

Torrance Branch
2014-15 Exec. Board

PRESIDENT

Athena Paquette Cormier
aauwpresident@gmail.com

TREASURER

Indrani Chatterjee
ichat905@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Nancy Kenney
Nancykenney365@msn.com

MEMBERSHIP VP

Open Position

PROGRAM VP

Jamie Watson
Hightea322@yahoo.com

AAUW FUNDS VP

Gloria Liu
glsb7891@gmail.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

EPC

Peggy Monga
Filmgroup@earthlink.com

Pam Kenoyer
pkenoyer@gmail.com

PUBLIC POLICY

Venora Lee
ioniansea@aol.com

ED. OUTREACH

Jackie LaBouff
sticher61@hotmail.com

COMMUNICATIONS

Newsletter Editor:
Janice Pomerantz
jbpomerantz@yahoo.com

Proofreader & Branch

E-Notifications:

Keri Gilbert
Kerig9@gmail.com

Web Manager:

Susan Negrete
susimone@aol.com

Mailing & Publicity:

Janet Flynn
res09i98@verizon.net

PARLIMENTARIAN

Pat Arnett
acashel@att.net

HOSPITALITY

Pat Carroll
tncarroll@aol.com



International

Women's Day!

Bengali Women's Progress in Kolkata

Join AAUW-Torrance as we celebrate International Women's Day with an engaging seminar presented by Dr. Sipra Sengupta, and a silent auction featuring authentic items from India.

Mrs. Sipra Sengupta, PsyD, LMFT was Vice President of the Federation of India Association, President of Bengali

Association of Southern California, and is currently involved with South Asian Networks. It's going to be a fun and enlightening afternoon.

Seating is very limited! To make your reservations please call Indrani Chatterjee at 310-941-4857.

Saturday, April 11th at 2:00 PM
Torrance Civic Center Garden Room
3330 Civic Center Drive,
Torrance, CA 90503



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear AAUW Branch Member,

Here we are in the first days of spring and a lot is happening. We enjoyed a great presentation at the March program meeting. We have a little gem at the Torrance Art Museum (TAM) led by passionate artists. I'm looking forward to the opening reception of the newest exhibit on March 28th from 6 to 9 pm., <http://www.torranceartmuseum.com/> The focus of the presentation at our meeting was Women in Art and Lisa, a TAM docent and our speaker that day, unveiled several national treasures that we have right here in Torrance. There was also a discussion around having works of art in empty city lots as a way to beautify the city. One can dream. ☺

I hope to see many of you at the International Women's Day program that will be chaired by Indrani Chatterjee. Please pass on the flyer to friends who enjoy learning about other cultures. There will also be a small auction to raise money for the International Funds. See the article on AAUW Funds in this issue.

SAVE THE DATE for the Annual Tea Fundraiser on May 9th from 2 to 4pm at the Zamperini Community Room (Torrance Airport). It will be a great time since it is Mother's Day and we have a charming speaker. The Daily Breeze said they would cover it. We would love to raise over \$2500 this year. If you have an auction item(s), please let me know by email.

A group of dedicated Tech Trek readers chose the winning candidates for this summer's camps. If you would like to do a "One and done" volunteering, please contact Pam as there are still several steps that could use help.

FUTURE LEADERS: If you know someone (and maybe it's you) who would like to be Treasurer, or President, or fill the last year of the Membership VP position, please contact Ann DuPuy or Rachel Ambrose. Elections will be held during the annual meeting in June.

Have a great month!

Athena Paquette Cormier

AAUW FUNDS

International Project Grants

Applications for AAUW International Project Grants are open August 1–December 15.

Learn how to apply

When AAUW International Fellows pursue education in the United States, their commitment to empowering women and girls in their home countries does not end — and their need for funding does not either. To create lasting support for women and girls across the globe, AAUW gives grants to recent International Fellowship alumnae who have returned to their home countries to build on their academic work and implement community-based projects that will improve the lives of women and girls.

About the Program

Alumnae of our International Fellowships and International Project Grants have tackled women's equality issues in their communities head-on. From securing property rights for widows to building safe hearths for cassava production, these women are helping the most vulnerable — and the most resilient — members of their communities.

Here is one example of an Alumna.

Rabita Rajkarnikar

Project: Entrepreneurship Development Workshop for Marginalized Women in Nepal

Rabita Rajkarnikar (2012–13) helped low-income women in Nepal become entrepreneurs by training them in management, finances, embroidery, legal rights, and women's rights. Rajkarnikar, a 2008–09 International Fellow, earned her graduate degree in urban and regional planning. She is a lecturer at Kathmandu Engineering College and works with the Women's Rights and Economic Development organization.

To read more:

<http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/educational-funding-and-awards/international-projects-grants/>

Gloria Liu

glsb7891@gmail.com

Educational Partnership Committee

Next Meeting: **Thursday, April 9, 2015, 6:30 pm at Moog.**

Contact Pam Kenoyer pkenoyer@moog.com or (310-618-7458 day) for admission. We will be preparing materials for Tech Trek Camp scholarship winners. As we go to press, our Tech Trek Readers have given their rankings/points to their Reader Captains who have sent the consolidated results to Pam Kenoyer. Pam gathers the results and arrives at the scholarship list of seventh grade girls who will be attending Tech Trek Camp this summer.

THANK YOU to the 23 Branch members plus 3 corporate sponsors who read the girls' application packets. We value the time and the varied points of view you have given in our effort to make the selection process as fair as possible.

We would like to recognize our members who volunteered this year, including so many who return yearly to help out. Our school buddies, who also serve as Reader Captains, are:

Becky Dyer, Pat Carroll, Peggy Monga, Athena Cormier, Pam Salmen, Florence Lin, Susan Negrete, Suzanne Siney, Judy Hill, Michele Croci, Pam Kenoyer, and Margot Sullivan. With approximately three readers per school, assisting the Reader Captains are our Readers **Karen Hassen, Nancy Brock, Kay Odgers, Karen Peters, Vicki Goorchenko, Carol Bauer, Jessica Hassen, Pat Arnett, Keri Gilbert, Ann DuPuy, and Maymie Chenowith.** Our corporate readers are from **Moog, Alcoa, and Exxon.**

At our March 12th meeting, the Reader Captains and Readers picked up the camper applications and ranking materials. Thanks to **Pam Kenoyer** and **Peggy Monga** for assembling the materials. Pam is still working on corporate scholarships for our 32 camp spots. If you know of anyone who would be interested in donating a full or partial scholarship, please let Pam know. Checks for this purpose should be made out to "AAUW CA SPF" and are tax-deductible. We have so many worthy candidates!

We are delighted to announce that **DIRECTV** will be providing 5 Tech Trek scholarships for seventh grade girls at Markham and Hollenbeck Intermediate Schools in the LA Partnership. These are new schools for us this year. **Pam Kenoyer** has been very involved in coordinating this. Thank you Pam!

The Tech Trek Alumnae Group met on March 15 with adult advisors **Pam Kenoyer, Pam Salmen,** Terry Hays Horner, (Beach Cities AAUW), and Denise Devenuto (Palos Verdes AAUW). A STEM presentation is being planned with Redondo Beach Library for **Saturday, April 11 from 1-3 pm at the Main Library.** Women working in STEM careers will be the featured speakers. Another STEM presentation is being planned for **August 22 at the Torrance Main Library.** The TT Alumnae Group is looking for women in STEM careers who would be interested in speaking. These are public events and middle school and high school girls are urged to take advantage of these informative presentations.

VOLUNTEER Opportunities: 1) EPC Tech Trek Database needs to be updated - Excel file, data entry.
2) EPC Tech Trek Grant/Finance Data Keeper - Excel skills preferred.

Please contact **Pam Kenoyer or Peggy Monga** if you are interested. Thank you in advance. We really need and appreciate your help.

Tech Trek ENCORE is the latest idea coming from our forward thinking group under the guidance of **Michele Croci.** The focus will be to extend the relationship we have with our Tech Trek alumnae. Stay tuned as this develops. Perhaps you are interested in getting involved??!

Have you heard of **GoldieBlox?** It's a great new toy sensation that introduces girls to the joy of engineering at a young age. Its founder and CEO is a young woman named Debbie Sterling, a mechanical engineer from Stanford, inspiring the next generation.

Margot Sullivan, EPC Committee

Public Policy

Last month, we celebrated the 22nd anniversary of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), our country's only law designed to help working people balance work and family. (Some states offer other alternatives. California offers Paid Family Leave for up to six weeks in some circumstances.) Yet FMLA provides workers with only unpaid leave to care for himself or herself or an ill family member, which millions of workers cannot afford to take.

That's why AAUW supports the Family and Medical Insurance Leave Act (FAMILY Act), which would create a national insurance program funded by employee and employer contributions. **The FAMILY Act is expected to be reintroduced which means we have to lay the groundwork NOW to recruit members of Congress to be original co-sponsors of the legislation. [Send a message today. Ask your elected officials to become original co-sponsors of the FAMILY Act.](#)**

The FAMILY Act would provide eligible employees with up to 12 weeks of paid leave for situations such as their own serious illness, the serious illness of a child, parent or spouse (including a domestic partner), and the birth or adoption of a child. The program created by the FAMILY Act would be funded by employee and employer contributions that would amount to less than \$1.50 per week for the average worker, or two cents for every \$10 of an employee's salary.

A large number of original co-sponsors demonstrates broad support for passing a piece of legislation. The more co-sponsors we have on the day the FAMILY Act is reintroduced, the better chance we have of making this bill a law.

[We have only a few days to act: Contact your representative and senators today and urge them to be original co-sponsors of the FAMILY Act!](#)

Across the country, people are working hard to make ends meet and provide for their families, yet our nation fails to provide the support people need to manage job and family and the support businesses need to maintain healthy and productive workplaces. The FAMILY Act would strengthen the economic security of working people, their families, and businesses – and when individuals, families, and businesses are secure, our economy as a whole benefits.

The FAMILY Act would recognize the hard work of workers across the country and bring our employment laws more in line with the needs of the 21st century workforce and the rest of the world. [Urge your elected officials to become original co-sponsors of the FAMILY Act today!](#)

For more information: <http://www.nationalpartnership.org/research-library/work-family/paid-leave/family-act-fact-sheet.pdf>

INTEREST GROUPS

Diversity Book Group



Date & Time: Friday, April 17, 6:30pm
At the home of Isabel Rodriguez
RSVP to Lydia McCarver, 310-374-1505
 or lydiaemcbh@yahoo.com

Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline. The author of Bird in Hand and The Way Life Should Be delivers her most ambitious and powerful novel to date, a captivating story of two very different women who build an unexpected friendship: a 91-year-old woman with a hidden past as an orphan train rider and the teenage girl whose own troubled adolescence leads her to seek answers to questions no one has ever thought to ask. Rich in detail and epic in scope, Orphan Train is a powerful novel of upheaval and resilience, of second chances, of unexpected friendship, and of the secrets we carry that keep us from finding out who we are.

Film Group



Date & Time: Wed, April 22, 7pm
At the home of Ann DuPuy
310-316-4808 or ann.dupuy@gmail.com

Join us for light refreshments and discussion. Everybody's a critic!
 Both available at Torrance Library and on Netflix.

The Secret in their Eyes (2009)(2010)(Rated R for a rape scene, violent images, some graphic nudity and language) A retired legal counselor writes a novel hoping to find closure for one of his past unresolved homicide cases and for his unreciprocated love with his superior - both of which still haunt him decades later. Won Best Foreign Language Oscar. Starring Ricardo Darin and Soledad Villamil. Ebert **** Argentinian "Juan Jose Campanella is the writer-director, and here is a man who creates a complete, engrossing, lovingly crafted film...a rebuke to formula screenplays. We grow to know the characters, and the story pays due respect to their complexities and needs."

The White Ribbon (2009)(2010) (Rated R for some disturbing content involving violence and sexuality) On the eve of World War I in a village in Protestant northern Germany, strange accidents occur and gradually take on the character of a punishment ritual. Who is behind it all? Writer/Director Michael Haneke is never that simple. It all may have been "done," but what if there seems to be no doer? What if bad things happen to good people who are not as good as they think they are?"— Ebert **** Nominated for Best Foreign Language Film.

Peggy Monga
 Film Group Coordinator

Evening Literature Group



Date & Time: Tuesday, April 28, 7:30pm
At the home of Dana Basiulis
RSVP to Lisa 310-835-9613
 or girlphd@juno.com

The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd
 Hetty "Handful" Grimke, an urban slave in early nineteenth century Charleston, yearns for life beyond the suffocating walls that enclose her within the wealthy Grimke household. The Grimke's daughter, Sarah, has known from an early age she is meant to do something large in the world, but she is hemmed in by the limits imposed on women. Kidd's sweeping novel is set in motion on Sarah's eleventh birthday, when she is given ownership of ten year-old Handful, who is to be her handmaid. We follow their remarkable journeys over the next thirty-five years, as both strive for a life of their own, dramatically shaping each other's destinies and forming a complex relationship marked by guilt, defiance, estrangement and the uneasy ways of love.

Coming in May: China Dolls by Lisa See

Women in Transition (WIT)



Due to WIT's April 1 outing at the Norris Theater, there will be no April discussion meeting.
For more information, contact Susan Negrete 310-377-0642 or

susimone@aol.com

Foodies



Date & Time: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

What: Cooking class and dinner at Bristol Farms entitled "Springtime in Tuscany."

Where: Grace-Marie's Kitchen upstairs at Bristol Farms: 1570 Rosecrans Ave., Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

Contact Judy Hill by April 15 at 310-756-3845 for a reservation.

\$35 due at the door. Arrive at 5:30 for seating. Bring a sweater, as it may be cool. You may buy wine downstairs in the Bristol Farms store and Grace-Marie will provide wine glasses. Attendees will receive a Bristol Farms certificate for \$5 off of a \$25 purchase.

Other News Fit to Print

Congratulations to Torrance Branch member and current AAUW CA Director Susan Negrete on her marriage to Robert Winston last December!

Women in STEM Career Forum

The South Bay Tech Trek Alumnae Group (TTAG), a collaborative effort between Torrance, Beach Cities, and PV Branches of AAUW, has planned and coordinated a **Women in STEM Career Forum** at the Redondo Beach Main Library on Saturday, April 11th, 1:00 - 3:00 PM. The target audience is middle and high school girls. AAUW members are encouraged to attend and show their support for the TTAG girls, as this is their first public event.

The speakers currently include Dr. Ramandeep Brar, Cardiologist at Long Beach Memorial Medical Center, and Lakewood Regional Medical Center amongst other hospitals in the area; Professor Grace Lu, PhD., Professor in the Department of Physics & Electrical Engineering at USC; Stephanie Manda, Military Global Sustainment Process Manager at Moog Inc.; and Geraldine Ramezani, Corporate Manager, Chief Technology Officer at Toyota Financial Services.

Please join us along with your family members, friends, colleagues & neighbors in learning how females in the STEM arena are forging a new frontier for young women whose dream is to succeed in securing a career in the fastest growing segment in the professional world.

Light refreshments will be served. Any branch member who would like to help out by donating cookies for the event, please contact Pam Kenoyer at 310-618-7458 or Torrance_Trek@sbcglobal.net.

AAUW members on the TTAG committee include Pam Kenoyer (T), Pam Salmen (T), Terry Hays-Horner (BC), and Denise DeVenuto (PV). TTAG meets monthly.

The next scheduled event "Tech Talk" will be at the Torrance Katy Geissert Library on Saturday, August 22nd, 1:00 - 3:00 PM.

Women in Transition

The Women in Transition (WIT) discussion group celebrated its 5th anniversary at the March 4, 2015 meeting. WIT was founded in March 2010 by Barbara Case (PVP), Mary Bavafa (PVP), Susan Negrete (Torrance-PVP) and Kimberly Park (PVP-President) as AAUW's first multi-branch interest group in the South Bay. Since its inception, WIT monthly attendance has always included a mix of Beach Cities, PVP and Torrance branch members.





AAUW Torrance
Branch
P.O. Box 1392
Torrance, CA 90505

TO:

CALENDER OF EVENTS 2015

- April 03 Tuesday, 7:30 pm, Board Meeting
- 09 Thursday, 6:30 pm, EPC Meeting, Pg. 4
- 11 Saturday, 2:00 pm, General Meeting, Pg. 1.
Note location and time change for this month.
- 11 Saturday, 1:00 pm, TT Stem Presentation, Pg. 7
- 17 Friday, 6:30 pm, Diversity Book Group, Pg. 6
- 22 Wednesday, 7:00 pm, Film Group, Pg. 6
- 22 Wednesday, 6:00 pm, Foodies, Pg. 6
- 28 Tuesday, 7:30 pm, Evening Lit. Group, Pg. 6

AAUW Diversity Statement: *In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in the organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.*

AAUW Mission Statement: *AAUW advances equity for all women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.*

The DEADLINE for newsletter articles is the 20th of the preceding month.