

AAUW CoastLines

Palos Verdes Peninsula Branch, May/June 2020



May June 2020

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Message from Leadership

Dear Branch Members,

We hope that you all continue to be well! We will not be holding our usual in-person meetings/events due to the current “Shelter in Place” restrictions; however, we are actively involved in converting things to an “online” status.

The friendships that we have formed through our branch have enriched all our lives. So, let’s try to stay connected through the wonderful technology that is available to us. At this stressful time, it is enjoyable to see friendly faces even if they are on the computer. We have members willing to help to make sure that everyone can take part.

This issue includes:

Changes that are in process for our branch

Our New Virtual Technologies Committee

Social Events

Interest Groups

Project Status

Tech Trek

Marymount/NCCWSL

Branch “business” that is proceeding as usual

We have chosen our Status of Women Awardee and

Named Gift Recipient for 2020

We will be voting (electronically) on the Leadership team for 2020-2021

It is time to renew your membership (application is included in this Coastlines)

We are working on having our annual Branch Planning Meeting using ZOOM

We remain committed to supporting the AAUW mission!



A PANDEMIC TRAVEL TALE

On March 11, 2020, AAUW branch member Joyce Kochanowski boarded a flight for Paris, traveling solo (her roommate cancelled the last minute), the ultimate destination Rabat, Morocco. Seventeen hours later, Joyce arrived in Paris and was told President Trump had ordered US residents to return to the U.S. immediately. After a scramble to try and rebook, it turned out to be a false alarm and she made her scheduled connection and arrived in Casablanca at 4:30 that afternoon, (March 12).

It seems like every step of this trip was going to be a challenge, for when she deplaned there wasn't anyone from the tour company to meet her. Not until stepping outside the airport did she spot a guide, identified with a tag around his neck, lounging against a post. He helped facilitate a transfer by car from Casablanca to Rabat where she met 10 of her fellow tour members. After a 15 minute orientation, dinner that night was on her own, so she found an ATM machine, bought some food at a small shop and had dinner in her hotel room.

On March 13 they toured Rabat, then left early Saturday, March 14, for an all-day bus ride to Fez touring ruins along the way. On Sunday, March 15, they visited the largest medina in the world. When they returned to the hotel, they were told by hotel management that they had to return to the U.S. immediately.

The next morning, March 16, Joyce traveled from Fez to Casablanca to start her return journey. She arrived at the Casablanca airport at 12:15 pm and was in the baggage area until 7:30 pm along with hundreds of other desperate travelers; there wasn't a place to sit or anything to eat or drink for 7 1/2 hours. (A group of Algerian men had been there for 2 full days and were starting to riot.)

During the long wait, Joyce got a confirmed reservation to Paris departing the following evening, but was unable to get a confirmed flight from Paris to the US. She spent the night in a Novahotel in Casablanca and the following morning toured the tallest mosque in the world. Mid-afternoon she checked in for her flight to Paris and was told she couldn't board since she didn't have a confirmed flight to the US. Joyce said she "told them off royally" and to just ship her luggage to Paris and she would take it from there. She arrived in Paris at midnight, got a confirmed flight to the US for 10:15am the next day, and checked into a hotel in Paris.

Once checked in, Joyce discovered the charge cords for her cell phone were in her checked luggage, her cell phone was down to 19% and so she stayed awake most of the night worrying that her alarm wouldn't go off and that she'd miss her flight. But, she awakened on time, gathered her things, closed the door to the room, leaving the key inside the room, and then remembered the key was required to use the elevator. Casting about for a solution she discovered the emergency stairwells weren't locked so she proceeded down the stairwell on foot.

The flight to the US was on an old Air Bus that probably hadn't been used in a long time. Screens weren't working, mid-flight they announced there weren't any lights and, of course, there weren't any chargers. When Joyce's plane landed in the US, she had 1% charge left on her cell phone—just enough to make one phone call to contact Guy for a ride home. And that is a tale of travel in a pandemic



May/June Birthdays

May

<i>Leann Roque</i>	04
<i>Sheila Steinberg</i>	08
<i>Martha Feakins</i>	26
<i>Fran Wielin</i>	28
<i>Janet Harris</i>	29

June

<i>Willis Binnard</i>	02
<i>Kathryn Sandow</i>	14
<i>Sue Gates</i>	16
<i>Ann Shaw</i>	18
<i>Susan Grimshaw</i>	19
<i>Kathy Berg</i>	20
<i>Sharon Butler</i>	21
<i>Joyce Kochanowski</i>	22
<i>Mary Watson</i>	25
<i>Gail Ruder</i>	26
<i>Susan Wallace</i>	26

Membership Committee Update

by Fran Brown

The Membership Committee has been conducting check-in calls with members to see who might need assistance with technology in order to stay connected with Branch activities during these unusual times.

The Committee has, also, decided to meet more frequently during this period.

Cinco de Mayo is our first virtual Happy Hour. The Coffee with Friends bunch has decided for now to have weekly virtual meetings.

More virtual events will be taking place in the future.



Dues are Due!

It's time to renew your membership for 2020-2021! Our membership year runs from July 1 to June 30 and annual dues are \$101. The \$101 includes National AAUW dues of \$59, AAUW CA dues of \$20 and our Palos Verdes Branch dues of \$22.

Please use the Renewal Form on the last page of this newsletter and send it together with your check payable to AAUW-PVP to:

AAUW-PVP
P.O. Box 2443
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274

A Note from the Treasurer

Our financial year is July 1st to June 30th. If you need to get reimbursed for any branch expenses, please get your receipts to me by the end of June so that you can get reimbursed from this year's budget. Thanks.

Faith Morrow

morrrows@verizon.net

AAUW/MARYMOUNT NCCWSL UPDATE

by Elayne Nahman

Our Committee had the pleasure of evaluating fifteen candidates for the opportunity of attending the AAUW National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) held in Washington, DC each year. Through the process of application evaluation and scoring and then personal interviews, we selected four candidates who are outstanding students in every way. They are Jocelyn Arevalo-Ralios, Susan Jimenez, Payton Sprouse and April Tamayo. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the conference was cancelled this year and has been moved to May 26-29, 2021. It is our hope that they will be able to attend at that time and experience the wonderful benefits of this leadership conference.

AAUW ELECTION
A New Way to Do Business

So much has changed! As we will not have our in-person Annual Branch Meeting this year, the Leadership Team is suggesting an alternate way to conduct our annual election of Branch leaders.

The current elected officers are offering to continue for another year.

These officers are:

Co-Chairs	Nancy Mahr, Dale Richards
Treasurer	Faith Morrow
Membership Co-Chairs	Fran Brown, Leann Roque

Our bylaws require that these three positions are voted on by the membership. So, the continuation of these officers must be approved by a vote of our members (which would usually take place at the Annual Branch Meeting).

In May, we will send an email to each member that will link to a vote survey. On that site you can vote YES or NO on the current leaders remaining in place for one more year. There will also be a space for comments or for a write-in vote. Members without online access will receive materials by mail.

If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Mahr, 310-377-0735, nlmahr@verizon.net.

NAMED GIFT HONOREE



Our 2020 Named Gift Honoree is Fran Brown. This award reflects outstanding service to the Branch and to upholding the principles of AAUW.

Although a relatively new member, Fran jumped right in! She is an active and dedicated member of the Branch and has taken on several Board and committee responsibilities. She joined the Branch to work with Tech Trek and has taken on significant responsibility on that team. Last year she joined the Leadership Team as Co-Membership Chair. Together, Fran and Co-Chair Leanne Roque lead an outstanding Membership Committee. Events such as Winter and Summer Socials, Coffee with Friends and Branch Happy Hours further involve both new and current Branch members. Fran also co-chaired Fall Fling. This year, Fran started an additional Book Club and is active in a new Conversation Group. Just this

month, she joined the Virtual Technologies Committee. If something needs to be done, we can always count on Fran!

STATUS OF WOMEN AWARD 2020

AAUW PVP is pleased to recognize Nancy Wilcox with the 2020 Status of Women Award. The award is usually presented at a June Recognition Luncheon. This year, our luncheon will not take place. We want to honor our awardee in this issue of Coastlines.

This award is given to a woman who is visible in the community and works to better society; who has shown a long-term commitment to the status of women; who shows leadership and exhibits professional conduct; and who is a role model for other women and girls.

Nancy Wilcox is a lifelong Californian, born and raised in the San Fernando Valley. She earned a B.A. from U.C. Santa Cruz in 1980, majoring in Information Systems. She began her career with TRW, designing large computer systems. She shifted focus to be home with her young son, taking up volunteer service. Scouts; PTA; the school library; tutoring in underserved schools; church projects to support Rainbow Services, SHAWL House, House of Hope and Harbor Interfaith Services.

Her most recent focus, one that consumes all of her volunteer time is services for those experiencing Homelessness. She works with Coalition to End Homelessness, a community oriented, grass roots, non-profit. She now leads the South Bay Services Planning Area (SP8) of L.A. County under Measure H. She has procured over \$10 million in grants coming to the South Bay. Nancy participates in homeless counts, worker training, and connecting to South Bay cities on homeless programs.

Phil Ansell, head of the LA County Homeless Initiative, calls Nancy a volunteer extraordinaire. We join in recognizing Nancy Wilcox for her consistent, selfless service for the improvement of quality of life for all in our community.

UPDATES FROM AAUW-CA PUBLIC POLICY TEAM

By Kathi Harper, Public Policy Committee Co-Chair

With the coronavirus starting to show itself in California (but before the Governor's shelter-in-place orders), the AAUW-CA Public Policy team decided to exercise caution and improvised our annual legislative meeting with our Advocate in Sacramento. Co-Chairs Kathi Harper and Sue Miller, along with AAUW-CA president Jane Neimeier, did meet with Advocate Magaly Zaval at her office on March 13th, however we communicated with all other committee members via e-mails throughout the day.

Although challenging, the meeting was productive. We reviewed 44 bills with the following resolutions:

Co-Sponsor 1 bill (SB973)

Support 26 Bills in the following categories:

Product Regulation – 3

Family Planning – 5

Education – 6

Labor/Wages – 2

Gender Equity/Discrimination – 4

Family Protection – 3

Sexual Assault and Sex Education – 2

8 Bills will be "watched" for further developments

10 Bills were dropped

For more information on these bills, click here: <https://ctweb.capitoltrack.com/public/publish.aspx?session=19&id=920d3c91-39f9-4e59-a017-b2d993254aef>

We have also learned that the timetable for the Legislature to reconvene is not finalized. We are not sure what impact that will have on this legislative session; we are advised that their focus is going to be on coronavirus bills, housing and wildfires. The state budget must be approved by June 15, so this too will be an area of focus. We will keep members updated as we learn more.

PVP Tech Trek Status Update

by Kathy Ford, AAUW PVP Tech Trek Branch Coordinator

AAUW California has followed the guidance of AAUW National and cancelled the 2020 Summer Tech Trek camp season due to concerns for the safety of the girls, branch members and volunteers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The PVP Tech Trek Committee completed the tasks of selecting and notifying applicants for camp scholarships as well as alternates. The Committee decided to waive the \$50 parent co-pay, due to the challenges families are facing from the restrictions implemented to slow the spread of the virus. All the parent co-pays were refunded prior to the 2020 camp cancellation.

One of the issues that was reviewed was how to handle the girls selected this year. One possibility was to have them attend camp next year, after 8th grade. Branches would then skip the selection process for new candidates in 2021. AAUW California Board of Directors and the AAUW California Tech Trek Co-Coordinators Susan Negrete and Alice Hill provided each Tech Trek Branch Coordinator an opportunity to vote on this issue. After receiving the unanimous opinion of our Tech Trek Committee members, I submitted a vote to send this year's girls to the 2021 camps. The Board reviewed and accepted survey results from all the branches and reached the majority decision that the 2020 students shall **not** attend the 2021 camps.

I have notified our contact teachers at Wilmington and Dana Middle Schools that the 2020 camps have been cancelled. I will notify our selected candidates this week using the template provided by AAUW California to advise the girls that the 2020 camps have been cancelled. All funds raised for the camp scholarships are recorded with the camp treasurers and will remain in place for the 2021 camp scholarships.

Thanks to all of you who have worked so hard to select the girls, raise funds and support all efforts to create a successful camp experience for our girls. Even though the girls selected in 2020 will not go to camp, they have had a valuable experience going through the application and interview process and we hope to create a way to celebrate their successes.

The South Bay Tech Trek Alumnae Group (TTAG) recently polled their active members on the question of whether to include the girls selected for the cancelled 2020 Tech Trek camps. They unanimously decided to invite them to participate in all future activities that TTAG plans.

New Committee Formed

By Jan Cofer

The Leadership Council has asked me to form a committee to assist with sustaining our branch through virtual technologies during the time of the pandemic. I have assembled an excellent committee with members Maria Ashla, Fran Brown, (Membership Chair), Donna Day, Nancy Rayner (Interest Group Chair) and Dale Richards. The committee has already met twice on ZOOM and participated in other branch virtual activities. The name of the committee will be Virtual Technologies Committee, and the mission will be to research, develop and support the use of virtual technologies to support AAUW-PVP.

The Virtual Technologies Committee will coordinate its activities with branch leadership, and I will become part of leadership for the coming year. We expect that many, if not all, branch activities for at least a year will be virtual activities, and the committee will assist in generating ideas, developing and supporting these virtual activities. The committee will work with interest groups and individual members to support virtual branch activities.

The Virtual Technologies Committee will monitor the use of virtual technologies by other AAUW branches, the AAUW state and national organizations, and other organizations to gather ideas for branch activities. We also welcome members' ideas for branch activities.

It is my personal goal for our branch members to stay connected during these difficult times and enjoy themselves in the process.

Virtual Technologies Committee News

By Jan Cofer

The Virtual Technologies Committee expects that most branch activities will occur on ZOOM. ZOOM has been selected because it is the platform most commonly used by our branch members, it is easier to use than some other platforms, and it has the flexibility we need for our activities. Individual members who are not hosting gatherings do not need to register with ZOOM to participate in ZOOM activities. If a person chooses to register at zoom.us, there is no charge, and they can then host gatherings up to forty minutes in length for more than two people. Some branch members already have ZOOM licenses, or are eligible to get free licenses through their affiliation with some educational organizations.

ZOOM can be used on cellphones, iPads and other notebook computers, laptop computers desktop computers (preferably with a camera), and even a landline phone. Committee members will assist branch members who need help determining which equipment to use and how to set it up.

This is a video referenced in the latest AAUW newsletter, *Mission & Action*, on using ZOOM for the first time. Even if you have already used ZOOM, it is worth spending a few minutes watching this video.

<https://bit.ly/2ztxHFx>

ZOOM training resources including live training, videos and tutorials are available online.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/docs/en-us/covid19.html>

Not everything is going to work as we expect, and it will be a learning experience for all of us. We ask for your understanding here. I just started using ZOOM less than a month ago, and I am excited by the possibilities.

Coffee with Friends

by Margery Norris



On April 22nd nine members joined the second Zoom get together of Coffee with Friends, hosted by Leann Roque, co-chair of PVP branch Membership committee with Fran Brown. This informal drop-in group decided to meet weekly on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. during this period of physical distancing.

It's good to see each other, catch up on coping skills, hobbies, food experiments, family, and newly discovered opportunities, such as scheduled visits to the PV Botanical Gardens. If you would like to join us, just contact Leann or Fran and bring your own coffee!

INTEREST GROUPS—MAY/JUNE 2019

Good news! COVID-19 has NOT defeated our branch Interest Groups! Most groups have continued to meet using Zoom, including several Book Groups, Great Decisions, and our three women's discussion groups. The Art Appreciation Group will start viewing DVDs on Zoom and discussing the content in May. WIT and Readers Theater will start Zooming in May, also!

If you are having difficulty in accessing/using/or hosting a meeting on Zoom, contact Jan Cofer at jancofer@gmail.com for assistance.

The Foreign Press Association, which provides DVDs for Great Decisions, has decided to release this season of *Great Decisions* shows on YouTube during this public health crisis. You may wish to view some of these presentations and may find it so interesting that you will decide to join a Great Decisions Interest Group.

Did you know that about 80% of our Branch members are participants in at least one Interest Group? Our Branch has a robust offering of a wide variety of Interest Groups, including Bridge, four different book clubs, Art Appreciation, Scrabble, two Great Decisions groups, and several women's discussion groups. Joining an Interest Group is a great way to meet other members, make new friends, and enjoy the camaraderie that frequently develops.

Upcoming Interest Group meeting information is published in each issue of Coastlines. Most groups are open to new members. Please consider joining one – or, even better, work with us to start a new Interest Group. We will be glad to help you develop a new group. It only takes someone willing to spend a little time coordinating the process. Some members have indicated that they would be interested in participating in new Interest Groups for Public Policy issues, Art Appreciation, Music Study, etc.

Libby Bergen has recently started a Daytime Scrabble group and is taking new members now. Jan Cofer is willing to start and coordinate an Armchair Travel Group for interested members to share their trip experiences and photos with other like-minded excursionists. Denise DeVenuto is willing to hold Zoom cooking sessions from her home kitchen and share recipes with interested cooks.

If you are interested in joining an existing Interest Group or one of those described above, or are interested in coordinating a new Interest Group, please contact Nancy Rayner at nrayner777@gmail.com.

Submitted by Nancy Rayner, Interest Group Coordinator

ZOOM ETIQUETTE

Now that so many AAUW members have embraced Zoom events, here are a couple of helpful reminders:

- Allow one person to speak at a time, it's easier to understand what's being said.
- Mute your microphone except when speaking, to minimize background noise.
- If you want to say something, raise your hand. The host can then acknowledge you for your chance to talk.
- Place your device/screen so that your image is more of you, less of background features.
- If you are using a phone or an iPad, do your best to stabilize its position.



Time to renew your AAUW-PVP membership for 2020-21

Current membership expires June 30, 2020

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: Home _____ Cell _____

OK to list your cell number in branch Directory? _____ Yes _____ No

E-mail: _____ Birthday (Mo & Day Only) _____

Updates or corrections to the Directory?

Branch Newsletter: (Circle One) E-mail U.S Mail (Suggest \$10 donation to cover postage/printing)

Dues Breakdown:

AAUW National \$59 (\$56 tax deductible) AAUW CA \$ 20 PVP Branch \$22 TOTAL \$101

How much do you pay?

Regular Member: (AAUW National + AAUW CA + Branch) \$101

Life Member: (AAUW CA + Branch) \$42

Dual Member: (Branch dues only) \$22

Additional donation would be appreciated

To Branch \$ _____ To AAUW Funds \$ _____ Dues + donation = Total Check \$ _____

Please make check payable to AAUW-PVP
Mail to: AAUW-PVP, P.O. Box 2443, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274

Office Use Only: ML _____ CC _____ Dep. C _____ Dep. Hist. _____ BMR/AMR _____ Postcard _____



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**American Association of University Women
Palos Verdes Branch
P.O. Box 2443
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274**

**<http://aauw.org>
<http://aauw-ca.org>
<http://palosverdes-ca.aauw.net>**

AAUW Mission Statement

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

Council Co-chairs: Nancy Mahr and Dale Richards

Treasurer: Faith Morrow

Membership Chairs: Leann Roque, Fran Brown

**Editor: Eunice McConaughy
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Deadline for Summer Coast-Lines articles, TBD

BRANCH CALENDAR MAY/JUNE 2020

Coffee With Friends on ZOOM	Every Wed., 10am
AAUW membership dues	June 30, 2020
Outstanding AAUW receipts	June 30, 2020