

# AAUW CoastLines

Palos Verdes Peninsula Branch, May/June 2021



**May June 2021**

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## **PLEASE JOIN US ON ZOOM FOR OUR MAY BRANCH MEETING**

**Tuesday, May 11, 2021, 2-3:30pm**

## **Annual Election of Branch Officers**

### **PROGRAM**

**“IF IT WEREN’T FOR OPERA... I would not know a thing about AKHNATEN!” A ZOOM talk with LA Opera Community Educator Ray Busmann**



Hear the story of this revolutionary young pharaoh, whose incredible contributions to history and the arts were erased from the world's memory for 3,000 years. Rediscovered in all his glory and mystery only 100 years ago, Akhnaten is the title character of Philip Glass' mesmerizing 1984 opera.

**Ray Busmann** was born and raised in Germany, where he hosted classical music radio shows. Since his move to Southern California in 1992, Ray has worked as a teacher for vocational schools, and as a German translator and voice-over artist for feature films. Presently, he is employed by the Los Angeles Public Library and is enjoying his ninth season as a volunteer Community Educator for LA Opera.



## **Branch Updates and Announcements**

**We look forward to seeing you there!**

(Watch for an e-mail with a link to the meeting.)

## COASTLINES – PUBLIC POLICY NOTES

### AAUW ELECTIONS

It's time to vote on AAUW state and national items. Here's what you will be voting on:

#### AAUW California Vote April 16 – May 7

Election of members to the State Board

Approval of the proposed Public Policy Priorities for 2021-2023

Approval of proposed bylaw changes

On April 16, each member with a valid email address on file received an email message containing a personal invitation to vote that includes a link to the ballot.

If you prefer a paper ballot, request one by contacting the AAUW California office at (916) 692-5125

#### AAUW National Vote April 7 – May 17

Election of members to the National Board

Approval of proposed Public Policy Priorities for 2021-2012

Approval of proposed bylaw changes (2/3 vote)

- removal of degree requirement for membership
- changes in student membership category

The AAUW Board of Directors has joined the AAUW Board in support of a “yes” vote on the bylaws change to remove the degree requirement for membership in AAUW. The Board stated that AAUW survived for over 130 years because it has been willing to change as the world has changed. Now it is time for AAUW to adjust and thrive with the changing times.

On April 7th, you should have received an e-mail with a link to your national election ballot. It was titled: Vote Now, and was sent by Shannon Wolfe at AAUW (membershipinfo@aauw.org). If you cannot find this message, email Shannon and request a link.

### AAUW CA LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The Public Policy Committee has completed its review of the bills for this legislative season, and the 2020-21 [Bill Tracker](#) can now be found on the website under Public Policy/Legislative Advocacy/Bill Tracking. You can see which bills AAUW CA is working on and check their status.

### CHANGING COVID GUIDELINES

Previously AAUW CA stated that it does not sanction in-person meetings at this time due to COVID. As we move into the transitional stage of COVID-19, questions are coming about having in-person AAUW meetings.

Follow CDC guidelines for masking, social distancing, and traveling:

- Follow your county guidelines for how large a group can meet in one space-- inside or outside.
- Remember that our AAUW insurance probably will not cover COVID-related illness.
- Be smart, be cautious, and stay safe as we move toward our “new normal”. We have made it this far and we are getting closer to the end!



### May

Wendy Walker	01
Leann Roque	04
Sheila Steinberg	08
Helen Cannefax	17
Martha Feakins	26
Fran Wielin	28
Jane Harris	29

### June

Willis Binnard	02
Connie Leach	12
Kathryn Sandow	14
Sue Gates	16
Ann Shaw	18
Susan Grimshaw	19
Kathy Berg	20
Sharon Butler	21
Joyce Kochanowski	22
Mary Watson	25
Gail Ruder	26
Susan Wallace	26

## 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

[morrows@verizon.net](mailto:morrows@verizon.net)

## Dues are Due!

There's a new procedure this year! Page 9 of this issue has all the pertinent information.

Deadline to pay dues without penalty, June 30, 2021.

## Tea Time Trivia & Scavenger Hunt

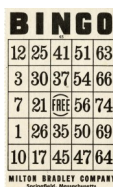


on ZOOM



Friday, May 14 @ 4:00 p.m.

ZOOM link will be sent via eblast



## Rose Month Bingo

Friday, June 11 at 7:00 p.m.

June is Rose Month

So get yourself some roses & play Bingo with your AAUW friends on ZOOM

Please RSVP to [leannr@cox.net](mailto:leannr@cox.net) before June 10 to receive Bingo card and ZOOM link.

## THANKS FOR A SUCCESSFUL LOBBY DAY!

By Kathy Harper

AAUW California's first attempt at a virtual Lobby Day with the California Legislature presented many challenges: contacting dozens of legislators' offices, registering and communicating with participating members, analyzing legislation to discuss. The Public Policy Team made it happen successfully!

First we thank our lobbyist, Kathy Van Osten who, with help from her assistant Jennifer, made all the appointments with legislators. Kathy also arranged for our key opening speakers, Assembly Member Christina Garcia, Chair of the Women's Legislative Caucus, and Assembly Majority Leader Eloise Reyes, author of AB 92, which we are co-sponsoring. These two prominent legislators were empowering and it was also significant for them to learn about AAUW and our Public Policy Priorities.

After the opening session, 30 teams of 3 or 4 AAUW members connected with individual legislators or their staff. Thanks to our Team Leaders who prepared their teams for their meetings! In these meetings, members communicated information about AAUW CA, their branches and also the three bills which are high priority for AAUW in the current session.

AB 92 Assembly Member Reyes *Child Care Family Fees*

SB 62 Senator Durazo *Garment Worker Protection Act*

AB 373 Assembly Member Min *Consumer Debt: Economic Abuse*

The results of these meetings are important in several ways. Sixty legislators or their staff now know about AAUW and our commitment to improve the lives of women and girls in California. They'll remember us when we contact them again as our bills move through the legislative process. Several legislative staffers asked for more information about becoming members! Co-Chairs Kathi Harper and Sue Miller met with members of Governor Newsom's staff who are influential in assisting the Governor in his decisions about signing or vetoing bills, and with Senate President Pro Tem Toni Atkins staff. Kathi and Sue also met with Assembly Member Reyes who is ecstatic that we are co-sponsoring AB 92! She made a point of telling us that AAUW IS very well known and respected in Sacramento! All of this will enable our lobbyist to better connect with legislators as our bills move through the legislative process from now through September.

Thanks to all of you who participated! Hopefully we can do this in person in 2022!

A special thank you to Leslie Criswell, Nancy Mahr, Myrna Plost, and Rowie Wolf - our AAUW PVP Lobby Day Team.



### COOK'S CORNER INTEREST GROUP SHARES FAVORITE RECIPES AND TIPS

by Denise DeVenuto



Since July 2020, Cooks' Corner has been meeting at noon on the third Saturday of each month. At our first four meetings we focused on cooking demonstrations via Zoom that included lasagna, enchiladas, chicken parmesan, and short ribs. Over the months, our interests evolved to discussing recipes for appetizers, soups and stews, side dishes and desserts, as well as pizza, salad dressings, smoothies and sauces. We have also delved into various meal preparation methods such as make-ahead freezer meals. Our next ventures will be exploring the possibilities for fabulous picnics and barbecues and then breakfast dishes for a large group.

Leann Roque remarked, "Cooks' Corner has turned out to be a lot of fun as well as educational. And this has been a terrific way to get to know more about AAUW friends." "The enthusiasm and knowledge of group members is so apparent. I've really enjoyed this opportunity to pick up useful techniques and recipes" noted Ruth Bloland.



**Cecilia Rogers**

Sr. Marketing Communications Specialist  
Cetera Financial Group

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is a nationwide network with more than 170,000 members, whose mission is advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. After Cecilia received an AAUW grant for graduate school, she joined the network in 2002 as part of the Palos Verdes Peninsula branch's Readers Theater, which produces original plays about historical women. Her most prominent roles have been Queen Victoria, first lady Dolley Madison, athlete Babe Didrickson and Marie Curie's daughter Eve. The performances provide scholarships for Tech Trek, a STEM camp for 7th grade girls, as well as AAUW's leadership and scholarship programs. Cecilia is now the director of Readers Theater, most recently producing a play on the centennial of women's suffrage which was performed for large audience via Zoom.

Visit the American Association of  
University Women

## NAMED GIFT HONOREE

### Jan Cofer Receives the Branch Named Gift Award



This Named Gift Award Honoree for this year is Jan Cofer, our Virtual Technologies Committee Chair.

Jan has been instrumental in keeping the branch alive and well through this tough year of Covid-19.

Her activities in transitioning us to ZOOM have been outstanding. She has worked with Interest Group Leaders and Members to ensure that we could keep going when we could not meet in person. She, and the committee she leads, have provided specialized and individualized help to meet the needs of members on a multitude of platforms.

We are fortunate to have a member who combines her level of technical curiosity and skill with the ability to produce and present multiple types of training materials.



Thank you PV AAUW members for your generous donations to Rainbow Services. On March 19th I delivered \$600 in gift cards and checks and two diaper boxes size 6, which were much needed and gratefully received.

Lynne Jones





## PVP Tech Trek Status Update

by Kathy Ford, AAUW PVP Tech Trek Branch Coordinator & Treasurer and Member of State Tech Trek and 2021 Virtual Tech Trek Committees

The Tech Trek Committee completed the selection process for the 2021 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls. We scheduled Zoom interviews for the students nominated by the teachers at Wilmington and Dana Middle Schools this year. The process was different from prior years, but our Tech Trek volunteers were impressed by all the girls they spoke to. We now have 17 girls ready to receive their registration forms this weekend. In addition to the 2021 girls, six of the girls selected in 2020 signed up to attend the 2021 Virtual Tech Trek camp this summer. We're so grateful that California Tech Trek is able to keep the Tech Trek mission going by offering a virtual STEM experience to girls interested in exploring more about these fields.

I want to again thank those of you who have already signed up for camp volunteer positions and urge those of you have not done so to consider giving your time to making these camps a rewarding experience. While the morning core robotics class requires volunteers to work all 5 days of the camp week, the afternoon and evening workshops do not. There are two 90 minute afternoon workshops Monday – Thursday. Not all the evening workshops have been identified, but there should be two-four. So, you can volunteer for the days and times that work for you. It's preferable that you work your selected workshops all three camp weeks, but it's not required. I like the idea of a lot of our members volunteering for a couple days each so more members get to participate and learn more about Tech Trek. But then, we do need a lot of adult coaches!

To learn more, check out the California AAUW website. The links listed below will provide more information about the volunteer positions. There will be training and support all along the way – so check it out. You can make a big difference for the girls and you don't need to leave home to do so!

The first link provides information on volunteer requirements, the volunteer application as well as the Code of Conduct Agreement. The second link includes the volunteer position descriptions, applications and training videos.

[Volunteer Requirements and Applications](#)  
[Position Descriptions and Training Videos](#)

*\*If you are unable to open these sites by clicking on them, hold down the control key and then click.*



### **VIRTUAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON MAY 25-26, 2021**

We are so excited! AAUW and MCU are having seven women attend the conference this year. This includes three of our finalists from 2019--Melissa Olson, Jocelyn Arevalo-Ralios, and Payton Sprouse plus Hannah White and Emily Pho euth -- two of the runner ups. Additionally, we included two members of the MCU student government association--Silvia Jauregui and Kasandra Norien.

These conferences are always an amazing experience for these young women who are introduced to fabulous key note speakers, significant workshops and important networking of their peers and mentors.

The AAUW and Marymount California University partnership has now been in existence for eight years and continues to meet our AAUW Mission Statement.

## Intimate Partner Violence

At our AAUW/PVP Branch Meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup>, Nancy Rayner provided an update on *Domestic Violence during COVID*. Although Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) encompasses LGBTQ and a wide range of abuse categories, the most common occurrence is violence committed by men against women. Abuse may be physical, mental, or reproductive/sexual. One in three women experience IPV; one in four women experience *severe* IPV, requiring medical treatment or hospitalization.

With IPV already a national concern, COVID-19 provided a 'Perfect Storm' for IPV victims. COVID-19 mandates resulted in victim quarantine with the abuser, who is already frustrated, stressed, and seeking control over something/someone. Friends and others who could help were often unable to due to social distancing regulations. Victims feared going to a shelter and exposing themselves and their children to the virus. Many shelters experienced closures, cutbacks and reduced capacities. Closing of courts and cutbacks made getting orders of protection more difficult or impossible.

Calls to the National Domestic Violence Hotline increased by 17 – 19%; calls to the L.A. County Hotline more than doubled over the past year. In many cases, IPV victims were forced to choose between weathering the abuse and enduring the effects of more severe violence or seeking medical help/support services and exposing themselves and their children to contracting COVID.

To successfully escape such an environment, a person needs a window of opportunity, a safe place to go, money to sustain themselves and any dependents, and a safety protocol in place. If you know such a victim, it is important to:

- be supportive and believe her
- provide her with an opportunity to talk about it
- check in with her frequently
- be able to provide information about hotlines and local shelters

If you are in a position to take her in, be sure she is aware that is a possibility for her if needed.

COVID-19 didn't cause Intimate Partner Violence, but mandates to address it have certainly exacerbated the problem worldwide. For many victims, this experience has made them realize that they must leave the environment. We, as a society, must be ready to help them.

~Submitted by Nancy Rayner



Our Virtual Craft and Chatk, organized by Margery Norris, was so much fun! A group of eight had a wonderful time with Show and Tell and tales of how we first learned to knit, make jewelry, crochet a blanket with a variety of stitches, sew a quilt, needlepoint, create a stained glass window. Margery is shown with paper crafts, hand-colored postcards, gift tags and greeting cards.

## INTEREST GROUPS – MAY/JUNE 2021

**\* During the COVID-19 stay-at-home period, the Bridge and Scrabble Groups will not hold meetings. All other Interest Groups will continue to meet via ZOOM.**

### ART APPRECIATION

Chair: Nancy Rayner

[Nrayner777@gmail.com](mailto:Nrayner777@gmail.com)

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 2 – 3pm

May 5 – *Toward High Renaissance in Central Italy*

May 19 – *High Renaissance in Central Italy*

June 2 – *Early Renaissance Painting in Central Italy*

June 16 – *The Light of the Veneto*

### READERS THEATER

Chair: Cecilia Rogers

310-293-7071 or

[fafnyr@mac.com](mailto:fafnyr@mac.com)

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday

New Members welcome

May 10 – Contact Cecilia for

June 14 – information.



### CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE

Chair: JoAnn DeFlon

310-508-3581

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday 9:30AM

May 10 – *Midnight Library*

June 14 – *Other Americans*

### ECLECTIC READERS

Chair: Jan Cofer

310-791-8337

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 2pm

May 20 – *Anxious People*

June 17 – *The Code Breaker*

### NIGHT BOOKS

Chair: Rowie Wolf

310-373-5970

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday 7pm

May 10 – *The Pull of the Stars Pale Horse, Pale Rider*

June 14 – *The Four Winds*

### 4<sup>TH</sup> MONDAY BOOK GROUP

Chair: Fran Brown

310-377-5254

4<sup>th</sup> Monday 2 – 4pm

May 24 – *Anxious People*

June 28 – *The Four Winds*

### ARMCHAIR TRAVELERS

Chair: Jan Cofer

(310)791-8337

4<sup>th</sup> Saturday – 10am

May 22 – Luggage Disasters & Travelers Insurance

June 26 – Future Trips

### COOKS' CORNER

Chair: Denise DeVenuto

[Dendev88@gmail.com](mailto:Dendev88@gmail.com)

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday 12N

310-428-8957

May 15 – Picnic & Barbecue Dishes

June 19 – Breakfast for Two or for a Group

### COFFEE WITH FRIENDS

Chairs: Fran Brown –

[franbrown5@cox.net](mailto:franbrown5@cox.net)

Leann Roque – [leannr@cox.net](mailto:leannr@cox.net)

Each Wednesday 10am

Contact Fran Brown or Leann Roque for ZOOM link.

### GREAT DECISIONS

Chair: Sharon Andrade

310-541-2417

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday 10am

May 17 – Struggles Over the Melting Arctic

June 21 – China's Role in Africa



### GREAT DECISIONS

Chair: Kathleen Fitzgerald

310-373-0946

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday 10am

May 17 – The coldest war: toward a return to Great Power competition in the Arctic

June 21 – China and Africa

### WOMEN IN TRANSITION

Chair: Susan Negrete

310-377-0642

PV Liaison: Rowie Wolf

310-373-5970

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday 7 – 9pm

Via ZOOM

May 5 - Topic TBD

June 2 – Topic TBD

### FIRST FRIDAY TEA & CONVERSATION

Chair: Kathryn Sandow

[reinventing@me.com](mailto:reinventing@me.com)

1<sup>st</sup> Friday 2 – 4pm

May 7 - Topic TBD

June 4 - Topic TBD



## Membership Renewal Time

It's that time again. Time "zooms" when we are having fun doesn't it? We need to let you know, current Branch membership expires June 30, 2021 and the membership renewal process will be different this year.

We will be able to renew our membership online. This April you will receive an email from National AAUW containing a link for paying renewal fees with a credit card. If you prefer, the email gives you the option to renew by check as we have done in the past. Check your email for a message from [membershipinfo@aauw.org](mailto:membershipinfo@aauw.org).

### Dues Breakdown:

AAUW National - **\$62** (\$59 tax deductible)

AAUW CA - **\$20** (not tax deductible)

PVP Branch - **\$22** (not tax deductible)

**TOTAL: \$104**

### How much do you pay?

Regular Member	(AAUW National + AAUW CA + Branch)	\$104
Life Member	(AAUW CA + Branch)	\$42
Dual Member	(Branch dues only)	\$22

Additional donations to the Branch would be much appreciated but cannot be made through the National e-renewal process. If you want to make a donation to the Branch, please mail a separate check payable to AAUW-PVP, to AAUW-PVP, P.O. BOX 2443, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274.

It would be helpful if you complete the renewal process as soon as possible to help the Leadership Council in planning the budget for next year.

The past year and current events have emphasized the importance of the AAUW mission *"To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy."* We look forward to your continuing branch support and commitment AAUW.

Fran Brown & Leann Roque

Membership Co-Chairs



First  
Class  
Postage

**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  
310-530-5847  
[eunicemc771@gmail.com](mailto:eunicemc771@gmail.com)**

**Deadline for Summer Coast-  
Lines articles, June 01, 2021**

**BRANCH CALENDAR MAY/JUNE 2021**

ALL MEETINGS CONTINUE ON ZOOM

Branch Meeting, Tuesday, May 11, 2-3:30pm

Tea Time Trivia and Scavenger Hunt, Friday, May 14, 4pm

Coffee With Friends, every Wed., 10am

Rose Month Bingo, Friday, June 11, 7pm

AAUW membership dues, June 30, 2021

Outstanding AAUW receipts due, June 30, 2021