hear board members and interest group leaders share programs and activities planned for the year, including Afternoon Book Group, Diversity Book Group and Film Group.



## Holiday Party, December 7, 2022

Pat Arnett's beautiful Christmas tree surrounded by our members' generous food donations for El Camino College's Warrior Pantry. Many thanks to Pat for opening up her home to host our party.



Pictured (left to right)

Jann Segal, Margot Sullivan, Ann DuPuy, Pat Arnett, Peggy Monga

## Member News

This is a new feature where we share news and information about members.

Have news to share? An event coming up? Need help, support or information? Contact Alice Matthews, Nancy Kenney or Judi Gerber to have it put in the newsletter.

- We want to wish Betsy Adams continued healing from her thumb injury.
- We want to wish Keri Gilbert continued healing and better vision after her cataract surgery.

## Public Policy

### From National AAUW

The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act Passed!

On December 22, 2022, the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (PWFA) passed the U.S. Senate in a bipartisan 73-24 vote as an amendment to the omnibus package. After years of fighting for basic accommodations to protect pregnant workers, we celebrate this momentous win and thank our members and partners for never giving up on a safer future for all workers.

The PWFA will:

- Give pregnant workers access to basic accommodations like carrying a water bottle and taking bathroom breaks.
- Clarify that it is unlawful to discriminate against pregnant workers by forcing them out of their jobs unnecessarily or denying them reasonable accommodations.
- Prohibit employers from retaliating against pregnant workers who request accommodations.

## 2022-2023 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

Karen Hassen & Alice Matthews, EPC

Keri Gilbert, Digital Communications

Indrani Chatterjee, AAUW Fund

Isabel Rodriguez, Public Policy

### 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.

## Programs

Look forward to these programs in-person at the Torrance Airport Community Room:

**Saturday, January 7 @ 10:00 a.m.**

Music Heals Minds ~ <https://www.mhmla.org/>

**Saturday, February 11 @ 10:00 a.m.**

Gender Atheism

**Saturday, March 18 @ 2:00-4:00 p.m.**

Quilting and Technology, For the Love of Sewing

Check out some quilting exhibits in the Los Angeles region before March program:

Skirball Cultural Center

<https://www.skirball.org/exhibitions/fabric-nation-american-quilt-stories>

November 17, 2022 – March 12, 2023

Huntington Library and Gardens

<https://huntington.org/exhibition/gees-bend-shared-legacy>

Sept. 17, 2022 – Sept. 4, 2023

## Film Group

**Meets second Tuesday of each month, Tuesday, January 10 @ 4 p.m. at Ann Dupuy's home.**

Watch the movies in the comfort of your home and then gather for discussion and light refreshments at our Film Group meeting. If you plan to attend, RSVP to [susanfhelm@gmail.com](mailto:susanfhelm@gmail.com). The films selected for January are:

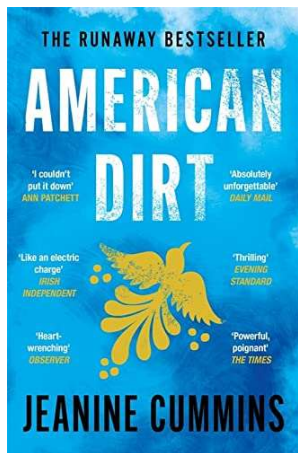
**1941**, a 1979 film by Robert Zemeckis and Bob Gale. The film stars an ensemble cast including Dan Aykroyd, Ned Beatty, John Belushi, John Candy, Christopher Lee, Tim Matheson, Toshiro Mifune, Robert Stack, Nancy Allen, and Mickey Rourke in his film debut. The story involves a panic in the Los Angeles area after the December 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. **1941** can be viewed on Amazon Prime, VUDU and Apple TV and is at Torrance Public Library.



**Dunkirk**, a 2017 war film written, directed and produced by Christopher Nolan that depicts the Dunkirk evacuation of World War II through the perspectives of the land, sea and air. Its ensemble cast includes Fionn Whitehead, Tom Glynn-Carney, Jack Lowden, Harry Styles in his film debut, Aneurin Barnard, James D'Arcy, Barry Keoghan, Kenneth Branagh, Cillian Murphy, Mark Rylance and Tom Hardy. **Dunkirk** can be viewed on Amazon Prime, VUDU, Apple TV and is at Torrance Public Library.



## Diversity Book Group



Friday, January 27, 2023 @6:30 p.m. at Keri Gilbert's home. RSVP to Lydia McCarver at [lydiaemcbh@yahoo.com](mailto:lydiaemcbh@yahoo.com).

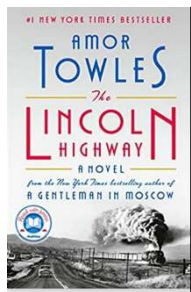
**American Dirt** by Jeanine Cummins.

Lydia Quixano Perez runs a bookstore in the Mexican City of Acapulco until one violent day changes everything. Forced to flee, Lydia and eight-year-old Luca soon find themselves miles and worlds away from their comfortable middle-class existence. Instantly transformed into migrants, Lydia and Luca ride *la bestia* – a train that makes its way north toward the United States, which is the only place they might feel safe. As they join the countless people trying to reach *el norte*, Lydia soon sees that everyone is running from something. But what exactly are they running to?

## Afternoon Literature

Monday, January 23 @ 2 p.m. at Betsy Adams' home. Contact Betsy by January 15 if interested in attending at [seamath@cox.net](mailto:seamath@cox.net). Bring your mask.

**The Lincoln Highway** by Amor Towles.



*The Lincoln Highway* is a 2021 novel about a young man named Emmett Watson who travels from Nebraska to New York City in 1954. *The Lincoln Highway* is a fast paced and reflective adventure story centered on three young men from disparate backgrounds, whose incarceration together in a juvenile detention center brings them together on the outside where conflicting motives and moralities set them on a course for collision across the United States. Set over 10 days beginning on June 12, 1954 with the release of Emmett Watson from Salina Juvenile Detention Center, each of the ten sections of the novel constitutes the proceedings of a single day.

Coming February 27, 2 pm, Donna T. hosts Eunice's discussion of **Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood** by Trevor Noah

## WIT (Women in Transition)

Wednesday, January 4 7 – 8:30 p.m., at Susan Negrete's Home, RSVP to Susan Negrete and for directions/questions at 714-402-1322.

**January Topic: Travels and Holidays Revisited**

**WIT in review:** The majority of 2022 WIT meetings were held on Zoom and we are pleased that each month the meetings were well attended and, as usual, our discussion topics included robust conversation and sidebars. As the year progressed into summer weather, the first in-person meetings were held at local parks. By December, everyone agreed that our annual holiday potluck should be held in person on December 7, 2022. The event was well attended and we caught up on members' yearlong family updates, health events, and travels.



Powered by AAUW California Karen Hassen & Alice Matthews, Co-Directors

**Thursday, January 12, 2023, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., via Zoom, contact Alice Matthews for Zoom link.**

As Submitted by Alice Matthews:

Karen and I have started the process of selecting 22-30 7th grade girls for the 2023 Tech Trek Camps. Based on the EPC recommendation, we have decided to offer the camp sponsorships to all 15 schools we have worked with in the past (prior to Covid). All 15 schools have been contacted requesting five recommendations from each school. The CA State office and Dr. Mimi are starting to release documents needed to complete that process, including spreadsheets, parent flyers, and deadlines. If schools permit, we will try to do in-person interviews. However, due to the rise in Covid and flu cases, as well as a potential reinstatement of mask mandates by LA County, we are planning on setting up multiple ZOOM interviews with the five selected girls from each school, in case they are needed. We still need **VOLUNTEERS** for these activities - Please contact Karen or me if you would be willing to help.

All four residential camps and a Virtual camp will be open this summer - **Whittier: June 18-24; UCSD: June 25-30; UCSB Blackwell: July 16-22; UCSB Hypatia: July 23-29 and a Virtual Camp: July 23-28.** The EPC Committee decided that we would not offer the Virtual option. If you are interested in helping at any of these camps - as either a Dorm Mom, Instructor, Core Class Teacher, etc. - please let us know and we will be happy to help you get information on those positions.

These programs need **YOUR** involvement - Volunteer!



Tech Trek Alumnae Group Gloria Liu and Alice Matthews, Co-Advisors South Bay TTAG

Seventeen TTAG girls (9 from Torrance Branch and 8 from Beach Cities Branch) as well as three TTAG Advisors attended the Sunday afternoon party at the Del Amo Gardens Clubhouse. (Special Thanks to Pam Kenoyer and her sister Paula for the use of the clubhouse.) The girls played "icebreaker" games, munched on snacks while watching the Holiday Comedy "Klaus," and shared conversations about school and their holiday plans. Our co-President, senior Margarita and other Board members did a great job of keeping the conversation flowing. Many young women also brought bags of non-perishable food items to the party to be donated to the El Camino College Warrior Food Pantry.



## El Camino College Warrior Pantry Holiday Initiative

In addition to the TTAG donations to the El Camino College (ECC) Food Pantry, AAUW members from all three local branches donated as well.

On Tuesday, December 14, Alice Matthews and Terry Hays-Horner delivered two carloads and were greeted by Kim Cameron, ECC contact person, and many student volunteers. (See photo below)

The Pantry is open for donations on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10am-2pm. It is closed for Winter break and will reopen on Tuesday, January 10, 2023. Homeless, in-need students and families also pick up food and toiletries on those days. **Thank you all** for your help in making this Holiday Initiative a huge success.





## January Calendar

Wednesday, January 4 @ 7 p.m. WIT Meeting

Saturday, January 7 @ 10 a.m. "Music Heals Minds" Program

Tuesday, January 10 @ 4 p.m. Film Group

Thursday January 12 @ 6:30 p.m. Tech Trek

Monday, January 23 @ 2 p.m. Afternoon Literature

Friday January 27 @ 6:30 p.m. Diversity Book Group

## January Birthdays

Indrani Chatterjee – January 27  
Pat Arnett – January 31  
Karen Hassen – January 31



## 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/)

## Cultivate and Grow

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