



# Torrance Telegram

FEBRUARY 2023

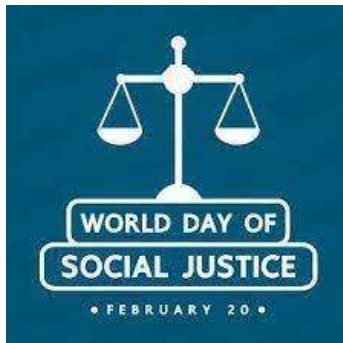
AAUW TORRANCE BRANCH  
CHARTERED IN 1968  
PO Box 1392, Torrance, CA 90505 |

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

## President's Message

Hello Torrance Branch!

February 20 is World Day of Social Justice, a day recognizing the need to promote efforts to tackle issues such as poverty, exclusion/discrimination, and unemployment. The United Nations has observed it on February 20 since 2009. And it is a day that is observed by both AAUW CA and AAUW National.



On its Social Justice [page](#), AAUW CA highlights the need to guarantee equality, individual rights and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society. Part of this is advocating support for United Nations Sustainable Development Goals that address human rights and women's and girls' concerns. To support this goal, AAUW CA advocates for legislative changes, conducts public education and supports and collaborates with other community agencies that do social justice work. supports this goal by

The recognition of World Day of Social Justice is just one example of how we can all work to fulfill AAUW's mission: The purpose of AAUW is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

This is the first in a series of columns I will be doing to highlight what AAUW has done and continues to do to promote this mission and to increase our diversity.

Want to learn more about social justice and why it matters? Here is a link to a webinar given by AAUW National last summer [AAUW Webinar Social Justice: Creating Change](#).

## Member News

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

- Jackie LaBouff is having health concerns and would appreciate your good thoughts and prayers.
- We want to wish Rachel Ambrose a very happy 80<sup>th</sup> birthday! It was in December and we missed acknowledging it then.

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? Then check out our new & improved Facebook page!

Visit our new and improved Facebook Page:



[AAUW Torrance Branch](#)

**Membership** Alice Matthews & Nancy Kenney, Co-VP Membership

## UPDATE: Great News for New Members Joining AAUW!!

New joining members will receive a full 12 months of membership regardless of what month they join. If they join from the 1<sup>st</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup> of a month, that will be their joining month. If they join from the 16<sup>th</sup> through the 31<sup>st</sup> of a month, then the next month will be their starting month.

### Examples:

1. Join Date (1-15): – January 7, 2023  
Membership – January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

2. Join Date (16-31): – January 22, 2023  
Membership – February 1, 2023 – January 31, 2024

So be confident anyone you sign up will receive a full 12-month membership regardless of when they sign up!

**Remember: Growing membership is everyone's job. Why not invite a friend or neighbor to a program or a special interest group?**

## 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, Tech Trek  
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 holding office or voting.

## AAUW California Celebrates Black Women in History for Black History Month

(By Nancy Major, AAUW California Public Policy Committee)

Many Black women have made significant contributions to history, thought, society, innovation, science, government, civil rights, women's rights and much more. For Black History Month, we celebrate the achievements of but a few:



**Sojourner Truth**, a former slave, became an outspoken advocate for abolition, temperance and civil and women's rights (1797-1883).

**Rosa Parks and Claudette Colvin** (age 15) helped Rights movement by refusing to give up their seats to white men on Alabama buses. Their actions resulted in the U.S. Supreme Court ruling segregation was unconstitutional.



initiate the Civil Montgomery, that bus



**Dorothy Jean Dandridge** was an actress, singer and dancer. She was the first African American film star to be nominated for the Academy Award for Best Actress for her performance in *Carmen Jones* (1954).

**Katherine Johnson**, a brilliant mathematician, was one of three integrate West Virginia's graduate schools. Her greatest space exploration through her calculations synching Apollo's lunar-orbiting Command and Service Module. She also worked (1918-2020)



Black students to contribution was to Lunar Module with the on the Space Shuttle.



**Madam C.J. Walker** was considered the wealthiest African-American businesswoman in America and the first female self-made millionaire in the US. She developed and marketed a line of cosmetics and hair care products for Black women and hired 20,000 "ambassadors" to sell her products. She was a generous philanthropist and became politically active later in life.

**Shirley Chisholm** was the first Black woman elected to served as a representative from New York for 14 years, was to run for president in the 1972 race, and founded the Caucus in 1971 and the Congressional Women's Caucus in



Congress in 1968. She the first Black candidate Congressional Black 1977.



**Mae Jemison** became the first Black space on the space shuttle Endeavour. She was also the first Black woman admitted to the astronaut training program in 1987.

woman to fly to

**Toni Morrison** released her novel *Beloved* in 1987, based on the true story of an African American Morrison became the first Black woman to win the Nobel



winner of the Pulitzer Prize, enslaved woman. In 1993 Prize in Literature.



**Oprah Winfrey**, born into poverty in rural Mississippi to a single teenage mother, molested as a child and pregnant at 14, became the most influential woman in the world by many accounts. An American talk show host, television producer, actress, author and philanthropist, she was the richest African-American of the 20th century and was once the world's only black billionaire.

## Programs

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

**Saturday, February 11 @ 4 p.m.**

Gender Diversity

Please RSVP to Ann DuPuy

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

Quilting and Technology, For the Love of Sewing

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

Skirball Cultural Center

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

Through March 12, 2023

Huntington Library and Gardens

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

Through September 4, 2023

## WIT (Women in Transition)

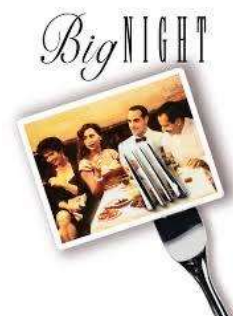
**Wednesday, February 1, 7 – 8:30 p.m.**, via Zoom. RSVP and for questions, call Susan Negrete at 714-402-1322. Please bring your discussion topic ideas, your thoughts on any needed changes to the WIT program (e.g. day, date, time, format, and location).

## Film Group

**Tuesday, February 14, 4 p.m. at Margot Sullivan's home; Nancy Kenney will be the discussion leader.** 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 February are:

### Big Night (1996)

Chef Primo (Tony Shalhoub) and businessman Secondo (Stanley Tucci) are immigrant brothers from Italy who open their dream restaurant, Paradise, in New Jersey. However, Primo's authentic food is too unfamiliar for the local tastes and the restaurant is struggling. When famous Italian-American bandleader Louis Prima is scheduled to appear at Paradise, the two brothers put all of their efforts into the important meal, which will likely decide the fate of their restaurant. (Pluto (free) and other streaming services for a fee.)



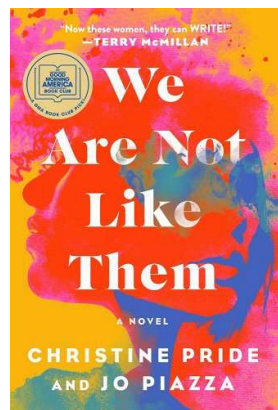
### The Menu (2022)

The film, penned by Will Tracy and Seth Reiss, "focuses on a young couple who visits an exclusive destination restaurant on a remote island where the acclaimed chef has prepared a lavish tasting menu, along with some shocking surprises." Deadline notes, (Ralph) "Fiennes plays the world-class chef who sets it all up and adds some unexpected ingredients to the menu planned." The action follows one particular A-list couple that takes part. (HBO Max (free) and other streaming services for a fee.)

## Diversity Book Group

**Friday, February 17, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m.** at Ann Dupuy's home. RSVP to Lydia McCarver at [lydiaemcbh@yahoo.com](mailto:lydiaemcbh@yahoo.com).

### ***We Are Not Like Them*** by Christine Pride and Jo Piazza



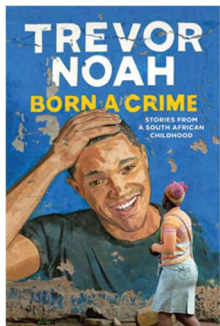
Told from alternating perspectives, an evocative and riveting novel about the lifelong bond between two women, one Black and one white, whose friendship is indelibly altered by a tragic event—a powerful and poignant exploration of race in America today and its devastating impact on ordinary lives. Jen and Riley have been best friends since kindergarten. As adults, they remain as close as sisters, though their lives have taken different directions. Jen married young and after years of trying, is finally pregnant. Riley pursued her childhood dream of becoming a television journalist and is poised to become one of the first Black female anchors of the top news channel in their hometown of Philadelphia. However, the deep bond they share is severely tested when Jen's husband, a city police officer, is involved in the shooting of an unarmed Black teenager. Six months pregnant, Jen is in freefall as her future, her husband's freedom, and her friendship with Riley are thrown into uncertainty. Covering this career-making story, Riley wrestles with the implications of this tragic incident for her Black community, her ambitions, and her relationship with her lifelong friend.



## Afternoon Literature

**Monday, February 27, 2023, 2 pm at Alice Matthews' home. Eunice will lead the discussion.**

Contact Betsy Adams by February 20 if interested in attending. Bring your mask.



***Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood* by Trevor Noah.**

The memoir of one man's coming-of-age, set during the twilight of apartheid and the tumultuous days of freedom that followed. Trevor Noah's unlikely path from apartheid in South Africa to the desk of The Daily Show began with a criminal act: his birth. Trevor was born to a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother at a time when such a union was punishable by five years in prison. Living proof of his parents' indiscretion, Trevor was kept mostly indoors for the earliest years of his life, bound by the extreme and often absurd measures his mother took to hide him from a government that could, at any moment, steal him away. Finally liberated by the end of South Africa's tyrannical white rule, Trevor and his mother set forth on a grand adventure, living openly and freely and embracing the opportunities won by a centuries-long struggle.

Coming March 27, 2 pm, Gerry will host and Betsy will lead the discussion of ***The Only Woman in the Room***, by Marie Benedict.



Karen Hassen and Alice Matthews, Co-Branch Tech Trek Coordinators

**Monday, February 13, 2023 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. via Zoom. Contact Alice Matthews for Zoom link.**

As submitted by Alice Matthews:

All 15 schools have indicated they want to be a part of the 2023 Tech Trek program. We are still in the process of receiving each school's nominations and each student's parent information. Fleming has indicated they want to participate, but have yet to submit their information. CampDoc, the online system to capture the campers' information will be up and running on January 25. We are getting each school's policies on in person meetings to determine if we have to do Zoom interviews only. We want to thank all the members who have volunteered to help with the reading of the applications and other paperwork in order to determine the final campers for 2023. If you are interested in getting involved, please reach out to Alice Matthews or Karen Hassen.



Tech Trek Alumnae Group

Gloria Liu and Alice Matthews, Co-Advisors, South Bay TTAG

**Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-10:45am, College PREP 101 via Zoom.** If interested in attending, please reach out to Alice Matthews or Gloria Liu for the Zoom link.

## February Calendar

Wednesday, February 1 @ 7 p.m. WIT Meeting

Saturday, February 11 @ 4 p.m. Gender Diversity Program

Monday, February 13 @ 6:30 p.m. Tech Trek Meeting

Tuesday, February 14 @ 4 p.m. Film Group

Friday, February 17 @ 6:30 p.m. Diversity Book Group

Monday, February 27 @ 2 p.m. Afternoon Literature

## February Birthdays

Eli Oliver – February 17

Margot Sullivan – February 17

Donna Larrivee – February 18



## 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)