

AAUW TORRANCE BRANCH

CHARTERED IN 1968

PO Box 1392, Torrance, CA 90505 |

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

Don't Miss our April Program:

Diversity- Importance, Benefits and Value



AAUW Torrance Branch Presentation

Saturday April 15, 2023

Torrance Airport Meeting Room

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

April is Celebrate Diversity Month, a celebration initiated in 2004 to recognize and honor diversity. AAUW Torrance is pleased to welcome speakers to celebrate Diversity Month who will lead a panel discussion.

Speakers:

Dr. Sipra Sengupta, PsyD, LMFT

Co-Chair- DEI, AAUW Diamond Bar-Walnut Branch

Affiliations- FIA, BASC, SAN

Diane Mitchel Henry, CEO, DMHN LLC

Board Member- AWIU

Affiliations- NAACP, NCNW, PPCA

Meeting Timeline

10:00 AM	Networking & Refreshments
10:30 AM	Program Introduction
10:45 AM	Panel Discussion
11:45 AM	Q&A Session
12:00 PM	Closing Comments

President's Message

Happy Earth Day Torrance Branch!

As I wrote about last month, AAUW has a long history of supporting women in STEM and in honor of Earth Day, I thought it was fitting to highlight one of these women: Rachel Carson. A writer, scientist and marine biologist, Carson is known as “the mother of modern environmentalism,” in large part due to her 1962 book *Silent Spring*, in which she wrote about the hazards of the pesticide DDT. An interesting AAUW-related fact is that in 1956, she was awarded the AAUW Achievement Award and she used the stipend that came with it to help her complete that seminal book.

In honor of Earth Day and as we celebrate our 55th anniversary, I wanted to highlight one of our own environmental pioneers, Shirley Turner, who was a 50-Year Life Honorary AAUW Member and amateur birder and botanist. She passed away in 2019, but her legacy continues. In her obituary, her son lovingly remembered her tireless work on behalf of the preservation of land that would become Madrona Marsh as follows:



In the 1960s and 70s, much of Torrance was zoned for industrial use. The landscape was dotted with oil wells. In the 1970s, when her children were finishing high school, Shirley and other community members learned that developers were asking the City of Torrance to rezone a parcel of industrial land extending from the corner of Sepulveda Boulevard and Madrona. The developers planned to pave the area and construct housing and office/retail space. Shirley and her friends were aware that this parcel included a precious vernal marsh, a critical stopping place for migratory birds on the Pacific Flyway. Shirley became determined to save this natural treasure from loss, and dedicated herself to that goal. She had a wide circle of friends who worked with her and recruited others. They formed the Friends of Madrona Marsh and eventually, after years of hard work and advocacy, what is now known as Madrona Marsh was dedicated as a nature preserve.

Along with her fellow Marshans, Shirley worked tirelessly to make this happen. She was a regular outspoken voice at City Council and Park and Recreation meetings. She worked on fundraising, education, collecting signatures for a referendum, producing a newsletter, conducting outreach programs, anything that was needed. She was a member of the board of the Friends for over 25 years. After the Marsh was dedicated, Shirley helped lead efforts to restore the habitat at the Marsh to its native state—replacing invasive weeds with native plants. She worked with countless community groups, Boy/Girl Scouts, Eagle Scouts, YM/YWCA groups on restoration projects on the Marsh. She and her good friend Ruth McConnell organized the popular Tyke Hyke program for preschoolers and their parents. Shirley received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Friends of Madrona Marsh in January, 2009.

Here's to our local female trailblazers like Shirley! We owe them a debt of gratitude. 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.

--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 improved Facebook Page:  <https://www.facebook.com/AAUWTorranceBranch>

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

Membership Alice Matthews & Nancy Kenney, Membership Co-VPs

As Submitted by Alice Matthews:

Spring is here and so is the opening of **Membership Renewal**.

Starting April 1 - June 30, the National membership site will be open for renewals. The National dues will increase by \$5, bringing it to \$72. The State dues will remain at \$20 and our Torrance branch dues will remain at \$22.

2023-2024 MEMBERSHIP will be \$114 (less than \$10/month).

Torrance Dual Members	\$22
Life membership	\$42
Honorary Life members (50 year)	\$0

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 are saddened to share that after a brief illness, Gerry Suzuki passed away on February 26. Gerry was a long time AAUW Torrance member and a retired reference librarian for the City of Torrance. In addition to her love of books and reading, one of her favorite things to do was to join her walking group for walks at the beach. Cards can be sent to: Family of Gerry Suzuki 4717 Reese Road, Torrance, CA 90505.



April Birthdays

April 9 – Helga Markgraf-Fowler

April 29 – Keri Gilbert



Programs

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

Saturday, April 15 @ 10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Diversity- Importance, Benefits and 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 of 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 backgrounds.

Please join us in a conversation to hear from our speakers about their experiences.

Save the Date for These Other Events:

Wednesday, May 3 @ 4 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

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.

WIT (Women in Transition)

Wednesday, April 12, 2023 7 – 8:30 p.m., The WIT group's regular schedule has adjusted in April due to Passover. Meeting 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 "How Can We Actively Get Engaged to Help Our Branches and Community?"

Film Group

Meets second Tuesday of each month (date change in April), Tuesday, April 18 @ 4 p.m. at Rachel Ambrose's home. Susan Helm 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.

The two films are:

Enchanted April



When married British women Rose Arbuthnot (Miranda Richardson) and Lottie Wilkins (Josie Lawrence) decide to take a break from their respective spouses, they stay at a castle in Italy for a quiet holiday. Joining the ladies is Caroline Dester (Polly Walker), a young socialite, and Mrs. Fisher (Joan Plowright), an older aristocrat. Liberated from their daily routines, the four women ease into life in rural Italy, and each finds herself transformed by the experience. Release date: April 5, 1992. Watch it on Prime Video, Vudu, Redbox or Apple TV

April in Paris

A bureaucrat's mistake sends a chorus girl to Paris representing American theatre in place of a star actress. Initial release: December 24, 1952.

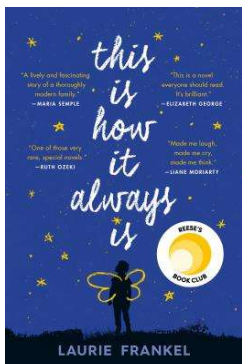
Watch it on Prime Video, Apple TV or Vudu on your Roku device.



Diversity Book Group

Friday, April 21 @ 6:30 p.m. at Helga Markgraf-Fowler's house. RSVP to Lydia McCarver at lydiaemcbh@yahoo.com.

This month's book: ***This Is How It Always Is***, by Laurie Frankel

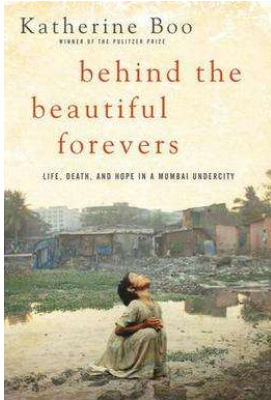


This is how a family keeps a secret...and how that secret ends up keeping them. This is how a family lives happily ever after...until happily ever after becomes complicated. This is how children change...and then change the world. This is Claude. He's five years old, the youngest of five brothers, and loves peanut butter sandwiches. He also loves wearing a dress, and dreams of being a princess. When he grows up, Claude says, he wants to be a girl. Rosie and Penn want Claude to be whoever Claude wants to be. They're just not sure they're ready to share that with the world. Soon the entire family is keeping Claude's secret. Until one day it explodes. Laurie Frankel's ***This Is How It Always Is*** is a novel about revelations, transformations, fairy tales, and family. And it's about the ways this is how it always is: Change is always hard and miraculous and hard again, parenting is always a leap into the unknown with crossed fingers and full hearts, children grow but not always according to plan. And families with secrets don't get to keep them forever.

Afternoon Literature

Monday, April 24, 2023, 2 pm, at Sheila Brewster's home, Alice Matthews will lead the discussion. Contact Betsy Adams by April 20 if interested in attending.

Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity by Katherine Boo



In this brilliant, breathtaking book by Pulitzer Prize winner Boo, a bewildering age of global change and inequality is made human through the dramatic story of families striving toward a better life in Annawadi, a makeshift settlement in the shadow of luxury hotels near Mumbai. The book recounts their struggles and stresses, which stem from adversities like poverty, disease, ethnic conflict, and a fear of displacement. Story of families striving toward a better life in one of the twenty-first century's great, unequal cities. In this brilliantly written, fast-paced book, based on three years of uncompromising reporting, a bewildering age of global change and inequality is made human.



Karen Hassen & Alice Matthews, Co-Directors

Tuesday, April 4, 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 the Zoom link.

As Submitted by Karen Hassen:

Powered by AAUW California

The deadline for completion of all paperwork for the 2023 Torrance Branch Tech Trek nominees for STEM camp was Wednesday, March 15. We are working with 15 schools this year: 5-LAUDS, 8-TUSD, and 2-RBUSD. Each school was asked to nominate five of their 7th grade girls and provide teacher recommendations for each girl. Interviews were conducted at each of the schools or by Zoom to address any questions about the program and to allow us the opportunity to encourage the girls to complete the paperwork in order to be eligible for the final selection.

We now have 54 nominees from the 15 schools who have complied and completed all paperwork. Many AAUW members have volunteered to be Readers whose role is to review all the paperwork and rank the girls 1 to 5 for the available slots. Thank you Volunteers!

Once the volunteers rank the girls for each school, the designated Reader Captain for each school will compile and send in the final rankings of the candidates. We hope to have this completed the last week in March and are able to contact the girls and the schools by March 31 with the decisions.



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

Zoom Meetings: 2nd Saturday each month. April 8 @ 9 .m. on Zoom. We are now planning for a **Women in Stem Program** in May.

April Calendar

Thursday, April 4 @ 6:30 p.m. Tech Trek

Wednesday, April 12 @ 7 p.m. WIT Meeting

Saturday, April 15 @ 10 a.m. Diversity Program

Monday, April 18 @ 4 p.m. Film Group

Friday, April 21 @ 6:30 p.m. Diversity Book Group

Monday, April 24 @ 2 p.m. Afternoon Literature

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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