

# AAUW CoaSTLines

Palos Verdes Peninsula Branch, September/October 2023

<http://palosverdes-ca.aauw.net> | <http://www.facebook.com/groups/aauwpvp>



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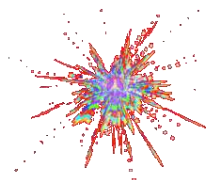
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## A September Spark!

Branch Meeting  
Tuesday, September 12 at 2 pm  
Hesse Park

Come kick off our 66th year! Come meet new friends and get an update on the following:

Tech Trek and CU  
Budget  
Public Policy  
Ideas from Planning Meeting  
Membership  
New opportunities!

Something new, a Book Exchange (we all have too many! Please bring up to three, take home as many as you like!)

Please join us at the annual AAUW PVP

## Celebrate Tech Trek

Sunday, October 1, 2023 at 2 pm  
Cabrillo Youth Waterfront Center  
3000 Shoshonean Road  
San Pedro, CA



New location!



## **SUPREME COURT RULINGS**

- Student Loans

The Supreme Court has ruled that the Biden administration overstepped its authority in announcing the plan to cancel up to \$400 billion in student loans. The vote was 6 to 3. The Biden administration had estimated that as many as 43 million Americans would have benefitted from the loan forgiveness program.

Student-loan repayments were originally put on hold as part of the response to the Covid 19 pandemic. With that hold expiring, Biden announced the plan to cancel some loans.

In the light of the ruling by the Court, new plans are being developed by the Biden administration to address Student Loan forgiveness. AAUW supports government assistance for student debt.

- Affirmative Action

The American Association of University Women has condemned the Supreme Court decision to eliminate the consideration of race in admission to colleges and universities.

AAUW noted that institutions of higher education are pathways to economic security and positions of power in our country. Affirmative action policies have been a critical part of ensuring racial and gender equity and providing redress for past gender, racial, and ethnic discrimination in higher education. They have led to [an increased number](#) of women and black and brown people in a range of high-paying professions, including STEM fields.

AAUW remains committed to ensuring women and communities of color have equal access to quality education at all levels to guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society.

## **FEDERAL LEGISLATION**

The Paycheck Fairness Act would update and strengthen the Equal Pay Act to ensure that it provides robust protection against sex-based pay discrimination. Among other provisions, the Paycheck Fairness Act would ensure pay disparities exist only for legitimate, job-related reasons. It would improve research on the gender pay gap, which can help identify, correct, and eliminate illegal wage disparities. The Paycheck Fairness Act would also allow workers to discuss or inquire about their wages free from retaliation, with common-sense exceptions.

AAUW has called on the membership to advocate for the passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act.

Join the Two-Minute Activist program on the national website.

Submitted by Nancy Mahr



### September Birthdays

Kay Odgers	09/01
Marilyn Brashear	09/03
Betty Ettington	09/03
Charlene Pickarts	09/06
June Kagdis	09/07
Tamara Kittiver	09/10
Vivian Nemie	09/13
Nancy Mañr	09/14
Anna May Labbe	09/15
Cecilia Rogers	09/15
Paula Bold	09/20
Keiko Yamane	09/24
Mary Watson	09/25

### October Birthdays

Virginia Whittier	10/07
Patricia Kitching	10/07
Priscilla Wright	10/16
Carol Torelli	10/23
Jan Cofer	10/24

If we missed your birthday or a correction needs to be made, please inform Nancy Rayner at [nrayner777@gmail.com](mailto:nrayner777@gmail.com).

## INTEREST GROUPS

Our AAUW/PVP Branch provides members with a robust offering of interest groups to choose from. Crafts...Bridge groups...Scrabble...Lunch groups...Art Appreciation... Women's Discussion groups...Book Clubs - there is something for everyone!!

Do you love to read and would like to chat about books with like-minded women? The **Contemporary Literature** Book Club meets monthly to discuss a wide variety of different types of books and welcomes new members. If evening meetings work better for you, the **Night Books** group would love to have you join. Do you enjoy art and would like to learn more about it? The **Art Appreciation Group** meets on Zoom to view and discuss Art-related DVDs, and makes field trips to various locations throughout the year. Are you a crafts person who enjoys doing needlework or other craft hobbies? Consider the **HandiCrafts** interest group! If you enjoy trying out new restaurants, the **Women Eating Lunch Leisurately** group has several slots open for new members! If you would just like to chat informally and get to know other members, **Coffee With Friends** meets weekly on Zoom. Are you an aspiring actress at heart? You would love **Readers Theater**! Check the Interest Group Calendar for more information on these and other opportunities.

Over 85% of our branch members are active in at least one interest group. Some meetings are held on Zoom, but most take place in member homes. Home meeting space has constraints, which sometimes requires us to close groups to new members until turnover results in an opening. We would love to welcome everyone into all of our current interest groups, but our living rooms will accommodate just so many people! However, we are always willing to work with anyone desiring to start up a new group. If you haven't been able to get into an interest group that you desire or have an idea for a potential new group, contact Nancy Rayner at [nrayner777@gmail.com](mailto:nrayner777@gmail.com).



### Save the Date

November Branch Meeting,  
Tuesday, November 14, 2023  
@ 2:00 p.m.  
Hesse Park  
Readers Theater  
The Select Sorority, Act II



### Save the Date

*Halloween Wine Tasting Party*  
*Friday, October 13, 2023*



## AAUW PVP Tech Trek 2023-2024

Front row: Kaaren Lee, Dale Richards, Margery Norris, Fran Brown

Back row: Denise Devenuto, Joann DeFlon, Dana Gorman, Shera Dolmatz, Diane Hembacher, Lynne Jones, Leslie Criswell

Camera shy: Sara Deen, Kathy Ford, Sue Gates, Jill Wussler

*"If the question ever was if I liked Tech Trek, the answer will be Tech-Yeah!"*

*"I also had an amazing dorm group, JC, and dorm mom."*

*"I found the Women's Professional Night very interesting because I got to know how they started their career."*

These are but a few of the enthusiastic comments that we have received from the 22 girls that attended Tech Trek Camp this summer. The girls were, for the most part, quite shy during the orientation. I was delighted to see their confidence shine through after the camp experience. Please join us to meet the girls and more at **Celebrate Tech Trek**. Thank you to Kathy Ford and the 2022-2023 Committee for ushering through this great cohort of girls. They have started 8<sup>th</sup> grade and are on their way. Our own Leslie Criswell attended camp as a volunteer, keeping up with the energetic bunch despite having a new knee!

We would like to send at least the same number of girls next year that attended this year (22) and will have to do some fundraising to achieve this goal. An online payment system is in the works, but until then checks can be made out to "AAUW CA SPF" with "Tech Trek- PVP Branch" in the memo space.

### CAMP VIDEO HERE:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ga3f2B5JyPeoMcQnB\\_DjOf8j2Xp4lAu0/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ga3f2B5JyPeoMcQnB_DjOf8j2Xp4lAu0/view?usp=sharing)

Editor's note: Double click on blue line, don't miss playing this video; it is a treasure.



## **Tech Trek Alumnae Group (TTAG) Summer Update** **by Denise DeVenuto** **TTAG Advisor, AAUW PVP**

I'm excited to share with you that our South Bay Tech Trek Alumnae Group is thriving and enjoying our summer. Our annual picnic was well-attended and held at a park in Torrance on August 6, in a beautiful setting that included great weather. The Torrance AAUW branch generously provided ten pizzas, and several alumnae campers and branch members from all three branches (PVP, Beach Cities, and Torrance) brought dessert and other treats.

At our monthly meeting on August 12, we had a very productive discussion on tips for applying to college, as well as selective public high schools. We followed up by setting a date of October 8 for South Bay TTAG's annual College Prep 101 forum via Zoom. For further information on this event or how you can become a TTAG Advisor or mentor one of these remarkable young women, please contact me at [dendev88@gmail.com](mailto:dendev88@gmail.com).



PVP 2023 Campers and Margarita Alejandre Navarro (TTAG President) on right

## **AAUW FUND**

The 2023-24 has begun for AAUW. You recently renewed your membership for the year. Many of you made a donation to the AAUW "Greatest Needs" Fund. Thank you for your support.

In FY 2021-22, our branch made an impressive contribution to the Fund – over \$4,000. This past year, July to June, branch members donated \$3,200 – impressive but just a bit lower than the previous year. We hope to boost it up again in the coming year.

The Fund keeps AAUW moving forward to fight for economic security for women and for equity in education, and to mentor diverse future women leaders. The fund supports:

- the important legislative work carried out by AAUW on the Federal level;
- the AAUW scholars program, assisting young women in achieving academic goals in higher education;
- the AAUW program that provides funding for women facing legal battles and cannot afford the cost.

We are a part of the work AAUW undertakes when we donate to the Fund. Please consider making a donation if you have not already done so. It's easy to do on the national website or when you renew your membership.



## *SUMMER SOCIAL* at Joanie Gale's home

"Flowered dresses, wide-brimmed hats, blue skies, green-leaved trellises and smiling faces...it could have been an Impressionist painting! This was our Summer Social in the courtyard of Joanie Gale's home, where 31 of us and our guests had a marvelous time visiting with friends old and new, and learning a bit more about branch projects and discussion groups. Among others, Kaaren Lee spoke about TechTrek as it moves into a new school year and Cecilia Rogers invited us to participate in Readers Theater.

How fortunate we are, in friendship and in purpose."

*Margery Norris*

Photography: Denise DeVenuto



Leann Roque and Denise DeVenuto



Members and guests getting acquainted



Susan Grimshaw, Joanie Gale, Helen Vakil and Diane Hembacher



Judy Purvis, Maria Ashla and Kathleen Fitzgerald



Kathleen Fitzgerald, Ruth Bloland and Jan Cofer



Co-Chairs Fran Brown and Joanie Gale



Rowie Wolf, Lynne Jones and Fran Wielin



Eunice McConaughy and Mary Ann Donahue



Jane Harris and Marlene Naraghi

## Branch Planning Meeting Update

by Joanie Gale

Thank you to the many members who participated in a creative and productive planning meeting at Hesse Park on July 11! The goal was to come up with ideas for upcoming branch meetings, inter-branch events, and social events, while attempting to meet the requirements for a 5-star status. The shared ideas encompassed a wide range of activities which we are looking forward to implementing in the coming year.

While most activities need to be scheduled, the popular idea of a book exchange will be starting at our next branch meeting on Sept. 12! Please feel free to bring up to three books...we will have a table to display them. You are welcome to take as many books home with you as you like! Any books remaining at the end of the meeting will be donated to the library.

Ideas for activities ranged from a presentation by a Holocaust survivor to museum field trips to a Readers Theater performance at Chado Tea House. Sound like fun? Let's make it happen!

The September 12 branch meeting will be our September Spark! It's a party to kick off the new year! Come meet new and old friends, see what interest groups are available, and hear the latest on our AAUW missions...TechTrek and C/U. There will be something for everybody!  
Hesse Park, Tuesday, Sept. 12 at 2 pm.

Photography: Leann Roque



Eileen Edelson, Ruth Bloland, Jane Harris  
Lynne Jones and Maria Ashla



JoAnn DeFlon, Jill Wussler,  
Rosalie Laufer Abelson and Margery Norris



Kathy Berg, Nancy Mahr and Carol Torelli





## **You are never alone with the AAUW - Shera Dolmatz**

Last year our long-time member Gail Ruder moved to Santa Rosa, California, but her affiliation with AAUW continues. Gail has found AAUW companionship at our sister branch in Santa Rosa.

She now regularly attends the Santa Rosa branch's Mahjongg games and in July she volunteered at the Tech Trek camp on the Sonoma State University campus.

This summer I met up with Gail in Northern California and met her new AAUW friends at a Mahjongg game. It was a wonderful afternoon spent in the comradery of our AAUW colleagues.

Both Gail and I were graciously welcomed by the branch members and into the lovely home of member Susan Briggs.

It was a wonderful afternoon spent with new AAUW friends, a breathtaking view of California oaks and native vegetation in the adjacent Trione-Annadel State Park, tasty treats provided by our hostess, and as expected, lively and vibrant conversation accompanied by the warm feelings of new friendships.



From left to right. Front - Judy Hudson, Ty Worley, Gail Ruder, Shera Dolmatz, Back - Linda Heiser, Barbara Hoff, Taryn Young, Doris Parker



From left to right. Shera Dolmatz, Hostess Susan Briggs, Gail Ruder

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## **Women Helping Women**



Martha Feakins  
Ruth Bloland



Shera Dolmatz-Finkel  
Margery Norris



Susan Grimshaw, Leann Roque  
Fran Brown

Susan Grimshaw organized & hosted a W.H.W project making no-sew blankets to be delivered to a downtown LA, Family Social Services center on Hope Street. The center supports families in need. The blankets are super-soft and colorful. They will add not only warmth but emotional support. We enjoyed relaxing while chatting and knotting in the company of fellow branch members.



**Branch to Approve 2023-2024 Operating Budget**

	A	B	C	D
1	The 2023-2024 Branch operating budget has been approved by the Leadership Council and is presented below for the September Branch meeting. Members in attendance will be asked to discuss and vote their approval of this budget. Any questions regarding the budgeting process or any line item on the budget should be addressed to Leann Roque or Dale Richards, Co-Treasurers, before the September Branch meeting.			
2				
3				
4				
5				
6		2022-2023 Proposed	2022-2023 Actual	2023-2024 Proposed
7	Income			
8	Branch dues	\$1,980.00	\$2,068.00	\$2,310.00
9	Donations to Branch	\$1,000.00	\$643.00	\$800.00
10	Recognition luncheon	\$1,225.00	\$1,561.00	\$1,520.00
11	Pennyroyals Event	\$250.00	\$280.00	NA
12	Reserve Withdraw	\$680.00	\$0.00	\$845.00
13		\$5,135.00	\$4,552.00	\$5,475.00
14	Expenses			
15	Hesse Park /room rentals	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
16	Other room rentals & equipment	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
17	General Operating	\$250.00	\$241.00	\$500.00
18	* Insurance	\$550.00	\$460.00	\$550.00
19	Branch website	\$125.00	\$0.00	NA
20	Printing	NA	\$200.00	\$250.00
21	Directory	\$250.00	\$149.00	\$250.00
22	Membership	\$350.00	\$105.00	NA
23	Programs/Honorariums	\$400.00	\$387.00	\$500.00
24	Pennyroyals Event Expense	\$330.00	\$300.00	NA
25	Hospitality	\$100.00	\$56.00	\$300.00
26	Games/event expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
27	**Leadership seminars	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
28	**Convention Annual Meeting	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
29	Recognition Luncheon	\$1,200.00	\$1,178.00	\$1,400.00
30	Memorial/Recognitions	\$190.00	\$85.00	\$220.00
31	Technology Expense	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$150.00
32	CA assessments AAUW Fund	\$65.00	\$65.00	\$65.00
33	CA Attny. Gen. Chaity Renewal	NA	\$25.00	\$25.00
34	Donation GNF	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
35	***Donation to EOF & LAF	\$270.00	\$282.00	\$315.00
36	TTAG	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$150.00
37		\$4,930.00	\$3,733.00	\$5,475.00
38	Total expenses not to exceed budgeted amount without leadership approval.			



## INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS – SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023

Space constraints or other factors may result in need for a waitlist for new members.

### ART APPRECIATION

Leader: Nancy Rayner  
[Nrayner777@gmail.com](mailto:Nrayner777@gmail.com)  
 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday 2pm

September 6 – *Modern Printmaking-Planographic*  
 October 4 – *Sculpture – Salt Cellars to Monuments*

### COOKS' CORNER

Leader: Denise DeVenuto  
[Dendev88@gmail.com](mailto:Dendev88@gmail.com)  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday 12N

September 16 – Topic TBD  
 October 21 – Topic TBD



### DAYTIME SCRABBLE

Leader: Libby Bergen  
[bergenlibby@gmail.com](mailto:bergenlibby@gmail.com)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 2PM

September 13 & 27  
 October 11 & 25

### EVENING SCRABBLE

Leader: Joanie Gale  
[joaniekgale@gmail.com](mailto:joaniekgale@gmail.com)  
 4<sup>th</sup> Monday 7PM

September 25 – meetings held at member homes  
 October 23 – meetings held at member homes

### NIGHT BOOKS

Leader: Rowie Wolf  
[rowiewolf@cox.net](mailto:rowiewolf@cox.net)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday 7pm via Zoom

September 11- *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver  
 October 9 - *Master Slave Husband Wife* by Ilyon Woo



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

Leader: Fran Brown  
[franbrown5@cox.net](mailto:franbrown5@cox.net)  
 4<sup>th</sup> Monday 2 – 4pm

September 19 – *The Last Ship* by Ben Raines  
 October 23 – *Women in White Coats* by Olivia Campbell

### CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE

Leader: JoAnn DeFlon  
[jjdeflon@gmail.com](mailto:jjdeflon@gmail.com)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday 9:30AM

September 11 – *Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich  
 October 9 – *Welcome to Autumn* by Jean Korelitz

### ECLECTIC READERS

Leader: Jan Cofer  
[jancofer@gmail.com](mailto:jancofer@gmail.com)  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 2pm

September 21 – *Symphony of Secrets* by Brendan Slocumb

October 19 – *Looking for Jane* by Heather Marshall

### GREAT DECISIONS

Leader: Kathleen Fitzgerald  
[kmlfitz@earthlink.net](mailto:kmlfitz@earthlink.net)  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday 10am

September 18 – *Famine – A Renewed Threat in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*  
 October 16 – *Iran at a Crossroads*

### WOMEN IN TRANSITION

Leader: Susan Negrete  
 (310) 377 - 0642  
 PV Liaison: Rowie Wolf  
 (310) 373-5970  
 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday 7PM

September 6 – Topic TBD  
 October 4 – Topic TBD

### FIRST FRIDAY TEA & CONVERSATION

Leader: Fran Brown  
[franbrown5@cox.net](mailto:franbrown5@cox.net)  
 1<sup>st</sup> Friday 2 – 4pm

September 1 – topic TBD  
 October 6 – topic TBD

### COFFEE WITH FRIENDS

Leaders: 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



## INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS – SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023

*Space constraints or other factors may result in need for a waitlist for new members.*

### WOMEN HELPING WOMEN

**Co-Leader: Jane Harris**  
[comprrin@hotmail.com](mailto:comprrin@hotmail.com)

**Co-Leader: Nancy Rayner**  
[Nrayner777@gmail.com](mailto:Nrayner777@gmail.com)

**1<sup>st</sup> Thursday 2PM**

September 7  
 October – 5

### HANDICRAFTS

**Leader: Joanie Gale**  
[joaniekgale@gmail.com](mailto:joaniekgale@gmail.com)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday 3PM-5PM**

September 9 – meetings held at  
 member homes  
 October 14 - meetings held at  
 member homes

### BRIDGETTES

**Leader: Margery Norris**  
[mnorris@ca.rr.comx](mailto:mnorris@ca.rr.comx)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 1PM**

September 19 – Margery Norris’  
 home  
 October 17 – Eunice  
 McConaughy’s home



### LUNCH BUNCH

**Leader: Nancy Rayner**  
[Nrayner777@gmail.com](mailto:Nrayner777@gmail.com)

**1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday 1PM**

September 5 – Blue Water Grill,  
 Redondo Beach  
 October 3 – Seaside Palace,  
 Torrance

### WOMEN EATING LUNCH

#### LEISURELY (WELL)

**Leader: Joanie Gale**  
[joaniekgale@gmail.com](mailto:joaniekgale@gmail.com)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 1PM**

September 20 – Seafood Bistro,  
 San Pedro  
 October 18 – Frida Mexican  
 Cuisine, Del Amo Mall



Lucy Hayes



Francis Cleveland



Helen Taft



Edith Wilson

## READERS THEATER

by Cecilia Rogers

The Select Sorority, Act II  
 Tuesday, November 14, 2 pm  
 Hesse Park, the Fireside Room

The Select Sorority, Act II - the story continues. Earlier this year, Readers Theater presented Act I of this two-part investigation into the lives of our First Ladies. In Act II, you'll hear from the first First Lady to attend college, the first White House bride, the first First Lady to ride next to her husband at his inauguration - and maybe our first woman president (although there's a lot of controversy on that one - we won't shy away from it!) during this original play by AAUW members Jacqueline Mason and Pam Gershkoff, slightly updated for current performance. These four women were intelligent, lively, dedicated, and fully involved as both witnesses to and creators of history in the exciting times in which they lived.

Admission is free, and guests are welcome (especially prospective members!)



## BRANCH CALENDAR September/October 2023

September 12, Tuesday, 2 pm	Branch Meeting, Hesse Park
October 01, Sunday, 2 pm	Celebrate Tech Trek, Cabrillo Youth Waterfront Center
October 13, Friday	Halloween Wine Tasting Party (details to follow)
November 14, Tuesday 2 pm	Branch Meeting/Readers Theater Performance, Hesse Park

**Council Co-Chairs:** Fran Brown and Joanie Gale

**Treasurer:** Dale Richards and Leann Roque

**Membership Chairs:** Libby Bergen and Jane Harris

### AAUW Mission Statement

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

**Editor:** Eunice McConaughy  
310-530-5847  
eunicemc771@gmail.com

Deadline for Nov/Dec. CoastLines articles, October 15, 2023

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Palos Verdes Branch  
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Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274