

AAUW COASTLINES

Palos Verdes Peninsula Branch, May/June 2024

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



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Please join us at our
May Branch Meeting
Tuesday, May 14, 2024
2:00 pm
Hesse Park Fireside Room



Speaker: David Finkel
Topic: Solar Eclipse



Spring Social with a Twist

Join us for a delightful afternoon at our Spring Social with a fun wine sampling activity (optional) for those who would like to participate. It will be held at the lovely home of Jane Harris:

Saturday, May 18, 2024, 2-4 pm
924 Knob Hill Avenue
Redondo Beach 90277

There will be indoor and outdoor seating so a sweater might be needed. This will be a great opportunity to invite friends as potential members.

A contribution of any of the following would be appreciated.

- Appetizers
- Snacks
- Sweets
- Beverages
- Wine wrapped in a closed paper bag

RSVP by May 12, 2024 with your attendance and contribution to Jane Harris at comprrin@hotmail.com

AAUW CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2024

Submitted by Nancy Mahr

By Amy Hom and Missy Maceyko, Co-chairs AAUW California Public Policy Committee

The Public Policy Committee met virtually over a weekend in early March to set AAUW California's 2024 Legislative Agenda. Through a day and a half of discussions, we reviewed 67 bills, considering their merits and potential costs as well as their alignment with our public policy priorities. Then, we went through a voting/ranking process to select the top bills that we will advance as our Legislative Agenda.

Our legislative agenda consists of three "A" priority bills, four "B" priority bills, twenty-nine "C" priority bills, and twelve spot bills that we are watching. Seven of the bills on our legislative agenda are 2-year bills that carried over from last year. All of the bills on our agenda fall under at least one of our four Public Policy Priority pillars; one bill - AB 2349 - falls under three pillars.

Excitingly, our signature "A" priority bill AB 2843 "Health Care Coverage for Rape and Sexual Assault Survivors" was authored by AAUW California. The bill is sponsored by AAUW California and falls under two of our Public Policy Priorities, "Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society" and "Economic Security for All Women". The bill eliminates cost-sharing, including deductibles, from being imposed on any rape survivor seeking medical care following a rape. Insurers will be required to cover the cost of medical care with no copay. AB 2843 ensures that those individuals who wish to report a rape and file charges will have the benefit of a rape kit test and forensic exam to provide evidence to secure more convictions for acts of sexual violence. In addition, they can receive the care they need following a traumatic sexual attack. (See the Lobby Days Talking Points and Bill Text for more details.)

Our second "A" priority bill, AB 2326 "Title IX Oversight and Compliance Act" is also sponsored by AAUW California. This bill falls under our Public Policy Priorities pillar "Equal Access to Quality Education for All Students" and champions something that AAUW California has long supported: Title IX enforcement. AB 2326 requires the Chancellors of the Community Colleges and State Universities and the President of the University of California to provide an annual report of their compliance with Title IX, with the report to be presented publicly and orally to the Senate and Assembly Budget Subcommittees on Higher Education Finance, a move to hold the systems, and their leaders, more publicly accountable.

While we are listing AB 2326 as an "A" priority bill, a large number of Title IX related bills were introduced this year, likely prompted by the 2023 State Auditor's report Report 2022-109 (ca.gov) which concluded that the CSU system's handling of Title IX-related complaints has not adequately addressed allegations of inequity, harassment, and sexual harassment. While a great deal of the introduced Title IX legislation has not yet fully taken shape, we are watching them, as they will potentially become priority bills. In addition, one of the more fully-formed bills, AB 1790, is listed as a "B" priority bill on our agenda.

Our third "A" priority bill is AB 2099, "Protecting Reproductive Health Clinics". This bill falls under our Public Policy Priorities pillar "Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society". The bill makes it possible for the D.A. to file a felony charge for sharing personal information or images of individuals such as reproductive health care providers or patients, with the intent of causing harm or violence against them, if the posting and subsequent action results in bodily injury. With violence against abortion providers continuing to rise following the reversal of Roe, the protection of providers and patients is now more important than ever.

To see our full 2024 Legislative Agenda, please go to our Bill Tracking Report. This report will continue to be updated as the bills move through the legislative process, so you will always be able to see the latest status. Access the Report on the AAUWC website under Public Policy.



May and June Birthdays

Wendy Walker 05/01
 Leann Roque 05/04
 Judith Gerber 05/14
 Helen Cannefax 05/17
 Martha Feakins 05/26
 Fran Wielin 05/28
 Jane Harris 05/29

Willis Binnard 06/02
 Connie Leach 06/12
 Regina Taylor 06/12
 Sue Gates 06/16
 Ann Shaw 06/18
 Susan Grimshaw 06/19
 Kathy Berg 06/20
 Sharon Butler 06/21
 Gail Ruder 06/26
 Susan Wallace 06/26
 Martha Maimone 06/28
 Dorothy Medrano 06/28

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



THANK YOU....

To all who contributed to Rainbow Services at our March Branch meeting. Lynne Jones delivered \$475 in gift cards, plus baby supplies, new clothes and more!



Please welcome these new members to our Branch

Lee Ann Farmer
 Keri Gilbert
 Sandra Gurewitz
 Hazel Lord
 Lynn Sakamoto
 Regina Taylor

Branch Nominations for 2024-2025

It's official! We have two new candidates for our upcoming branch election!

Diane Hembacher is the candidate for the Co-Leadership Chair. She is replacing Fran Brown, who is stepping down after three years in the position.

JoAnn DeFlon is the candidate for Membership chair. She is replacing Jane Harris, who has served for two years in that position.

Thank you to Fran and Jane for their awesome service and also to all those continuing in their positions!

The election will be held at the May Branch meeting.



AAUW ANNUAL RECOGNITION LUNCHEON

Join us on this happy occasion to celebrate our special honorees.

Saturday, June 1, 2024

11:30 - 2 PM

Red Onion Restaurant (in the large dining room)

736 Bart Earle Way, RHE 90274

RSVP to Libby Bergen at bergenlibby@gmail.com by May 25, 2024 to make your reservation. Your confirmation will be the receipt of your check.

Please make your check payable to AAUW-PVP in the amount of \$40.00 and mail to Libby Bergen at 5057 Golden Arrow Drive, RPV 90275

NAMED GIFT NOMINEES

We are pleased to recognize the Dynamic Duo of Jane Harris and Nancy Rayner as Named Gift Nominees in honor of their outstanding contributions to the AAUW PVP Branch. Together they founded and co-chair the “Women Helping Women” interest group, focusing on reproductive rights. The protection of reproductive rights has been an unwavering AAUW policy principle since 1977. In addition, they have each served in multiple roles in the organization.

JANE HARRIS



Jane joined the branch in January 2020, just before the Pandemic changed everything! Through Coffee with Friends, she found a group of like-minded, very smart and really interesting women. In 2021, her former work colleague, Libby Bergen asked her to be Co-Chair for Membership. In this role, she was coached by Leann Roque. She has conquered challenges of changing technology, revised membership renewal schedules, and calling bingo games!

Jane co-chairs the Women Helping Women interest group. Inspired by women such as Margaret Mead who said, “*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.*”, Jane has, and continues to, make a difference.

NANCY RAYNER



Nancy joined branch in 2013 after retiring from a career in nursing and healthcare management. She immediately dived in and has been active in numerous interest groups, served on NCCWSL and as the branch eBlast Coordinator for 8 years. She has been on Membership for most of her time at AAUW and participated on the Policies & Procedures/Bylaws Committee. She currently serves as the Interest Group Coordinator, leads several of our most popular interest groups, and is active on the Leadership Team.

A longtime advocate for victims of domestic violence and human trafficking, she co-chairs the Women Helping Women group. Having been honored with the Named Gift Award in 2017, this represents the second time she has been given this award.

Status of Women Award 2024: Monique Sugimoto

Submitted by Nancy Mahr



AAUW Palos Verdes is pleased to announce the recipient of the 2024 Status of Women Award, Monique Sugimoto. Monique is the archivist and local history librarian for the Palos Verdes Library District. She develops programs that involve the community and share the history and beauty of the Peninsula. Last year, she spearheaded the successful “Open Door Peninsula” program that guided community members in visits to various special locations on the Peninsula. Monique is a volunteer with the PV Peninsula Village and is currently chair of the Village board of directors.

The Status of Women is awarded each year by our Branch to a woman who is visible in the community, uses her education and talents for the good of the community, exhibits professional conduct, and is a positive role model for girls. There will be a presentation at the Award Luncheon on June 1 at the Red Onion where you’ll have a chance to meet Monique.



Drum Barracks Civil War Museum Tour and Lunch.

Please join us as we travel to yesteryear for a 90 minute docent led tour of the Drum Barracks Civil War Museum.

Wednesday, May 8 at 10:30am

The museum is located at 1052 N. Banning Blvd, Wilmington. It is housed in the last remaining original Civil War military post located in Los Angeles.

A \$5 cash donation is requested.

Follow up the delightful tour with lunch at Szechwan Chinese in Lomita located at 2107 Pacific Coast Highway.

RSVP, more info, or to request a carpool, contact Shera at SLDOLMATZ@gmail.com or 310-948-2552.



“She’s so, so excited! Thank you so much, what a wonderful experience for her even just this selection process and the excitement of getting in has been a treat!” ~ J.D. Parent of 2024 Tech Trek Camper

“I’m going to just pretend that all the girls are my best friends” ~ F.L. 2024 Camper upon being told that she will not know who her roommates will be.

Fourteen excited young women from Dana Middle School and Wilmington Middle School will be attending Tech Trek camp this summer at Whittier College (10 girls) or UC San Diego (4 girls). We had 17 applications in total. Two girls never completed their applications, and one dropped out because of the electronics policy (no phones). Every effort was made to encourage the three who are not attending. The girls were notified in person at their schools, given a rose and a Tech Trek tote bag with an AAUW Tech Trek luggage tag that said, “You’re going places!” The girls were surprised and lit up when handed the rose. They squealed and started talking about what they should pack and how they would try to make new friends. This year we did something new by meeting with the girls and preparing them for the interview. The girls and their parents gave enthusiastic feedback about the new interview prep session commenting that it made the process less intimidating, and they felt more prepared. The final part of the selection process was when AAUW PVP Tech Trek committee members interviewed the girls (Dana, Denise, Joann, Leslie, Lynne, and Sue), talking to each girl as they rotated through the stations. The campers are now busy getting the required paperwork submitted for camp while PVP Tech Trek remains available to support this process.



In March the Tech Trek Committee dined on chicken-spinach lasagna and discussed the future of Tech Trek and how we need to always be growing



Tech Trek Campers

Women in STEM Careers Forum May 19

by Denise DeVenuto, TTAG Advisor

The Tech Trek Alumnae Group of the South Bay (TTAG) is excited to announce that we are holding our annual Women in STEM Careers Forum May 19 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Zoom. The speakers include an aerospace engineer, an ER and family practice physician, a mechanical engineer, and an app developer at GM. These young women will share their college experiences, their career pathways, and the benefits of mentoring. There will be an opportunity for Q&A after each speaker.

To register for this event and receive the Zoom link, please email Denise DeVenuto at dendev88@gmail.com.

Update on NCCWSL Submitted by Libby Bergen

It is exciting to announce the selection of the two young women who our Branch will be sending to the National Conference for College Women Student leaders (NCCWSL) in Maryland on 5/30–6/01, 2024. They will be the first from our new partnership with California State University Dominguez Hills (CSUDH). Our selections are Juliette Espinal who states that her view of an amazing leader is being able to listen empathetically, open communication and compromise. Aanisah Duru states that a true leader is constantly growing, evolving and learning. This will prove to be a wonderful opportunity for them to meet and hear from ground breaking women across a range of fields, as well as attend exciting workshops.

Tri-Branch Meeting

February 23, 2024



The PV Branch was well represented at the Tri-Branch Meeting held on February 23, 2024. It featured Mona Cho, a talented and charismatic Mira Costa High School sophomore.

Mona has been recognized for her leadership in addressing teenage mental health issues. She was among the 15 young women honored at the White House as “Girls Leading Change”. As printed in the Daily Breeze, “The honorees were selected by the White House Gender Policy Council for their efforts in ‘leading change and shaping a brighter future in their communities across the United States,’ according to the White House.”

As a serious volleyball player sidelined with an ACL injury, Mona was looking for somewhere to devote her time and energy. She found it in the Beach Cities Health District’s Youth Board Advisory Committee. Here she worked with peers to connect with other teenagers on preventive health issues, including mental health. Working with the Youth Health & Safety Committee, she leads efforts in a campaign to spread awareness on how to stay safe on social media, and to prioritize mental health online.

In cooperation with Plan USA Youth Leadership Academy, she was challenged to create a project which has evolved into DOSE Initiative...Digital Online Safety and Empowerment Initiative. She has created videos exhibiting real-life trauma related to online abuse and leads seminars on Zoom. She has conducted seminars to audiences in many states and other countries.

As well as sharing her journey and DOSE project, Mona pointed out the online hazards which are increasing common for both boys and girls:

- “Sexploitation”...blackmailing one by threatening to publish nude photos online
- AI-generated fakes...creating images by putting someone’s head on a naked body
- Revenge Porn ...non-consensual sharing of intimate image

It was an interesting and informative presentation. Impressive as well was the talented and poised speaker, Mona Cho.

March 12, 2024 Branch Meeting Recap

Over 40 AAUW members and guests gathered for a brief business meeting, followed by a presentation by Helen Dennis, the well-known Daily Breeze Columnist.

Dale Richards announced the board nominees: JoAnn DeFlon as Membership Chair; Diane Hembacher as Leadership Co-Chair; and Joanie Gale as returning Leadership Co-Chair. Elections will be held at the May Branch meeting.

What do you get when you combine renewal and retirement? RENEWMENT! Helen Dennis founded the concept 25 years ago, enhancing this often overlooked transition. It is a grassroots movement, urging members to “lose your title and find your life”; offering a safe space to explore and be challenged. Forming supportive groups, actively embracing new experiences, and connecting with other women are key to making the most of this chapter in our later lives. Helen graciously credited AAUW with having the core elements that make renewal work. As a very appreciated gesture, Helen gave copies of her book Project Renewment to attendees.

Libby Bergen won the seasonally-themed door prize...a shamrock plant and St. Patrick’s Day socks!

The next branch meeting will be held May 14, 2024.



Speaker Helen Dennis



Attentive Attendees



Co-Chairs Fran Brown and Joanie Gale, Treasurer Dale Richards

Photos by Kathy Berg

Queen for (Another) Day!

Submitted by Joanie Gale

Last January, Queen Victoria regaled AAUW members and more with tales of her life and times, responding to questions from noted journalists. The talented Readers Theater troupe entertained and educated simultaneously.

As history can repeat itself, there was another presentation of the Queen Victoria interview at the Banning Mansion. The Friends of the Banning gave the group a \$350 honorarium, which has been contributed to the Readers Theater to go toward future Readers Theater productions.

Many thanks to Readers Theater, led by Cecilia Rogers. Long Live the Queen!

INTEREST GROUP CALENDER – MAY/JUNE 2024

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



May 27

ART APPRECIATION

Leader: Nancy Rayner
Nrayner777@gmail.com

1st Wednesday 2pm

May 1 – Self Portraits – How Artists see Themselves
May 30 – Field trip – Basquiat Exhibit at Gagosian Gallery
June 5 – Landscapes – Art of the Great Outdoors

COOKS' CORNER

Leader: Denise DeVenuto
Dendev88@gmail.com

3rd Saturday 12N

May 18 – Picnic Recipes
June 15 – Demo of pie crusts & fillings

DAYTIME SCRABBLE

Leader: Libby Bergen
bergenlibby@gmail.com

2nd & 4th Wednesday 2PM

May 8 and 22
June 12 and 26

EVENING SCRABBLE

Leader: Mary Ann Donahue
ma.donahue45@gmail.com

4th Monday 7PM

May 27 – meetings held at member homes
June 24 - “

THIS GROUP MEETS IN THE EVENING AND IS ACCEPTING NEW MEMBERS

NIGHT BOOKS

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

May 20 – *Fluke: Chance, Chaos, & Why Everything We Do Matters* by Brian Klass
June 10 – Group Dinner

4TH MONDAY BOOK GROUP

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

May 20 – Spring Luncheon
June 24 – *Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese



CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE

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

May 13 – *North Woods* by Daniel Mason
June 10 – *The Fraud* by Zadie Smith

THIS GROUP IS OPEN AND WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

ECLECTIC READERS

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

May 16 – *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters
June 20 – *The Women* by Kristin Hannah

WOMEN IN TRANSITION

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

May 1 – Mothers/Motherhood
June 5 – Topic TBD

FIRST FRIDAY TEA & CONVERSATION

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

May 3 – Lessons we learned as a society from the COVID outbreak

June 7 – Two big turning points in your life you consider to be the most significant

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

May 21
June 18



May 12-

INTEREST GROUP CALENDER – MAY/JUNE 2024

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

May 2 – on Zoom
 June 6 – on Zoom

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

HANDICRAFTS

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

May 11 – location tbd
 June 8 – location tbd

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

FUN AT THE MOVIES

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

May 23 – American Fiction
 June 27 - tbd

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



READERS THEATER

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

May 14
 June 11

LUNCH BUNCH

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

May 7 – Thai Dishes (Redondo Beach)
 June 4 – Trani’s Dockside (San Pedro)

WOMEN EATING LUNCH LEISURELY (WELL)

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

May 15 – Seaside Palace

June 19 – California Pizza Kitchen (Rolling Hills)



Elissa Hoxie, Bonnie Meyer, Willis Binnard, Nancy Rayner, Fran Brown,
 Leann Roque, Dana Gorman and Rosalie Laufer Abelson

Dana Gorman arranged for the Art Appreciation Group to tour the Chen Art Gallery in Torrance.



A very friendly reminder!! It's Membership Renewal Time

It's that time again. We need to let you know; many current Branch memberships expire June 30, 2024. Some members have a different date for membership expiration. You will receive a reminder letting you know when your membership expires.

You will be able to, and we are encouraging everyone to renew your membership online. We will be sending an Eblast with directions on how to renew on the Community Hub.

If you have any difficulties following the directions from the Community Hub, please contact Jane Harris at compprin@hotmail.com or call (310) 540-4929.

You also have the option of sending a check made payable to AAUW-PVP, P.O. Box 2442, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA. 90274. We have included the renewal form if you prefer to renew this way.

Dues Breakdown:

AAUW National - \$72 (As of January 2024, all National dues are fully tax deductible)

AAUW CA - \$20 (not tax deductible)

PVP Branch - \$22 (not tax deductible)

TOTAL: \$114

How much do you pay?

Regular Member	(AAUW National + AAUW CA + Branch)	\$114
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.

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 to the mission of AAUW.

Jane Harris and Libby Bergen
Membership Co-Chairs

Time to renew your AAUW-PVP Membership for 2024-25

Your membership expires _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: Home _____ Cell _____

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

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

Updates or corrections to the Directory?

Dues Breakdown:

AAUW National \$72 (tax deductible) AAUW CA \$20 (not deductible) PVP Branch \$22 (not deductible) **TOTAL \$114**

How much do you pay?

Regular Member: (AAUW National + AAUW CA + Branch) \$114

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

Dual Member: (Branch dues only) \$22

Additional donation would be appreciated

To Branch \$ _____ To AAUW Greatest Need Fund \$ _____ Dues + donation(s) = Total Check \$ _____

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

**BRANCH CALENDAR
May/June 2024**

May 08, Wednesday 10:30am	Civil War Museum Tour (Banning Museum), lunch at Szechuan Restaurant
May 14, Tuesday 2pm	Hesse Park, Branch Meeting, Speaker David Finkel, subject Solar Eclipse
May 18, Friday 2-4pm	Spring Social, Jane Harris's home
June 01, Saturday 11:30am-2pm	Recognition Luncheon, Red Onion Restaurant
June 30, Sunday	Membership renewal deadline (for some members)

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 Summer CoastLines articles, June 15, 2024

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