

AAUW COASTLINES

Palos Verdes Peninsula Branch, March/April 2024

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



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Please join us at our



**March Branch Meeting
Tuesday, March 12
2:00 p.m.
Hesse Park Fireside Room**

Speaker: Helen Dennis

Topic: Ms. Dennis will be addressing issues relevant to women in this fast changing world. More details will be sent prior to March 12 meeting.

Helen Dennis is a nationally recognized leader on the issues of aging and the transition of working women into retirement. She has a weekly column in the *Daily Breeze*. Read more about Helen Dennis on page 3.

Please Join Our Tri-Branch Meeting

**Saturday, February 24, 2024
Torrance Airport, 3301 Airport Drive
9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Social
10:00 a.m. Program**

Speaker: Monica Cho

Topic: Combating Online Harassment and its Harm to Youth & Teens

Space is limited.

Please RSVP to Shera Dolmatz -sdolmatz@gmail.com

Please see p. 3 to learn more about the speaker

AAUW SCHOOL BOARD PROJECT

AAUW California has initiated The School Board Project as a statewide undertaking to track and interface with local Boards of Education and address any concerns regarding curriculum restrictions and book banning. The AAUW PVP Leadership Team is exploring this AAUWCA project. This article from the state Public Policy committee provides some background information on the project.

The Role of California School Boards

By Seena Trigas, Member AAUW California Public Policy Committee School Board Project

AAUW California is concerned about the censorship of classroom material, the heightened enforcement of board policies rejecting diversity, and providing discriminatory policies against gay and minority students. This concern now leads me, as a former school board member, high school teacher/department chair and adjunct college professor, to reflect on the role of school boards in California and their limitations.

The State Board of Education (SBE) is the controlling structure for K-12, and is the governing and policy-making body of the state for public education. Among its duties is the adoption of statewide academic standards for content and of curriculum frameworks. These inform and guide the local school boards in the development and implementation of specific curricula for K-12 students, and serve as the basis for the adoption of instructional materials. School board members represent districts within the school district boundaries.

In 2023 AB1078 was passed, which requires the California State Department of Education to assess if school boards are in compliance with state laws requiring public schools to provide diverse and comprehensive education. It requires local school districts with insufficient instructional materials to correct this and authorizes the department to purchase (at district expense) adequate curricula if the district restricts students from learning about important topics like racism, sexism, and gender-based marginalization.

AAUW branch members play a critical role in ensuring all California school boards are governed by board members who will follow AB 1078, and who oppose policies that infringe on the civil rights of LGBTQ+ students.

Submitted by Nancy Mahr

SPEAK UP ON LEGISLATION

Be a part of AAUW's grassroots advocacy.

We are just going into the new legislative session. AAUW CA and AAUW US will be looking for your help in supporting priority bills. Sign up for the Two-Minute Activist program and receive notices about legislation that you can support via email. All the information is provided to you.

Sign up on the national AAUW website: aauw.org (under Take Action)

When you sign up at the national level, you are automatically signed up for action alerts at the state level.

Sign up today!



March & April Birthdays

<i>Judy Milestone</i>	03/04
<i>Rowie Wolf</i>	03/05
<i>Dana Gorman</i>	03/06
<i>Jill Wussler</i>	03/08
<i>Shirley Collins</i>	03/11
<i>Marilou Lieman</i>	03/17
<i>Lynne Jones</i>	03/23
<i>Marlin More</i>	03/30
<i>Kaaren Lee</i>	04/02
<i>Maria Ashla</i>	04/10
<i>Karen Gottlieb</i>	04/10
<i>Dayla Sims</i>	04/12
<i>Shirley Kay</i>	04/13
<i>Kathy Bartow</i>	04/21
<i>Nancy Bell</i>	04/21
<i>Nourit Korzennik</i>	04/27
<i>Eunice McConaughy</i>	04/30

If we missed your birthday or a correction needs to be made, please inform Nancy Rayner at nrayner777@gmail.com.



Save the date

for the

Annual Recognition Luncheon

Saturday, June 1, 2024

11:30 am - 2:00 pm

at The Red Onion Restaurant

More information to follow.

Contact Libby Bergen at bergenlibby@gmail.com for any questions.

Helen Dennis



Helen Dennis is a nationally recognized leader on issues of aging, employment and the new retirement with academic, corporate and nonprofit experience. She has received awards for her university teaching at USC's Davis School, Andrus Gerontology Center and for her contributions to the field of aging, the community and literary arts. She has edited two books, written more than 100 articles, and has frequent speaking engagements. She is the weekly columnist on Successful Aging for the Southern California Newspaper Group, writing over 1,000 columns and has assisted more than 25,000 employees in preparation for the non-financial aspects of retirement. In her volunteer life, she has served as president of five nonprofit organizations. Fully engaged in the field of aging, she was a delegate to a White House Conference on Aging and is co-author of the Los Angeles Times bestseller, "Project Renewment®: The First Retirement Model for Career Women."

Helen has extensive experience with the media including Prime Time, NPR, network news, the Wall Street Journal, Los Angeles Times, Sacramento Bee and Christian Science Monitor. She was recognized by PBS Next Avenue as one of the 50 influencers in aging for 2016. For more information, visit www.HelenMDennis.com.

Monica Cho

Ms. Cho is a sophomore at Mira Costa High School in Redondo Beach, a member of the Youth Advisory Council at the Beach Cities Health District (BCHD) and the lead of BCHD's Youth Health and Safety Committee. The Committee's mandate is to spread awareness of social media safety.

Ms. Cho was honored at the first Girl's Leading Change celebration at the White House hosted by First Lady Jill Biden on the 2023 International Day of the Girl. She is one of 13 young women from across the nation to receive this honor.



Tech Trek is moving forward with our 2024 camper selection. We have 17 girls nominated at each of the 2 schools, for a total of 34. We will likely send an estimated 18 girls to camp, but this may change. As I am new to this position, I am doing many of the tasks myself so that I can learn the process. The committee will soon be involved in reading essays, reviewing applications, and conducting interviews. We are aiming to have our campers selected by the end of March and will be able to share our efforts in the next Coastlines edition.

The lovely Fran Brown and I visited Wilmington Middle School and met with 9 of the nominees. I am delighted to share that they were lovely girls, enthusiastic and all expressed that they would like to attend the camp. We were having such a good time that we forgot to take any pictures except of the homemade cookies we brought!

PVP Tech trek would like to thank Cecilia Rogers and the members of the Readers Theatre for a stellar performance to a full house of “An Interview with Queen Victoria” that benefitted Tech Trek. Because we don’t do active fundraising, we rely on the generosity of members, friends, and family. Thank you to everyone who generously donated, we will gratefully accept donations at any time. We can likely add more campers into the virtual camp if we have more funding.

Kaaren Lee
PVP Tech Trek Branch Coordinator
Lee.family90274@verizon.net
(310) 480-2809



DEI Moment: Black History and Women’s History Months

As we welcome February and March, we also welcome important month-long celebrations that center Black/African American History and Women’s History. Each month-long celebration recognizes important stories of marginalization, struggle, and triumph. These stories highlight ways in which Black history and Women’s history are intertwined.

Black History Month was created to focus attention on the contributions of African Americans to the United States. It honors all Black people from all periods of U.S. history. It celebrates the contributions and achievements of Black Americans in shaping our nation’s history.

In February and March, let’s celebrate Black history and the history and work of all women in American history and every day.



Rainbow Services



*Who said that every wish
Would be heard and answered
When wished on the morning star?
Somebody thought of that
And someone believed it
Look what it's done so far"**



We don't know for a fact that Rainbow Services is related to the Muppet Movie Song, Rainbow Connection... but they are in the non-profit business of answering wishes!

Rainbow Services provides shelter and support to anyone impacted by domestic violence, empowering them to move beyond trauma, towards safety & stability. For the past 40 years, they have helped countless women, men and children in many ways. Their Vision Statement is: **Everyone deserves respect, love & safety.**

AAUW is proud to support Rainbow Services. This March we will once again be accepting contributions. The most frequently requested items are gift cards (Target, Ross, 99 Cent Store, Grocery stores, gas cards, movie tickets), backpacks, bus tokens, phone cards and diapers. Rainbow Services gratefully accepts **new and unused** items...please see the list, below:

Laundry detergent
Baby wipes
Baby lotion/oil
Baby shampoo/wash

School supplies
Toys
Clothes (all kinds)
Sport Equipment

Kitchen appliances
Hair dryers
Batteries (AA/AAA)
Toiletries

Food (must be non-perishable and within "use by date": tuna, peanut butter, pasta, canned vegetables, canned fruit, rice, baby formula, baby food, cereal

Bring contributions to the March 12 Branch meeting.

*Rainbow Connection-is a song from the 1979 film [The Muppet Movie](#), with music and lyrics written by [Paul Williams](#) and [Kenneth Ascher](#).¹

College/University Program (C/UP)

We are excited to announce our partnership with California State University Dominguez Hills for the College/University Program (C/UP), formerly known NCC/WSL. We will be selecting our participants from the Liberal Studies Department. The young women chosen will attend the National Leadership Conference In the Washington, DC area in late May. The selection process will begin in February, and the participants will be selected by late March.

If you are interested in participating on the committee in this rewarding process, please let us know.

Libby Bergen

Diane Hembacher

January Branch Meeting recap by Joanie Gale



In the mid 20th Century, European countries topped the birth rate charts; in the 2000s, Asian countries overtook the lead; and looking forward, it will be Africa! That was one of the takeaways from a fascinating look at population trends. “Sex and the Economy”, presented by Don Mottinger at the January 9 Branch meeting, enthralled the audience. We looked at the lowering birthrates in Europe, Asia and the US; the exploding population growth in Africa; and the future impacts. Immigration will be a key component to providing labor to support economies and aging populations. With numerous facts and charts backed by scientific data, the talk was informative and compelling.

The gathering started with a brief business meeting. Nominations for officers are open – anyone interested should contact Joanie Gale or Fran Brown. Upcoming events include social gatherings in person and Zoom bingo. The meeting closed with Rowie Wolfe winning the sweet door prize – hot chocolate sticks!

The next branch meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 12 at 2 pm at Hesse Park.



AAUW Fund 2023 Report

Congratulations and thank you to all of our PVP Branch members who made donations to the AAUW Fund in 2023. The numbers for the Individual branches are in and our total is \$3184. Also announced was the preliminary count for the entire state and it totals \$512,514 which is \$65,000 above the projected amount. Most of these donations go to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund.

According to a just published report titled “Demystifying AAUW’s Greatest Needs” this is an unrestricted fund which represents just 5% of the total net assets of AAUW. The remaining 95% are restricted funds which include Fellowships, Grants, Endowments and other special programs.

The report goes on to discuss the impact of this unrestricted giving. 1) Having solid and sustainable management overhead makes AAUW more resilient to economic downturns and disruptions like a pandemic or other disaster. 2) AAUW is able to continue and build mission-critical activities and programs when restricted funds are not available. 3) Stable funding allows AAUW to focus on long term planning goals and allocate resources wisely. 4) It makes it possible to pay competitive salaries to hire and retain employees. (Taken from report)

Please keep in mind how hard this little piece of the AAUW pie works to give flexibility and financial security to AAUW when you next put on your donation hat. And thank you again for your generous donations in 1993.

Ruth Boland, AAUW Fund Co-Chair

Status of Women Award, 2024

The Palos Verdes AAUW Status of Women Award is presented once a year by the branch to a woman who is visible in the community and works to better society. She shows leadership and exhibits professional conduct. She is a role model for other women and girls.

This is the time of year that we start thinking about our 2024 Status of Women Award. Please consider the criteria listed above and nominate someone who you feel is deserving. A nominee may be a branch member or not; there is no requirement that the award recipient is a member of AAUW.

The Award is presented at the June Recognition Luncheon.

Please submit your suggestions to Nancy Mahr at nlmahr@verizon.net, or leave a phone message at 310-377-0735. Deadline to submit is May 3, 2024.

In submitting a nomination, please include information on the activities of your nominee showing why she would be a good choice.



Tea With Queen Victoria

(a Tech Trek Fundraiser)

A capacity crowd of over 100 enjoyed an English tea while listening to noted journalists throughout history interview Queen Victoria, played with wit and warmth by Cecilia Rogers.

A regal presence, resplendent in a dark purple gown, with a lace fan and tiara, she regaled the audience with tales of her family and more. With the admonition of “no politics”, she discussed several of her prime ministers (there were eight in total!) and touched on colonialism in South Africa under Cecil Rhodes.

Some takeaways from her conversation include:

As her father, the fourth of the notorious Kings George, and in a family with several sons, she was an unlikely prospect for the throne. Her father died quite young, she was raised by a domineering mother and loving German governess. Her first declaration as queen at the age of 19 was to have her own bedroom.

She married her cousin, Prince Albert of Saxe–Coburg and Gotha in Germany. Initially distrusted by the British, he earned their admiration after the International Great Exhibition in 1851. It brought 16 million people to London to see the great advances of the age. The proceeds from the exhibition built museums, health facilities and Albert Hall. The royal family (they had nine children) lived in Buckingham Palace (too close to the squalor of London); Osbourne House on the Isle of Wight (a favourite family getaway), the Royal Pavilion in Brighton (people could peer in the windows), and her beloved Balmoral Castle in Scotland.

Albert died at the age of 42 of typhoid fever. The Queen and her family were in mourning for 13 years during which she wasn’t seen in public. She missed her advisor and helpmate, not trusting her own ability to govern. When her subjects started grumbling about her long absence from public life, she published portions of her diary with handmade illustrations. She kept a daily diary for 60 years. The prime minister, Disraeli (Dizzy), urged her out of seclusion to be crowned the Empress of India.

As her children were married into royal European families, she became known as the “Grandmother of Europe”. The Kaiser of Germany, the Czar of Russia, and XX were all grandchildren. During her Golden Jubilee, there was a massive family gathering during which she was lauded with her numerous titles, including that of “Grandmama”. Queen Victoria was the longest reigning monarch in the world, surpassed only recently by Queen Elizabeth II.

The minimal stage was filled with illustrious women: Nellie Bly (Kendal Cornwall); Clare Booth Luce (Leslie Criswell); Katherine Graham (Martha Feakins); Dorothy Parker (Kathleen Fitzgerald) and Louella Parsons (Donna Tucker). In period costumes, they interviewed the queen, with Leslie Criswell as the moderator.

The event was held at the Chado Tea House in Old Torrance. The tea, consisting of sandwiches, scones, and sweets, was served on tiered plates. Two types of tea were shared. The event was presented by Readers Theater and sponsored by AAUW-PVP in conjunction with the local Stanford Alumni Society. The general public was invited. Carol Torelli provided the link between organizations, as well as being the technical producer for the afternoon.

The beneficiaries include the enthralled audience and TechTrek – proceeds from the tea will go toward TechTrek Scholarships.



Ladies dressed for tea with Queen Victoria

Tea with Queen Victoria, cont'd.



Queen Victoria played by
Cecilia Rogers



From left to right: Carol Torelli and the cast: Martha Feakins (Katherine Graham), Kendall Cornwall (Nellie Bly), Cecilia Rogers (Queen Victoria), Kathleen Fitzgerald (Dorothy Parker), Leslie Criswell (Clare Booth Luce) and Donna Tucker (Louella Parsons}



The performance



Margery Norris and Ruth Bloland
enjoying tea



Tech Trek Chair, Kaaren Lee,
Leeann Roque, center, Past Tech
Trek Chair, Kathleen Ford



Even male guests got in the spirit of the day



The Torelli's ran the sound system

Winter Social

submitted by Joanie Gale

A good time was had by all at the Winter Social on February 10, 2024! Over thirty attendees gathered at JoAnn DeFlon's art-filled home. The sunny, yet chilly, day was warmed by meeting friends old and new. The table was filled with savory and sweet treats, enjoyed by all! Many thanks to JoAnn, who supplied china, glasses and cloth napkins, making for a gracious and environmentally friendly gathering!



Marilyn Brashear, hostess JoAnn DeFlon, Diane Hembacher and Judi Rook



Marilyn Brashear and Co-President Joanie Gale



Co-President Fran Brown and Leanne Roque



Libby Bergen, Dr. Martha Maimone and Ruth Bloland



Dorothy Medrano, Barbara Schach, Jane Harris and Marilyn Brashear checking out the sumptuous display of goodies



Kathleen Fitzgerald arranging her cheese platter

AAUW to the Rescue

by Shera Dolmatz-Finkel



You never know when you might need a helping hand. Last month while travelling to Northern California I could have used an extra set of hands to help take a picture at the Fort Tejon Rest Area.

Some may argue that this isn't a very scenic spot for pictures and they wouldn't be wrong. Many years ago my family and I started a tradition to take a picture by a particular tree at the rest stop on our way North. Through the years as our family has grown, we added more kids to the picture, documented our family's dogs, the snowpack, our heights, and as the kids left for college and their own life adventures the number of people in the pictures has shrunk. This year the picture was only me, the intrepid solo traveler on her way up North to visit our former branch member Gail Ruder as well as a granddaughter and two daughters.

As I was figuring that I would have to be satisfied with my own short armed selfie without the benefit of a selfie stick or any extending device, who should I see walking towards me?

Drum roll for dramatic effect, our own Diane Hembacher on her way up north with her husband. She took my annual picture. Thank you Diane. We got a great shot. To coin an old Honda ad, You meet the Nicest People in the AAUW. Thank you Diane, and thank you AAUW for providing terrific friends and willing and helping hands.

INTEREST GROUP CALENDER – MARCH/APRIL 2024

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



ART APPRECIATION

Leader: Nancy Rayner
Nrayner777@gmail.com
 1st Wednesday 2pm

March 6 – Field Trip to Chen Art Gallery
 April 3 – Portraits – How Artists See Others

COOKS' CORNER

Leader: Denise DeVenuto
Dendev88@gmail.com
 3rd Saturday 12N

March 16 – Pie Crust Techniques & Fillings
 April 20 – Spring Veggie/Fruit Sides/Desserts

DAYTIME SCRABBLE

Leader: Libby Bergen
bergenlibby@gmail.com
 2nd & 4th Wednesday 2PM

March 13 and 27
 April 10 and 24

EVENING SCRABBLE

Leader: Mary Ann Donahue
ma.donahue45@gmail.com
 4th Monday 7PM

March 25 – meetings held at member homes
 April 22

THIS GROUP MEETS IN THE EVENING AND IS ACCEPTING NEW MEMBERS

NIGHT BOOKS

Leader: Rowie Wolf
rowiewolf@cox.net
 2nd Monday 7pm via Zoom

March 11 – *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store: A Novel* by James McBride

April 15 – *Absolution* by Alice McDermott

4TH MONDAY BOOK GROUP

Leader: Fran Brown
franbrown5@cox.net
 4th Monday 2 – 4pm

March 25 – *The Art Thief* by Michael Finkel
 April 22 – tbd



CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE

Leader: JoAnn DeFlon
jjdeflon@gmail.com
 2nd Monday 9:30AM

March 11 – *Trust* by Hernan Diaz

April 8 – *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett

ECLECTIC READERS

Leader: Jan Cofer
jancofer@gmail.com
 3rd Thursday 2pm

March 21 – *The Art Thief* by Michael Finkel
 April 18 – tbd

WOMEN IN TRANSITION

Leader: Susan Negrete
 (310) 377 - 0642
 PV Liaison: Rowie Wolf
 (310) 373-5970
 1st Wednesday 7PM – 9PM

March 6 – Sharing Important Women We've Learned About
 April 3 – Topic tbd

FIRST FRIDAY TEA & CONVERSATION

Leader: Helen Vakil
helenvakil@yahoo.com
 1st Friday 2 – 4pm

March 1 – Colors – what are your favorites? Why? Has that changed?

April 5 - tbd

THIS GROUP IS OPEN AND WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

COFFEE WITH FRIENDS

Leaders: Fran Brown –
franbrown5@cox.net
 Leann Roque – leannr@cox.net
 Each Wednesday 10am
 Contact Fran Brown or Leann Roque for ZOOM link

BRIDGETTES

Leader: Margery Norris
mnorris@ca.rr.comx
 3rd Tuesday 1PM

March 19
 April 16



INTEREST GROUP CALENDER – MARCH/APRIL 2024

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

WOMEN HELPING WOMEN

Co-Leader: Jane Harris
compprin@hotmail.com
 Co-Leader: Nancy Rayner
Nrayner777@gmail.com
 1st Thursday 2PM

March 7 – on Zoom
 April 4 – on Zoom

HANDICRAFTS

Leader: Joanie Gale
joaniekgale@gmail.com
 2nd Saturday 3PM-5PM

March 9 – location tbd
 April 13 – location tbd

**THIS GROUP IS OPEN AND
 WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS**

FUN AT THE MOVIES

Leader: Myrna Plost
mplost@verizon.net
 4th Thursday 2PM

March 28 – Movie tbd
 April 25 – Movie tbd

**THIS GROUP IS OPEN AND
 WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS**



READERS THEATER

Leader: Cecilia Rogers
fafnyr@mac.com
 2nd Tuesday 6PM

March 12
 April 9

LUNCH BUNCH

Leader: Nancy Rayner
Nrayner777@gmail.com
 1st Tuesday 1PM

March 5 – Mimi's
 April 2 – Turquoise

WOMEN EATING LUNCH LEISURELY (WELL)

Leader: Joanie Gale
joaniekgale@gmail.com
 3rd Wednesday 1PM

March 20 – Truxton's
 April 17 – Utsav



Women Eating Lunch Leisurely (Well)

We have a couple of spaces for new members in our Third Wednesday 1 pm lunch group. We've chosen some exciting cafes and restaurants where we can experience a variety of cuisines during the months ahead. No planes or trains necessary to travel to Torrance or to Hillside Village on Hawthorne Blvd. Watch CoastLines for upcoming locations.

Good company and delicious food! Let Joanie Gale know if you would like to be included.

This is a photo of one of our two branch lunch groups, taken in January, outdoors under the heaters at Misto's in Hillside Village. From left to right, we are Dana Gorman, Marilyn Brashear, Shirley Collins, Fran Wielin, Margery Norris and Joanie Gale.

BRANCH CALENDAR March/April 2024

February 24, Saturday, 9:30 am (social), 10 am program	Tri-Branch Meeting, Torrance Airport
March 12, Tuesday 2 pm	Speaker Helen Dennis, Hesse Park Fireside Room
March 12, Tuesday	Donations for Rainbow Services due
April 2 and 3	AAUW California Lobby Days
June 1	Annual Recognition Luncheon

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 Mar/Apr CoastLines
articles, April 15, 2024

American Association of University Women
Palos Verdes Branch
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