



Palos Verdes Peninsula Branch December 2012 – January 2013 Volume 55 Number 5

Celebrate the Season

Join branch members for a social gathering in celebration of the new year on

Sunday ~ January 13 2pm to 4pm

at the home of **Kathleen Fitzgerald**

Please bring an appetizer or a dessert that will serve 8

No reservation required

From the Council Chair ...

WELCOME, MARYMOUNT! We received word in mid-November that Marymount College Palos Verdes has become an AAUW Affiliate Member. I know you join me in welcoming Marymount into the AAUW family. We look forward in the coming days to exploring ways to work together.

Thanks to our own Trish Dilligan, who is also a Marymount trustee, for working with the Office of Student Life to make all this happen.

Marymount is already well known by many of us for its cultural events, lecture series, and lifelong learning program. It was founded in 1968 as a two-year college by the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary. In 1975 the responsibility for the College was transferred to a lay Board of Trustees and in 2010 it became a four year college, accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Are you aware that today AAUW has over 500 college and university partner members? Since our early beginnings in 1881 we have worked in many ways to support women students. Today our scholarship and fellowship programs are well known. Less known is the annual National Conference for College Women Students that encourages young women to be successful leaders....and shows them how it's done!

We look forward to working with our new AAUW college partner.

	AAUW-PVP 2013 CALENDAR
January 5 January 8 January 13 January 20	Readers Theater performs <i>Athletes in Skirts</i> for Long Beach AAUW Leadership Council Meeting 2-4 pm at Hesse Park Winter Social 2-4 pm at the home of Kathleen Fitzgerald LACIC Meeting 2-4 pm at Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital in Whittier, PVP member Nancy Mahr will be the speaker on public policy issues. If you'd like to carpool, contact Marion Smith, 310-832-3000
February 4-18	Readers Theater will feature female athletes in Pen Center Library Showcase
February 20	Readers Theater performs <i>Athletes in Skirts</i> for Peninsula Seniors at Hesse Park
March 2	Community Event Helen Dennis, speaker at Peninsula Center Library
March 12	Leadership Council Meeting 2-4 pm Hesse Park
March 16	Readers Theater performs <i>Athletes in Skirts</i> for PV Women's Club at Trump's
May 14	Annual Meeting and Leadership Council 2-4 pm at Hesse Park
June 1	Awards Luncheon

Sherry

Exploring Science: Tech Time has a New Name and New Faces

Our successful program with the Girl Scouts will continue for the sixteenth year with a new name, new faces and a few additions. At the suggestion of one of our new members, we changed the name to EXPLORING SCIENCE to avoid confusion with the Tech Trek summer camp math and science program. We will keep the same format but with some new faces. **Maria Ashla** and her daughter **Mary Ashla** (a brand new member of our branch) will be taking leadership. **Rowie Wolf** has volunteered to do the registration, **Cordelia Hwang** recruited the presenters this year and **Eileen Edelson** and **Trish Dilligan** have continued to provide guidance. We received encouraging words from past leadership, especially from **Deedee Rechtin**, the founder of Tech Time.

A few members will be needed for some sessions this time around and we are making plans for the next session. More on that to come later. Expect invitations to join "the party".

Another change is that an energetic Scout Mom whose daughter participated in the last two series has agreed to be a helper. Her daughter, **Aimee Chao**, will be our "junior partner" and she is recruiting other young scouts to help. We asked her to introduce herself to our members.



"My name is Aimee and I currently attend 6th grade at Ridgecrest Intermediate School. I was in the Tech Time program (now called Exploring Science) for the past two years as a Junior Girl Scout. This year, I cannot be part of this program as a participant, but I want to help by bringing in older Girl Scouts to assist at each meeting, by helping to set up, serve refreshments, clean up afterwards and assist the speaker.

The Exploring Science program is very enriching with many interesting experiments that I am happy to see continue. I really enjoyed listening to the speakers and participating in the activities and experiments that they shared. Learning about the Galapagos Islands and how the beaks of some species of birds adapted to be especially suited to obtain certain types of food by doing an experiment, getting an opportunity to look at numerous artifacts in our archaeological adventure, trying to build a structure to collect objects were just a few of the many activities that I was lucky enough to experience. I look forward to being able to give back to this wonderful program."

Thank you, Aimee and her mother, Louise. It is wonderful to know how much the past participants and their parents appreciate this great program.

Submitted by the Exploring Science Committee and Tech Time leadership







Honorary Life Members Share Some Memories

Christine Gillis said she was an AAUW member in Long Beach since 1946. But in 1957, while still a LB member, she invited **Betsy Swanson** and **Dorothy LaConte** to join her in starting an AAUW branch in Palos Verdes. Christine says that besides Long Beach and Palos Verdes, she was also a member in three other California branches: Glendale, Pasadena and San Pedro as well as in New York.

Ruth Stone, who has just recently relocated to Laguna Woods, remembers that when she was the branch Fellowship Chair they funded an Educational Foundation named gift for **Betty Bobrow**. Besides selling fruitcakes to raise money, they also contributed \$1.00 every time they lost at bridge or when they wanted a friend's recipe or to borrow a book. Ruth also mentioned that when they attended the local college fair that they not only represented their respective colleges, but also needed to talk about girls attending college.

Beryl Denke shared her disgust at having to be listed as Mrs. Paul Denke rather than as Beryl when she joined the branch. It was a time when a woman was only known by her husband's name and she said that practice remained in place far too long in her judgement. In fact it was 1975 before members could be listed by their given name. That was the same year the branch changed its name from Palos Verdes-Rolling Hills to Palos Verdes Peninsula to more accurately reflect the population of the entire area. As an avid reader, Beryl especially enjoyed her time in the Night Books interest group.

Janet Smith remembers when Jodie Fay applied for and received a Research & Projects Grant (1978-1979) for Public Information on Domestic Violence. Branch members collected clothes and toiletries for Rainbow Shelter in San Pedro and some members volunteered at the Shelter to help with child care or work the hotline. The branch recruited and trained a Speakers' Bureau which took the issue of domestic violence to organizations, clubs and students groups, and led discussions based on a short movie entitled "Battered Women: Violence Behind Closed Doors". Billfold cards which gave the hotline number and information in both English & Spanish were distributed and a bi-lingual brochure entitled "If You Are a Battered Woman You Are Not Alone" was printed and distributed which answered significant questions, provided important statistical information and presented viable options. The branch also sponsored an all-day Community Conference on Domestic Violence hosted by the El Camino College Woman's Center. This conference began with a keynote address and ended with an optional resource exchange and included a panel discussion with experts in various aspects of domestic violence along with a dozen break-out workshops on a variety of related topics throughout the day. A final part of the grant was the branch's membership in the South Bay Coalition for Alternatives to Domestic Violence, the Southern California Coalition on Battered Women and support for the LA Commission on Assaults Against Women and the County & State Commissions on the Status of Women. Janet says the project was enlightening and rewarding.

"Girls in Gear"

The Torrance AAUW Branch is holding their fifth annual "Girls in Gear" career fair which aims at informing middle and high school girls about the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs available in the Los Angeles area.

The Fair takes place on **Tuesday**, **January 29** at **6:30 pm** in the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library Community Meeting Room, 3301 Torrance Blvd., Torrance. There is no charge for the program and reservations are not required. For more information, contact **Elaine Bohrer** at (310) 376-3352.

Palos Verdes Branch Celebrates its 55th

Those of us who attended the Leadership Council and 55th Birthday Celebration were privileged to meet two of the six branch Honorary Life Members, **Beryl Denke** and **Janet Smith**, who shared their experiences as AAUW members. Our other life members, **Christine Gillis**, **Ceil Woods**, **Ruth Stone** and **Jane Newhall**, sent along their recollections which were read to attendees. In case you hadn't heard, Beryl told us, for <u>many</u> years AAUW members were listed in the Directory and everywhere else under only their husbands' names! In the late 1970's the Branch received a grant to conduct a community program for the prevention of domestic violence. (*See photos on page 5.*)

Our creative **Jacky Mason** and a troupe of Readers Theatre players took us down memory lane with four skits highlighting events from our 55 year history. There was more to learn about our Branch. Not only did our branch start the Peninsula Recycling Center but it began a Language Center where members taught non-English speaking mothers English and they in turn taught members Spanish, and how to make authentic enchiladas. And, did you know that at one time our branch had 400 members and even offered babysitting during meetings for a nominal fee.

Business Meeting Recap:

<u>Tech Trek</u> – The committee is making plans to send 14 girls to camp in 2013. They have raised \$11,170 of the needed \$11,900. Additional donations of any size are always welcome and are 100 per cent tax deductible. Contact **Dale Richards** for more information on making a donation or if you are interested in getting involved with this science and math camp program for 7th to 8th grade girls.

Exploring Science (formerly called Tech Time) – Thanks to Maria Ashla and her daughter, Mary Ashla, Tech Time has been given a new life and is now known as Exploring Science. There are other new aspects to the program as well. See the separate article on page 4. Thank you Maria and Mary!

<u>Leadership Development Committee (Nominating Committee)</u> – Rowie Wolf and **Marion Martelli** will serve on the committee along with Chair, **Connie Davenport**. (*Secretary's comment: Don't hesitate to say yes to their request. You'd be part of an enthusiastic membership and work with very capable women.*)

<u>Winter Social</u> – **Kathleen Fitzgerald** and her committee are making plans for the annual seasonal social which will held on January 13 at Kathleen's home from 2 to 4 pm.

<u>Community Event</u> – **Fran Wielin** is chairing a March 2 community event. **Helen Dennis**, a syndicated columnist whose column "Successful Aging" appears in the *Daily Breeze*, will speak.

<u>General Meeting and Awards Luncheon</u> – **Marion Martelli** will chair this year's event which will be held on June 1. She could use your assistance so how about giving her a call.

Kudos go to the **Grand Slammers** bridge group who presented the branch with a portable PA system. Contact **Carol Torelli** for information about its use for AAUW functions.

Extracted from the November 13, 2012 Leadership Council Minutes by Eileen Edelson, Secretary

Palos Verdes Branch Celebrates its 55th



Maria Ashla joined two of the branch's six honorary life members, Beryl Denke and Janet Smith. Other life members who could not attend include Christine Gillis and Ruth Stone, founding members, and Ceil Woods and Jane Newhall.





Readers Theater performers: Linnea Eades, Robbi Winters, group director Jacky Mason, Kathleen Fitzgerald, Carol Torelli, Penny Stein and Marion Martelli presented 4 skits written by Jacky and depicting the times and history of our branch from the 60's forward. Sherry May was recruited to portray her role as council chair in the current day skit.

More than 45 members attended the 55th branch birthday party on November 13 and celebrated:

- Six honorary life members for their service and dedication to the AAUW mission,
- Major branch achievements and exciting plans for existing projects
- Branch history through Readers Theater skits
- A new branch fundraising project based on a photo essay by Bill May

(Left) **Dale Richards**, **Rowie Wolf** and **Judy Willis**

(Right) Louise Loether and Fran Wielin

> (Below right) Council Chair Sherry May with Tech Time founder Deedee Rechtin. The cake must have been relly good – they cleaned their plates.



Judy Purvis, who co-chaired the event with Eileen Edelson, presents the branch birthday cake. More than 45 attended the party and sang Happy Birthday to AAUW/PVP.

Thank you to the other helpers: Sherry May, Jacky Mason, Fleur Yano and heavy lifter Bruce Edelson.





Photos by Shirley Borks

Membership

Welcome New Members!

Mary Ashla has joined our branch and is working with her mother, Maria, to re-invigorate our science program for 4th and 5th grade junior Girl Scouts. Exploring Science (formerly Tech Time) is now in their capable hands with **Cordelia Hwang** helping to coordinate presenters for the 2013 session. Mary is a Speech Language Pathologist with PVPUSD. In addition to a BA and MA from CSUN, she has an MBA from Case Western Reserve. Many members know Mary from the wonderful "fiesta" she and her family hosted for our branch last year.

Patricia Dilks has recently relocated to San Pedro from Oakland, where as an active member of the Oakland-Piedmont Branch she served in various offices and as newsletter editor and website manager. Patty has also been an active supporter of Tech Trek and is interested in book groups, Readers Theater, Bridge-Ettes and Lunch Bunch. She retired last year as a school administrator for a non-public special education school in Alameda and is now volunteering at Seventh Street Elementary. Two of her three grandchildren attend PVHS and Patty is looking forward to making new friends in our branch.

Membership Committee Hosts New Member Event

On October 20 **Cordelia Hwang** hosted an informal get-together for new members. We began with socializing and introductions. There was a short overview of how National and State AAUW promote the mission through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. Then the discussion of Public Policy was followed by an introduction to our branch projects and interest groups. Questions and conversations provided an opportunity to get to know one another. Thank you particularly to **Cordelia Hwang, Sherry May, Judy Purvis, Nancy Mahr, Dale Richards** and **Maria Ashla** for your thoughtfulness in helping with the meeting.

From the Membership Matters newsletter

"On October 24, AAUW released *Graduating to a Pay Gap: The Earnings of Women and Men One Year after College Graduation...* We also have a new blog series, *Gap and Gown*, which focuses on issues raised in the report."

Thank you to members who bring friends to our events and introduce them to our branch!

Submitted by Trish Dilligan, Membership Co-Chair

Thank you for the overwhelming response to my request for professional clothing for the clients of Harbor Interfaith Services in San Pedro. To all AAUW members and their friends who donated both men's and women's clothing, know that it will help many to be appropriately attired to get a job and get back on their feet financially. I have already delivered a carload and your receipts for tax purposes will be in the mail shortly. All types of clothing and food are always needed and I will be happy to pick up and deliver your contributions, just give me a call or drop me an e-mail at your convenience. *Marion Martelli*

Working Women in the Developing World

Sherry May announced a new fundraising project approved by the branch Leadership Council in September, featuring some of Bill May's fabulous photographs taken during many of their journeys to Asia. The photographs are part of a photo essay by Bill entitled *Working Women in the Developing World*. Twelve of Bill's photos have been beautifully reproduced on blank note cards. Each photograph is a work of art and each card contains information about the piece.

In describing his images, Bill says,

"My project is a portrayal of gender inequity and a testament to women's strength. Through much of the developing world, girls and women are barred from education – yet the economies of their countries are dependent on their work for essential tasks basic to human sustenance.

My images for these note cards are all from Asia. They depict women doing the grunt work in harvesting and winnowing crops; in marketing the produce in local markets or on metropolitan street corners; and as artisans doing the basic tasks in the manufacture of products for local consumption, but more often for the tourist trade and foreign markets.

In virtually all of the work depicted in the project, women exclusively do the heavy lifting or tedious craft tasks for the men who run the shops and showrooms for the finished products."

They are available in three different 4-packs (each \$10) or a 12-pack with one of each photocard for \$25. They make perfect hostess gifts and, of course, are ideal for personal use for any occasion. All proceeds from the sale of these cards support the mission of AAUW, Palos Verdes, to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

Cards will be on display at all branch meetings and can also be ordered by contacting **Mary Shackle** who will oversee card sales. Mary can be reach at <u>pmshackle@verizon.net</u> or 310-541-4630.











Sample Cards from *Working Women in the Developing World*, a photo essay by Bill May include: Vegetables for Sale: Bombay 2012 (India); Artisan's Hands (Thailand); Paper Makers: Stage One (Bhutan); Spin, Spin, Spin (India); It Never Ends (India)

AAUW Post Election Update

National Election

Women voters were a key element in the November Election. Events that took place in the months before the election attracted the attention of women: the de-funding of Planned Parenthood, the fact that the Congress had held 37 sessions dedicated to reducing women's reproductive rights, incumbent male members of Congress making inflammatory statements about rape, and Rush Limbaugh's diatribe about Sandra Fluke.

Women made up over 53% of the electorate in the 2012 election. "Millennials," ages 18-31, made up 19% of the voter turnout nationally in spite of pre-election polls that indicated this age group to be somewhat apathetic about the election! Interestingly, that is the same percentage of women 65 and over who voted. The next Congress will include the largest number of women ever - 20 in the Senate and at least 77 in the House – but this is still less than 19% of the U.S. legislature.

As we move forward in our work on women's issues, it is important to use a bi-partisan approach. Lisa Maatz, AAUW's VP of Governmental Affairs states, "It does no good for AAUW if only one political party addresses issues related to our AAUW mission. However, there is already clear evidence that women's voices were heard by both parties, which is positive for AAUW as it continues to work in non-partisan ways for change." Ms. Maatz also notes that, in the event of a continuing Congressional impasse, AAUW will try to work through the Executive Branch to get regulatory changes that positively impact women. Upcoming priorities include passage of the Violence Against Women Act and continued work to implement equal pay provisions.

California Election

AAUW's positions on Propositions were, for the most part, supported by voters. Prop 30 passed, increasing taxes to avoid education cuts. AAUW urged a No vote on Prop 32 to change the state budget process and this was voted down. Prop 38, increasing taxes for education, not supported by AAUW was voted down. Prop 40, upholding the work of the citizens redistricting commission, was supported by AAUW and was approved by voters. Prop 35, Human Trafficking, on which AAUW urged careful study in part due to potential legal consequences was approved by voters. However, the day after the election, the ACLU and other organizations filed a lawsuit and the court concurred in blocking the implementation of unconstitutional provisions of this proposition until the matter is resolved in court.

In this first election after redistricting, voters in many districts were faced with no incumbent on ballots and even two incumbents running for the same seat. The outcome was a net loss of 3 seats previously held by women. In January, a total of 30 women (9 Senate and 21 Assembly) will be in the California legislature. However, two strong supporters of AAUW were elected to Congress, State Senator Gloria Negrete McLeod and Assemblymember Julia Brownley.

With the passage of Prop 30 we can be hopeful that the California Legislature will move forward in stabilizing the budget and reinvesting in education and other public systems and services that are essential to all Californians, rebuilding the foundations of a strong economy and healthy communities.

Submitted by Nancy Mahr, State Public Policy Committee Member

FYI: In the October 29, 2012 issue of *Time Magazine* there is an article on page 10 entitled "The Meaning of Malala." Read the article and checkout the byline. It's **Krista Mahr**/Islamabad. Krista is none other than the daughter of our very own member **Nancy Mahr**. Thanks to **Marion Smith** for this great catch and for sharing her find with us.

December 2012 – Jar	nuary 2013			CoastLines
		BEB	MERAMAN	1
<u>GROUP</u>	DATE	TIME	PLACE	<u>CONTACT</u>
AAUW – Who Ar	e We Anyway	/? (WAWA)		
	1/17	10:00 am	Home of Judy Purvis	Judy Purvis
	Thursday No Decembe	or Meeting	310-375-8478 Monthly discussion group about AAU	310-375-8578 IW/ mission
	No Decembe	, weeting		
Arts & Artists		7.00		
	1/15 Tuesday	7:00 pm	Home of Kathleen Fitzgerald 310-373-0946	Nancy Leonard 310-519-1606
	No December Meeting		Monthly meeting for art lovers Please contact Kathleen Fitzgerald if you are interested in helping to start a second group	
Bridge-Ettes	12/12 Wednesday	11:30 am	Home of Marion Martelli 310-377-3729	Margery Norris 310-514-3980
	1/15 Tuesday	1:00 pm	Holiday luncheon and bridge party Home of Dale Richards 310-375-3369	
			Call Margery if interested in being ad	lded to sub list
Contemporary Li	iterature			
	12/10 Monday	11:30 am	Lunch at Trumps	Barbara Prassas 310-519-8044
	1/14 Monday	9:30 am	Home of Anna May Labbe 310-326-6245 <i>Cat's Table</i> by Michael Ondaatze	
Eclectic Readers	1/24 Thursday	2:00 pm	Home of Dale Richards 310-375-3369	Jan Cofer 310-791-8337
	No Decembe	er Meeting	The Chaperone by Laura Moriarty	
Great Decisions	- Northside (1/21 Monday No Decembe	10:00 am	Home of Penny Stein 310-377-5648 Topic #7: Indonesia: Prospects for F Kathleen will order the 2013 books a you wish to be included in the order a please send \$22 to Kathleen and you	t the end of November. If and haven't yet paid,
Great Decisions	1/21 Monday	10:00 am	PV South Shores Clubhouse	Sharon Andrade 310-541-2417
	No Decembe	er Meeting	Topic #7: Indonesia: Prospects for F Facilitator: Eileen Edelson	rosperity

This holiday season, remind yourself that it's okay not to be perfect!

<u>CoastLines</u>			D	December 2012 – January 2013
			Met anay]
GROUP	DATE	TIME	PLACE	<u>CONTACT</u>
Grand Slammers	12/12 Wednesday	11:30 am	Home of Marion Martelli 310-377-3729	Sara Bowlus 310-541-2767
	1/10 Thursday	1:00 pm	Holiday luncheon and bridge party Home of Nancy Leonard 310-519-1606 Call Sara if interested in being add	
Lunch Bunch	1/23 Wednesday	12 noon	Palos Verdes Country Club	Nancy Kellogg 310-377-2427
	No December Meeting		Call Nancy to confirm attendance Congratulations Liz Hill and Grace Leonard who made correct predictions on the winner of the 2012 presidential election	
Mah Jongg				
	Every Friday	1:00 pm	Contact Myrna for dates and locations Contact Anne Destabelle at 310-54 interested in lessons	Myrna Plost 310-541-6743 41-8469 if you are
Night Books				
	12/10 * Monday 1/14 *	6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Dinner - Buona Sera Ristorante Redondo Beach Home of Rowie Wolf	Rowie Wolf 310-373-5970
	Monday Permanent date change to second Monday		310-373-5970 <i>Wolf Hall</i> by Hillary Mantel February: <i>In the Garden of Beasts</i>	s by Erik Larson
Readers Theater				
Reducis medici	12/10 Monday 1/14 Monday	6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Home of Penny Stein 310-377-5648 Holiday potluck celebration and gif Home of Kathleen Fitzgerald 310-373-0947	Jacky Mason 310-377-3896 t exchange
	wonday		All interested members are welcom	ne – Contact Jacky
Walkers	Every	7:00 am	Cliffs at the south end of	Kathleen 310-373-0947
	Thursday	7.00 am	Hawthorne Blvd Weekly 60-90 minute walk – Four-l	Cordelia 310-541-3261
Women in Trans	ition (WIM)			
	12/5 Wednesday	7:00 pm	Malaga Bank 2514 Via Tejon, PVE Holiday Cheers – bring an appetize	Susan Negrete 310-374-2116 er
	1/9 * Wednesday * Note date ch	7:00 pm ange for Jan	Malaga Bank 2514 Via Tejon, PVE Monthly discussion group for wome	



http://www.aauw.org http://www.aauw-ca.org http://www.palosverdes-ca.aauw.net/

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN PALOS VERDES PENINSULA BRANCH P.O. BOX 2443 PALOS VERDES PENINSULA, CA 90274

AAUW Mission Statement

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research

AAUW Vision Statement

AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls

CoastLines

CoastLines is the monthly newsletter of the AAUW Palos Verdes Peninsula Branch edited by Marion Martelli.

CoastLines is distributed to members via e-mail as a PDF file. Those requiring printed and posted copies are requested to make an annual contribution of \$10 to cover printing and postage.

Deadline for copy and photos is the 10th of each month preceding the issue month. CoastLines is issued September through May with a combined issue for December/January. In some years, a ninth issue may be posted in June or August.

Materials should be forwarded to Marion Martelli at <u>vinmar@cox.net</u>. For changes in your e-mail account to ensure receipt of *CoastLines*, contact Marion. For members receiving *CoastLines* via postal delivery, please notify Faith Morrow at <u>morrows@verizon.net</u> of any changes.

Branch Message Board

The 6th Annual Nativity Exhibit Saturday, December 1 thru Thursday, December 20 Mary & Joseph Retreat Center Crest Road, RPV

Admission is Free

For reservations or more information about exhibit times and docent tours, call 310-377-4867 ext.258.

