



Torrance Telegram

MARCH 2023

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

<http://torrance-ca.aauw.net> | aauwtorrance@gmail.com

President's Message

Happy Women's History Month Torrance Branch!

Welcome to the second in a series of columns highlighting what AAUW has done and continues to do to promote its mission to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy. Since March is Women's History Month, it is the perfect time to highlight some of AAUW'S efforts, both historic and current.

Coincidentally, as I was working on this newsletter for Women's History Month, several of my interests collided: AAUW, women's history, and local theater. As a season subscriber to Torrance Theatre Company, I attended its most recent production, "The Half Life of Marie Curie." The play is a fictionalized story based on Curie's actual friendship with another female scientist. It not only spoke to the power of female friendship, but it made me remember that Curie actually received funding from AAUW, providing me with a great way to start this column.



Most of you might have known that Curie won the 1903 Nobel Prize in physics and the 1911 Nobel Prize in chemistry, becoming the first person ever to receive two Nobel Prizes. But, did you know that in 1920, the Association of Collegiate Alumnae (the predecessor to AAUW) helped raise money to purchase a gram of radium for Marie Curie? Curie's daughter later returned a portion of unused money to AAUW, which used the money to create the endowment that funds the Marie Curie Fellowship.

As I remembered this piece of our history, it made me search for even more. I have been a member of AAUW for nearly 35 years and I am still fascinated to learn more about some of the women who have not only been members, but who have been recipients of the AAUW American Fellowship. Here are just a few of these pioneering women:



Astronaut Judith Resnick, 1975-1976 AAUW American Fellow, was the second woman in space and a crewmember of the ill-fated Challenger space shuttle. She used her AAUW fellowship to complete her dissertation in electrical engineering. Not only was she an astronaut and an electrical engineer, but also a software engineer, biomedical engineer and a pilot.

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Barbara Smith, 1978-1979 AAUW American Fellow, is a leader in the U.S. She was a co-founder of both the Combahee River Collective and the Kitchen Publishers of Table: Women of Color Press, one of the first scholarship for, about and by women of color.



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Claudine Gay, 2003-2005 AAUW American Fellow was the first woman and first African American named dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science at Harvard University. In December 2022, Harvard announced that she will be its 30th President and will take office July 1, 2023, becoming the second woman and first African American to serve in that capacity.

As we are about to celebrate our 55th anniversary, we will highlight more of our own women in history and share more in the months ahead and at our Installation Brunch on Saturday, June 10. Here's to female trailblazers!

--Judi Gerber

Exciting Social Media News!

Want to keep up with branch news but can't wait for the next Telegram? Want to connect with other branch members? These social media options will help you out:

We now have an Instagram Page:



<https://www.instagram.com/aauwtorrance/>

Visit our new and improved Facebook Page:



[AAUW Torrance Branch](#)

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

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
Kennedy Hayashi, Social Media Director

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.

March is Women's History Month



International
Women's Day

March 8 is International Women's Day. AAUW CA states: "International Women's Day celebrates the social, economic, cultural and political achievement of women. Yet progress has slowed in many places across the world, so global action is needed to accelerate gender parity." Want to learn more about International Women's Day? <https://www.internationalwomensday.com/>

March 14 is Equal Pay day 2023, the date that marks how far into the new year all women must work to reach



what all men were paid the previous year. The Equal Pay Day Calendar now encompasses a broader cross-section of women, including those who work part time or seasonally. The COVID-19 pandemic pushed many women, especially women of color, into part-time or seasonal work, or out of the workforce all together. Join AAUW in raising awareness about the damaging realities of the gender pay gap and the necessity of passing the paycheck fairness act, and support it here <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/paycheck-fairness/>.

Membership Alice Matthews & Nancy Kenney, Membership Co-VPs

As submitted by Alice Matthews:

Nancy and I are working on some marketing tools and a Welcome Kit for new members, as well as a thank you note for guests that visit one of our Branch events. We have signed up for **CANVA** Brand and have asked Kennedy Hayashi to be part of our marketing team to come up with a trifold and other pieces to highlight our branch. If you have any ideas to add into our Welcome Kit, please let Nancy and me know. We would love your suggestions and will share the new materials as soon as they are finished.

Membership Dues Increase in 2024: National dues will increase **\$5 to \$72** this year as part of a member-approved three year increase. 2024 is the 3rd year of this increase.

Membership Corner

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

We want to wish Eunice Hargrove a very happy 90th birthday!! Aside from being a Charter member of AAUW Torrance, Eunice is active in the Riviera Garden Club, League of Women Voters Torrance Area and more.



We are sending our love and thoughts to Gerry Suzuki who is dealing with a health challenge. For those wanting to send a card of encouragement and support, her address is listed in our directory or contact Judi Gerber.

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We are sending our deepest condolences to Dana Basiulis on the loss of her husband. For those wanting to send a sympathy card, her address is listed in our directory or contact Judi Gerber.

We are also saddened to report that Jackie LaBouff passed away on February 9 after a short illness. Jackie was very active in the community, including Torrance widows group, League of Women Voters, Torrance Democratic Club and several other organizations. She will be missed. Cards may be sent to: Family of Jackie LaBouff, 3810 W. 173rd Street, Torrance, CA 90504.

Programs

Join us at these programs in-person at the Torrance Airport Community Room:

Saturday, March 18 @ 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., RSVP encouraged but not required to ann.dupuy@gmail.com.

“Our Grandmothers' Quilts and Beyond... Quilting in the 21st Century” When the world shut down at the start of the pandemic, the determined and resourceful members of the Coastal Quilters Guild bridged the distance between members with technology - no easy feat for a hand-craft enjoyed in community. Quilting Bee on Zoom it was!



Susan Bullington Katz,
"Reclamation" Quilt

Join us as featured guest speaker and noted journalist Susan Bullington Katz shares about her own evolution as a quilter. Enjoy a trunk show of quilts, ranging from 1979 to today, along with the story of how technology was used by the guild of 200 quilters so they could keep on learning through the pandemic.

All are welcome. Invite quilters and quilt enthusiasts you know.

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

Saturday, April 15 @ 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Diversity- Important - Benefits – Value

As submitted by Indrani Chatterjee, Fund Chair

Diversity is an awesome way for us to explore our inner curiosities. The concept of understanding that each individual is unique and that each of our individual differences share a purpose in society. It gives us the opportunity to live outside our comfort zone, enhance our learning, and develop an overall sense of personal growth. People can make a positive contribution to the larger society in spite of their different ethnic backgrounds.

Please join us in a conversation to hear from the speakers about their experiences. The program details will follow.

Save the Date for These Other Events:

Thursday, May 4 @ 6 p.m. "Viva la Spirit of Cinco de Mayo"- El Torito (No-Host Happy Hour)

Saturday, June 10 @ 9:30 a.m. Branch Installation Brunch – Depot Restaurant

WIT (Women in Transition)

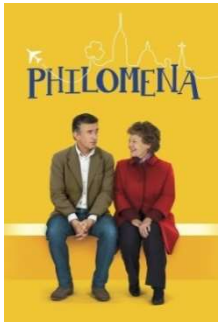
Wednesday, March 15, 2023 @ 7 – 8:30 p.m., at Susan Negrete's home. RSVP to Susan Negrete for address and for questions at 714-402-1322. Please respect WIT members' agreement: Complete COVID vaccination is required for in-person events.

Topic: Gender Wars - Why Has This Become So Difficult a Topic?

Film Group

Meets second Tuesday of each month, Monday, March 13 @ 4 p.m. at Nancy Kenney's home, Margot Sullivan will be the discussion leader. *Note: day and date change this month.*

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.



Philomena (2013, see it on Netflix)

In 1952, Irish teenager Philomena (Judi Dench) became pregnant out of wedlock and was sent to a convent. When her baby, Anthony, was a toddler, the nuns took Philomena's child away from her and put him up for adoption in the United States. For the next 50 years, she searched tirelessly for her son. When former BBC correspondent Martin Sixsmith (Steve Coogan) learns of the story, he becomes her ally. They travel together to America to find Anthony and become unexpectedly close in the process.

Brooklyn – (2015, Rent from Apple, You Tube & Google

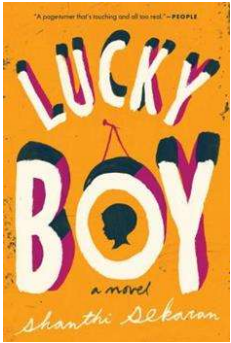
Young Irish immigrant Eilis Lacey (Saoirse Ronan) navigates through 1950s Brooklyn. Lured by the promise of America, Eilis departs Ireland of her mother's home for the shores of New York City. The initial shackles of quickly diminish as a fresh romance sweeps Eilis into the intoxicating charm of past disrupts her new vivacity and Eilis must choose between two countries and exist within.



Movie and TV) her way and the comfort homesickness love. Soon, her the lives that

Diversity Book Group

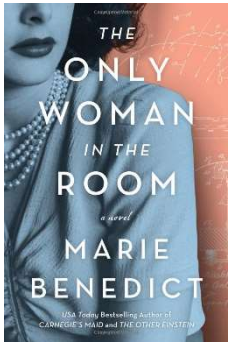
Friday, March 24 @ 6:30 p.m. at Nancy Kenney's Home. RSVP to Lydia McCarver at lydiaemcbh@yahoo.com.
Lucky Boy by Shanthi Sekaran



In this astonishing novel, Shanthi Sekaran gives voice to the devotion and anguish of motherhood through two women bound together by their love for one boy. Soli, a young undocumented Mexican woman in Berkeley, CA, finds that motherhood offers her an identity in a world where she's otherwise invisible. When she is placed in immigrant detention, her son comes under the care of Kavya, an Indian American wife overwhelmed by her own impossible desire to have a child. As Soli fights for her son, Kavya builds her love on a fault line, her heart wrapped around someone else's child. Exploring the ways in which dreams and determination can reshape a family, Sekaran transforms real life into a thing of beauty. From rural Oaxaca to Berkeley's Gourmet Ghetto to the dreamscapes of Silicon Valley, *Lucky Boy* offers a moving and revelatory look at the evolving landscape of the American dream and the ever-changing borders of love.

Afternoon Literature

Monday, March 27 @ 2 pm, Location TBA. Betsy Adams will lead discussion. Contact Betsy Adams by March 20 if interested in attending. Bring your mask.

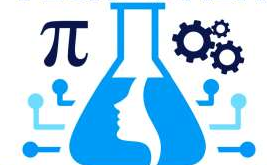


The Only Woman in the Room by Marie Benedict

Marie Benedict's work of historical fiction, *The Only Woman in the Room*, tells the life story of Hedy Lamarr, a famed actress of the 1930s and 1940s. The 2019 novel rewrites Lamarr's legacy by focusing on her path towards inventing a frequency-hopping radio technology that anticipates Wi-Fi. Benedict uses the political machinations of WWII and Hedy's experiences to explore performativity, guilt and sexism.

Coming April 25, 2 pm, Sheila will host and Alice will lead the discussion of *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity* by Katherine Boo.

TECH TREK



Powered by AAUW California

Karen Hassen & Alice Matthews, Co-Directors

Thursday, March 2 @ 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., in person at Kabita Kumar's Home and via Zoom for those unable to attend, Contact Alice Matthews for Zoom link

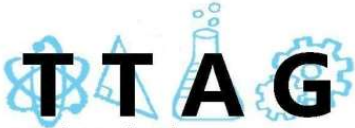
As submitted by Alice Matthews:

Karen and I have been working hard to get information from the 15 schools we are working with this year for the 2023 Tech Trek Camps. We have divided the responsibility for the schools. **Karen** is responsible for **Adams, Calle Mayor, Casimir, Caroldale, Fleming, Hull** and **Jefferson**. **Alice** is responsible for **Bert Lynn, Madrona, Magruder, Markham, Parras, Peary, Richardson** and **Stephen White**. The CampDoc site has opened up and we currently have 26 girls that have at least signed up on the site. We are starting to receive the Teacher Recommendations and our Branch Questionnaire from the nominees. . We will start face-to-face interviews in the next two weeks.

Please reach out to Alice or Karen if you would like to cover one of the 15 schools as a School Buddy. Final selection is required April 28. Materials will be provided at our in-person meeting.

Co-Coordinator: Alice Matthews and Karen Hassen

If you are interested in getting involved, please reach out to Alice Matthews or Karen Hassen.



Tech Trek Alumnae Group

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

ZOOM Meetings: 2nd Saturday each month @ 9:00am

TTAG once again had a very successful College Prep 101 ZOOM event on February 11. TTAG students and parents attended. We are now planning for **Women in Stem on May 21 @ 4:00pm to 5:30pm**. Several of our Torrance Branch TTAG girls have signed up to be staff at the upcoming Tech Trek camps - Sarah Guidinger (2014?), Sarah Solares (2019) and Richa Thakre (2019).

March Calendar

Thursday, March 2 @ 6:30 p.m. EPC/Tech Trek

Monday, March 13 @ 4 p.m. Film Group

Wednesday, March 15 @ 7

Friday, March 24 @ 6:30

Saturday, March 18 @

Monday, March 27 @ 2



p.m. WIT Meeting

p.m. Diversity Book Group

2:30 p.m. Quilting Program

p.m. Afternoon Literature

March Birthdays

Eunice Hargrove – March 28

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/

Cultivate and Grow

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