

AAUW COASTLINES

Palos Verdes Peninsula Branch, Summer 2024

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

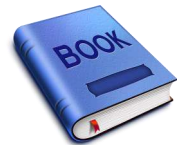


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Branch Meeting



Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Hesse Park
2:00 – 3:30 pm

Bring event ideas, used books, and an appetite for a summer treat!



Summer Social



Saturday, August 3

Once again, we will mingle in the newly renovated courtyard at...

Joanie Gale's House
2405 Via Sobrante
PVE, CA 90274
3-5 pm



Please feel free to bring finger food to share. Savory and sweet treats will be enjoyed by all.

RSVP (appreciated, but not required) to Diane Hembacher: diane.hemb@gmail.com

AAUW CA Advocates for its Priorities with the Legislature

By Sue Miller and Joy Frew, AAUW CA Public Policy Committee

This year's Lobby Days event, held on April 2nd and 3rd, was exciting and action-packed. 140 women on 43 teams from 63 AAUW California branches met with 39 Assembly offices and 27 Senate offices. Eleven meetings took place in person in Sacramento, 55 meetings took place via Zoom, and the majority took place without a hitch.

While most meetings were conducted with legislative staff, we were able to hold eight meetings with the members themselves - five Assemblymembers and three Senators. We were not able to get a meeting for Zoom Team 7 with Assemblymember Hart, but they did even better when one of their members, Judy Frost from the Santa Maria branch, joined Assemblymember Hart on a hike and lobbied him on the hiking trail.

We were happy to learn that our organization was known to many of the legislative staff and legislators with whom our members met. Some staff had looked up our website prior to meeting and were impressed with programs such as Tech Trek and Gov Trek. Most were supportive of advancing women's equity.

The reception of our "Top 3" bills - AB 2843, AB 2326 and AB 2099 - was generally favorable. The offices were more familiar with the first two, both of which are sponsored by AAUW California. AB 2099 was new to them. You can find more information on these and all the bills we are supporting here: [Bill Tracking Report - 2024 Legislative Session](#).

In short, AB 2843 eliminates cost sharing, including deductibles, from being imposed on any rape survivor seeking medical treatment following a rape. Insurers will be required to cover the full cost of medical care. AB 2326 requires the chancellors or presidents from the University of California (UC), the California State University (CSU), and the California Community Colleges, to provide an annual report publicly and orally to the Assembly and Senate Subcommittees on Education Finance on each institution's compliance with Title IX, including sexual assault. AB 2099 would make it possible for the D.A. to file a felony charge for sharing personal information or images of reproductive health care providers or patients, including on the internet, with the intent of causing them harm, if the posting and subsequent action results in bodily injury.

During our Lobby Days event, we were able to get our message across to those who make our laws and to highlight AAUW, our mission, accomplishments and the benefits we bring to our communities throughout California. It was an empowering exercise in advocacy and for those of you who participated, AAUW California thanks you!

Check out our Public Policy Page on the [AAUW California Website](#). You can read our current 2023-2025 Public Policy Priorities which can be viewed here: [2023 - 2025 Public Policy Priorities \(PPP\) - AAUW California](#). Find information on the Legislative Agenda, Lobby Days, Legislative Calendar and Coalitions with other organizations. You can also learn the latest about the School Board Project!

PUBLIC POLICY: Title IX Update

On Friday, April 19, 2024, the Biden Administration released long-awaited guidance on the application and administration of Title IX. The rule changes (1) rework Trump Administration guidance on the handling of campus sexual assault, providing expanded protections for survivors; and (2) expand Title IX protections against sex/gender-based harassment and discrimination to protect members of the LGBTQ+ community. Expansion of rights to the LGBTQ+ community via Title IX aligns this federal law with current interpretation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, which prohibits workplace discrimination on the basis of sex/gender. **AAUW national serves in a gender equity coalition supporting these changes.** Stay tuned! More information on this will be coming.



Summer Birthdays

July Birthdays

Jan Gardner	07/07
Helen Vakil	07/07
Denise DeVenuto	07/12
Cordelia Hwang	07/14
Judy Purvis	07/14
JoAnn DeFlon	07/23
Peggy Tigerman	07/26
Myrna Plost	07/30

August Birthdays

Elayne Nahman	08/03
Sandra Gurewetz	08/04
Betsy Adams	08/06
Mary Ann Donohue	08/06
Muriel Blatt	08/10
Sharon Pollack	08/11
Anne Destabelle	08/13
Sara Dean	08/14
Alice Matthews	08/14
Geri Chaudhri	08/15
Fran Brown	08/27
Pilar Hale	08/28
Jeanne Wilson	08/29
Leslie Criswell	08/29

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



Let's have an evening of fun as we play Bingo with friends, let's see who wins the prizes.

Join us on:

Friday, July 19, 2024 at 7 PM

RSVP to Jane Harris

compprin@hotmail.com

A Bingo card and ZOOM link will be sent to you.



We are sorry to share the passing of our member, Shirley Collins. She joined AAUW in 1977, and was active in book groups, the Great Decisions discussion group and most recently, the WELLL lunch group. She enjoyed meeting new people through AAUW.

She and her late husband had three daughters. Outside of AAUW, she cheerfully volunteered at the Library Shop and was active at St. John Fisher's Church.

Notes and cards can be sent to her daughter Susan Hooker, 22724 Town Crier Rd., Calabasas CA 91302



Joann (Scotty) Wuerker, a PVP AAUW member from 2000 to 2021, passed away peacefully in her sleep surrounded by her three children on May 21, 2024 in the home she had lived in for 70 years.

Though house bound in her final years, Scotty stayed active in politics with an "Affinity" group and enjoyed competitive table and card games with friends.

Notes and cards can be sent to the Wuerker family at 4036 Via Pima, Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274



This week (June 16th-22nd) the first group of girls is attending camp at Whittier College. We are sending 7 girls to Whittier I, 5 girls to Whittier II, and 3 girls to UC San Diego. Ten of the girls are from Wilmington Middle School, 5 are from Dana Middle School. The selection processes this year resulted in every girl who wanted to go, and was able to go, being awarded a spot. The selection process prioritized girls who submitted their documents before the deadline and either attended all of the gatherings or responded promptly to all communication. The girls were aware of these standards from the beginning and support was readily available.

On June 2nd we partnered with the Torrance AAUW TT Branch (thank you Denise) to hold an orientation meeting. The Tech Trek committee was on hand to do the set-up, sign-ins and assist with the activities. The girls participated in an ice breaker and a puzzle game to help get to know and work with students from other schools. We talked with the girls and coached them that as role models of our branch they should make sure that no girl felt excluded. Most of the girls have already been notified of their core class subject material. Their reactions were priceless from squealing and jumping up and down, to looking a bit stunned. We walked the girls around and encouraged them to introduce themselves to other girls who are attending the same camp and core specialty. Some of the core specialties are Anatomy, Chemistry, Crime Scene Investigation, Robotics/Coding, and Neurology.

TTAG members Sarah Solares and our very own 2023 camper, Yajaira Ledesma, spoke to the parents as did Sarah's mother. The content was also repeated in Spanish. These two TTAG girls were tremendously poised and confident, exhibiting the benefits of Tech Trek. We look forward to you meeting the 2024 campers at Celebrate Tech Trek on **August 18th**. Please save the date!

2024 Tech Trek campers



Tech Trek, cont'd.

The Tech Trek Committee at work....



Jill Wussler, Alice Matthews, Kathy Ford and Leslie Criswell



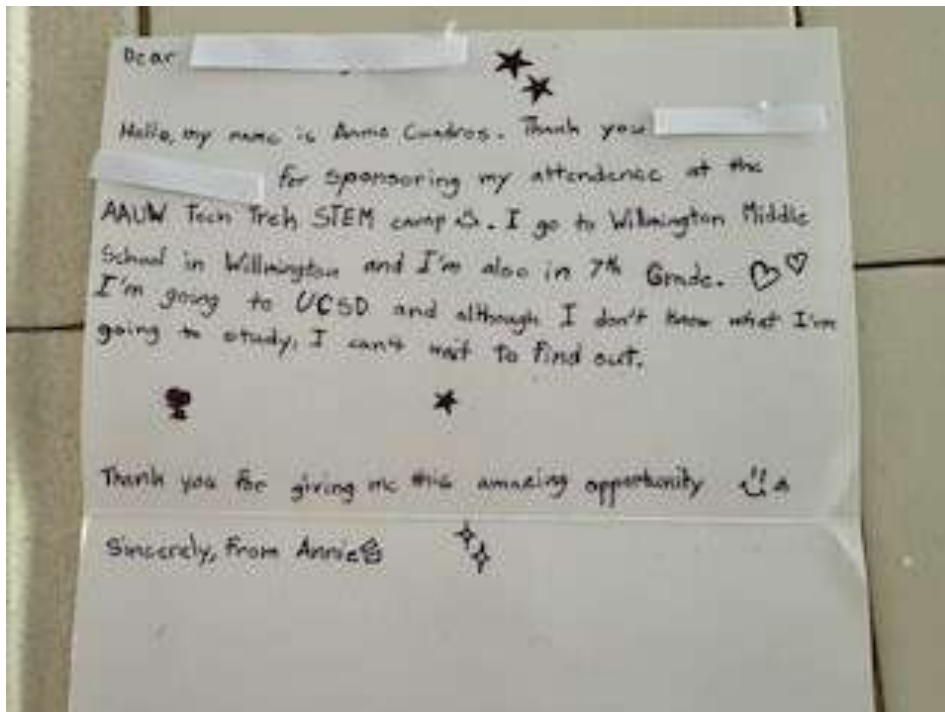
Sue Gates



Fran Brown, Denise DeVenuto, Jill Wussler and Kaaren Lee



Martha Maimone





Recognition Luncheon

Over 40 AAUW members and friends gathered to celebrate outstanding women in our community at the annual Recognition Luncheon held at the Red Onion. There was a homecoming feel as people greeted each other, hugged old friends, made new acquaintances, enjoyed a delicious lunch, and applauded our accomplished awardees.

The awardees include:

- Judy Purvis – Lifetime membership (awarded after 50 years)
- Named Gift Honorees: Jane Harris and Nancy Rayner, with introductions by Leann Roque and Fran Brown, respectively
- Status of Women Awardee: Monique Sugimoto, presented by Nancy Mahr
- Applause went to Diane Hembacher as the new Leadership Co-Chair and JoAnn DeFlon as the new Membership Co-Chair.
- Fran Brown was awarded a past President’s pin in recognition of her outstanding leadership over the past three years, presented by Joanie Gale

Finally, kudos to the unsung heroes who made the event so memorable: Libby Bergen coordinated everything; Elayne Nahman created the Certificates of Appreciation; Greeters were Heather White, Lynn Sugimoto, Jane Harris and Leann Roque; Kathy Berg took photos, and we owe many thanks to the outstanding staff of the Red Onion.

At the luncheon, Jane Harris shared her key words regarding AAUW: Mission, Purpose, Friendships. The lunch was a festive observance of all!



Fran Brown and Elayne Nahman



Lynn Sugimoto and Nancy Mahr



Merlin David , library representative and Kathy Berg, photographer



Jane Harris and Leann Roque



PVP AAUW members enjoying the day



Kaaren Lee, Lynn Sugimoto, guests (2) and Fran Brown

An Ode to Fran Brown

by Joanie Gale

Several years ago, I received a written invitation
To join AAUW, a distinguished organization
We gather to promote girls, women and their rights
Through policy, education, discussions, fighting the good fight
A multitude of interest groups where one can learn and share
Activities, thoughts, inspirations, ways to care
Some of you have been members far longer than me
I'm delighted to speak on behalf of the AAUW in PVP.

At this time we gather to recognize Fran Brown, one of a kind
For three years she has helped lead this group with humor and tenacity
combined
Motivating people, writing emails, producing agendas galore
Open to ideas and field trips, things and places to explore
How can one say no to her smiling face?
It's what got me to this honored place!

How would one describe Fran Brown?
A retired teacher, raised in Chi-Town?
An inveterate reader and Scrabble player too?
Often in purple or a related hue? A loving mother, a devoted Gran
These are the more private sides of Fran

About a year ago, I agreed to work by Fran's side.
Admittedly, it's been quite the ride!
We've shared countless meals, Zooms, phone calls and meetings
Always enjoyable and productive proceedings.
Her wealth of knowledge and insight she shares with Diane and with
me
Next year's co-leadership is actually three.
Fran will be serving as our Branch Ambassador
Promoting the branch, interacting with new members, and more.
Fran, for all you have given and all you will do..
We are very thankful for you!

This ode is lengthy, it has come to an end.
A year ago I signed up as a sidekick; now we are friends.



Fran Brown and Joanie Gale

Spring Social

The first-ever AAUW Spring Social was a great success! Hosted by Jane Harris, the event turned a May gray Saturday afternoon into a cheerful gathering. The table was filled with delicious bites, people mingled inside and out, and a wine tasting provided the entertainment.

Wines were tasted blindly, with cards for comments and ranking. With a limited number of tasters, the surprise winner was Two-Buck Chuck Chardonnay, Trader Joe's legendary inexpensive wine.

Many thanks to Jane and her husband, Dick, for hosting!



Fran Wielin and Kay Odgers



Libby Bergen, Nancy Rayner,
Leann Roque and Hostess
Jane Harris



Jan Cofer, Jane Harris, Eunice
McConaughy and Susan Wallace



Lynn Sakamoto, Helen Vakil and
Fran Brown



Lee Ann Farmer and
Denise DeVenuto

Photos by Kathy Berg



The Art Appreciation Group...

... enjoying a day in Beverly Hills viewing the Basquiat exhibit and looking forward to lunch afterwards.

From left., Dana Gorman, Joanie Gale, Elayne Nahman,
Leann Roque and Regina Taylor

May 2024 Branch Meeting

submitted by Shera Dolmatz-Finkel

Our May meeting featured former Griffith Park Observatory planetarium lecturer, and amateur astrophotographer David Finkel. David delighted attendees with a lively presentation on his adventures in astronomy.

Forty AAUW members, guests and husbands listened to David discuss his travels, show his photos, reminisce about astronomical phenomena, and educate the audience as to where they could locate more information about astronomy.

David's pictures of sprites, galaxies, comet, sundogs, rockets, launch, contrails, and other heavenly delights were fun and his love of astronomy was infectious. He got numerous laughs from the crowd who appeared to really enjoy and engage with the presentation.



David Finkel



(Photos by David Finkel)



Fran Brown, Joanie Gale,
Shera Dolmatz-Finkel, Lee Ann Farmer,
Libby Bergen and David Finkel



PVP AAUW members
enjoying the presentation

Thanks to Kathy Berg for meeting photos.

DEI Corner: What is Juneteenth?

In June, the nation celebrated Juneteenth.

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which declared a formal end to slavery in the United States. However, change was not instant after the proclamation. Nearly two and a half years later, on June 19th, 1865, the enslaved African Americans of Galveston, Texas got the news by way of the Union army troops that freedom had come at last.

The next year, the people of Galveston commemorated that day as Juneteenth, a celebration of freedom. Since then, it's been observed in communities and states as a holiday, but officially recognized as a federal holiday in 2021.

Why is the holiday called Juneteenth? The name blends the month and the day this news reached the people of Galveston: "June" plus "nineteenth" is Juneteenth.

Juneteenth isn't just about celebrating a day or a single historical event – it's a celebration of freedom, resilience, community and the possibilities of good things to come.

Drum Barracks Civil War Museum

“I (or my kids) studied California history in 4th grade, but I never heard about this!” was the common refrain while AAUW members explored the War Drum Barracks, a hidden historical gem in Wilmington. The 150+ year old house, built as a duplex, housed senior officers during the Civil War. Interestingly, the components of the house were shipped from the east coast. The house and stone from the ammunition magazine are all that remain of the multiple structures and parade ground, which covered blocks of current Wilmington. Among other things, we learned...

Southern California was a hotbed of Southern sympathizers

Camp Drum was named after Colonel Richard Drum, Assistant Adjutant General of the Army's Department of the Pacific

The army used camels as part of their west coast operations

Soldiers wore wool uniforms year-round and carried over 50 pounds of gear

The land was donated by Phineas Banning (Father of the Port of Los Angeles), who built a railroad spur to the wharf

Officers could enjoy alcohol and gambling, which were off-limits to enlisted men.

After the military left, Banning and Benjamin Wilson (first mayor of Los Angeles) started a Methodist College on the site, the forerunner to USC

Following the tour, AAUW members enjoyed conversation over lunch!

Back row: Myrna Plost, Fran Brown, Heather White, Leann Roque, Charlene Pickarts

Front row: Judi Rock, Dana Gorman, Joanie Gale, Shera Dolmatz



Back: Myrna Plost, Fran Brown,
Heather White, Leann Roque, Charlene
Pickarts

Front: Judi Rook, Dana Gorman, Joanie
Gale, Shera Dolmatz-Finkel

INTEREST GROUP CALENDER – JULY/AUGUST 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

July 3 – Putting it all Together

August 7 – Early Renaissance-
Humanism Emergent



COOKS' CORNER

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

July – No Meeting

August – Date/topic tbd

DAYTIME SCRABBLE

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

July 10 and 24

August 14 and 28

EVENING SCRABBLE

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

July 22 – meetings held at
member homes

August 26 - “

**THIS GROUP MEETS IN THE
EVENING AND WELCOMES NEW
MEMBERS**



NIGHT BOOKS

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

This group will not meet in
July/August, but will read *The
Covenant of Water* by Abraham
Verghese

4TH MONDAY BOOK GROUP

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

July 22 – *The Women* by Kristin
Hannah

August 26 - tbd

CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE

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

July 8 – *Unsheltered* by Barbara
Kingsolver

August 12 – *Last Bus to Wisdom* by
Ivan Doig

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

ECLECTIC READERS

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

July 18 – *A Calamity of Souls* by
David Baldacci

August 15 – *Life After Power* by
Jared Cohen

WOMEN IN TRANSITION

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

July – no mtg.

August 7 – Pot Luck Dinner -5:30pm

FIRST FRIDAY TEA & CONVERSATION

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

July 5 – How do you deal with
stress?

August 2 – Who do you most
admire & how has that impacted
the way you live your life?

**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

July 16

August 20

INTEREST GROUP CALENDER – JULY/AUGUST 2024

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

<p><u>WOMEN HELPING WOMEN</u> Co-Leader: Jane Harris comprrin@hotmail.com Co-Leader: Nancy Rayner Nrayner777@gmail.com 1st Thursday 2PM</p> <p>July 27 – Postcarding Session August – No meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THIS GROUP IS OPEN AND WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS</p> <p><u>HANDICRAFTS</u> Leader: Joanie Gale joaniekgale@gmail.com 2nd Saturday 3PM-5PM</p> <p>July 13 – location tbd August 10 – location tbd</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THIS GROUP IS OPEN AND WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS</p>	<p><u>FUN AT THE MOVIES</u> Leader: Myrna Plost mplost@verizon.net 4th Thursday 2PM</p> <p>July 25 – Movie tbd August 22 – Movie tbd</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THIS GROUP IS OPEN AND WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p><u>READERS THEATER</u> Leader: Cecilia Rogers fafnyr@mac.com 2nd Tuesday 6PM</p> <p>July 9 August 13</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ASPIRING THESPIANS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!</p>	<p><u>LUNCH BUNCH</u> Leader: Nancy Rayner Nrayner777@gmail.com 1st Tuesday 1PM</p> <p>July 2 – Truxton’s August 6 – Andre’s (Doubletree Hotel)</p> <p><u>WOMEN EATING LUNCH LEISURELY (WELL)</u> Leader: Joanie Gale joaniekgale@gmail.com 3rd Wednesday 1PM</p> <p>July 17 – Restaurant tbd August 21 – Restaurant tbd</p>
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Handicrafts Group



Lynne Jones, Marilyn Brashear, Heather White, Margery Norris, Joanie Gale, at Margery’s on June 8th. Other regulars include Irene and Delia Gasco.

On the 2nd Saturday of each month our branch Handicrafts group gathers from 3-5 p.m. at a member’s home. We knit, crochet, embroider, share postcarding and other hobbies. The conversation ranges widely & is invariably interesting. In June, with 80th D-Day anniversary in the news, we shared some stories & even memories of how WW II affected our country & some relatives. Next subject was about our favorite music, then we moved to family news.

We’d love to have you join us! Just contact Joanie Gale for next meeting place.



Another friendly reminder!! Your AAUW membership may have expired!

Thanks so much to our members who have renewed their membership. If your membership expires June 30th, please do so as soon as possible. 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 renew your membership online. Some members did not receive the link for paying renewal fees online. If you did not receive the link and are unable to login at the AAUW login page, you may send a check made payable to AAUW-PVP, P.O. Box 2442, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA. 90274

We have included the old version of our renewal form if you prefer to renew this way.

Dues Breakdown:

AAUW National - **\$72** (all 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 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
September/October 2024

June 30, Sunday	Membership renewal deadline (for
July 9, Tuesday 2-3:30pm	Hesse Park, Branch Meeting
July 19, Friday 7pm	Bingo, ZOOM, RSVP to Jane Harris for link
August 03, Saturday 3-5pm	Summer Social at Joanie Gale's home
August 18	Celebrate Tech Trek, details pending

Council Co-Chairs: Joanie Gale and Diane Hemberger

Treasurer: Dale Richards and Leann Roque

Membership Co-Chairs: JoAnn DeFlon and Libby Bergen

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 September/October CoastLines articles, August 15, 2024

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