

# AAUW COASTLINES

Palos Verdes Peninsula Branch, January/February 2025

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



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## A New Years Resolution you'll want to keep!



### Branch Meeting

Tuesday, January 14 at 2 pm  
Fireside Room at Hesse Park.

Our featured speaker will be Don Mottinger, speaking on Climate Change and its Local Effects. When we had our planning meeting, Don was on the top of the list for requested speakers!

Once again, bring up to three books and take home as many as you like at our Book Exchange! There will be a door prize and homemade treats! Please bring your own water bottle.



### Holiday Happy Hour

Dec. 21 from 3-5 pm

Joanie Gale's home  
2405 Via Sobrante, PVE

Friends and spouses are welcome! Contributions of food and wine are appreciated, please contact Fran Brown [franbrown5@cox.net](mailto:franbrown5@cox.net) for more details and RSVPs. RSVPs are appreciated, but not required.

## Are Gender-based Scholarships Problematic?

Not for AAUW, but the current legal and political climate has made universities wary to offer them.

by Missy Maceyko, Co-chair AAUW California Public Policy Committee

Title IX of the Higher Education Act of 1972 bans sex-based discrimination in educational institutions that receive federal funding. An outgrowth of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which offers workplace protections on the basis of sex, Title IX was created to address historical marginalization on the basis of sex/gender in education. In sum, Title IX was created to provide women with equal access and success in educational institutions, to redress the historical marginalization of women in educational settings relative to men.

The definition of what counts as sex-based discrimination has necessarily expanded over the years, eventually coming to protect everyday Americans from things like pregnancy discrimination and gender-stereotype discrimination (e.g. not getting a promotion because you are not performing in a way that aligns with the gender you are perceived to be). In 2024, the Biden Administration extended a 2020 Supreme Court decision about LGBTQ+ workplace discrimination to Title IX, providing protections to the LGBTQ+ community by acknowledging that LGBTQ+ discrimination is often the result of animus derived from gender stereotyping.

The spirit of Title IX is to protect those who have been historically marginalized on the basis of sex/gender. However, as part of the larger pushback against social justice and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), we have seen a sharp uptick in watchdog efforts and legal action around educational programs and scholarships focusing on fostering gender (and racial) equity. **Those bringing these lawsuits suggest that programs and scholarships that are explicitly for women violate Title IX** because they discriminate against men. For instance, between 2016 and 2022, [Mark Perry](#), an emeritus professor at the University of Michigan's Flint campus and a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, filed 410 Title IX complaints against universities that offer programs or awards for women, but not men.

Lawsuits like those brought by Mark Perry **lean in to the concept of equality**, the idea that fairness is giving everyone the exact same things. This is opposed to **leaning into the concept of equity**, where fairness is reaching equilibrium by giving some individuals and groups different protections and support to make sure that everyone has what they need to succeed. If one student scrapes their knee and you give everyone a bandaid, this is equality. If one student scrapes their knee and you give only that student a bandaid, this is equity. Leaning into equality work does not make sense when equity should be the target to redress an historical and/or current harm.

However, **given the threats of legal action to DEI programs, and given the ongoing legal wrangling over rules and guidance about gender equity and gender equality under Title IX, many educational institutions are unsure about the legality of their gender equity programs and initiatives.** Furthermore, the threat of legal action has had a chilling effect as institutions with shrinking budgets fear the cost and burden of ongoing legal challenges based on gender equality and equity efforts.

**Scholarships that seek to target protected groups to overcome historical forms of marginalization have become a target in the larger attack against DEI, Title VII, and Title IX.** If a college or university is wary of listing your AAUW scholarship, this might be why. AAUW does not receive federal funding under Title IX, so can offer gender-specific scholarships and programs without this same fear.



### January Birthdays

Rosalie Abelson	01/02
Delia Gasco	01/04
Heather White	01/08
Donna Day	01/14
Judith Rook	01/25
Libby Bergen	01/30
Carol Hook	01/30

### February Birthdays

Jacki Bacharach	02/08
Nancy Rayner	02/12
Elissa Hoxie	02/15
Irene Gasco	02/16

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

### Notes of Appreciation

Welcome to Lee Ann Farmer, our Branch's new Membership Co-Chair, and many thanks to Libby Bergen for her wonderful job as past Membership Co-Chair.

One of the best things about our Branch is the way we support each other during difficult times, whether it be over lunch, a game of Scrabble, or "coffee with friends". And during the really tough times, we may find in our mailbox a note of condolence, a "get well" greeting, or simply a "thinking of you". Thank you, Helen Vakil, for making our dark days a little brighter by mailing these caring notes!



### What one annual AAUW activity includes absolutely every member?

That's a tough one!

We would like to recognize Rowie Wolf for the preparation and distribution of our branch directories! They have evolved from the expensive process of sending data to a print shop for typesetting, modernized to excel spreadsheets, and since 2011, the electronic data is merged into the directory format; printing is done by the PVPUSD; then several pairs of eyes proof the finished product.

This year, 103 members are listed in the book!

Thanks Rowie for your decades-plus work on the directories!

### A Sense of Home

Seven is a significant number...

- Seven deadly sins,
- Seven sisters colleges,
- Seven samurai,
- Seven wonders of the world,
- Muslims walk around the Kaaba in Mecca seven times,
- 7 is the jackpot on slot machines,
- Buddha walked seven steps as a child,
- A week has seven days based on the book of Genesis
- The receipt from ASOH for our donations was seven pages!

Yes! Coordinated by Hazel Lord and Heather White, a packed mini-van delivered LOTS of donations to A Sense of Home! The household items will be used to create homes for young people, primarily women, starting their lives outside of the foster care system. It was a win-win, as they received needed items and those giving cleared out gently used items!

## **PUBLIC POLICY: AAUW PRIORITIES**

### UPDATE: AAUWUS

National's focus for the coming two years will be:

- Education – concerns over a shift in funding from higher education to work-development programs; future of the Department of Education.
- Title IX – efforts to restrict due process rights under Title IX are expected

Ongoing priorities are education, economic opportunities for women, civil rights and social justice for all.

ERA – national continues to work to have ERA posted; it was passed by Congress and enough states have now ratified, but an intro to the original document included a deadline which is now being disputed.

### UPDATE: AAUWCA

- New state Public Policy Priorities – responses to the statewide survey are now being reviewed; final member vote will be in the spring.
- School Board Project – expect a member survey in January; training will be offered early in the new year.
- Lobby Days will again take place March/April; watch for information.

## **40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF HUMAN RIGHTS DAY**

December 10 was Human Rights Day, celebrated internationally in honor of the day seventy-six years ago, December 10, 1948, when the United Nations General Assembly announced the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

A special United Nations commission, chaired by Eleanor Roosevelt, worked for two years to develop the UDHR, which incorporates a list of “equal and inalienable” rights for all people.

The document has become the foundation of international human rights law and is a vital part of the rules-based order that restrains leaders from human rights abuses, giving victims a language and a set of principles to condemn mistreatment.



## DEI NOTES: DECEMBER – THE MONTH OF CELEBRATION

December hosts a diverse group of special holidays and celebrations: Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa (chronological order for 2024).



**Christmas** is celebrated on December 25 and is both a sacred religious holiday and a world-wide cultural and commercial phenomenon. People around the world observe Christmas with traditions and practices that are both religious and secular in nature. Christians celebrate Christmas Day as the anniversary of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, a spiritual leader whose teachings form the basis of Christian faith. Since the early 20th century, Christmas has also been a secular family holiday, observed by Christians and non-Christians alike, devoid of Christian elements, and marked by an increasingly elaborate exchange of gifts. In this secular Christmas celebration, the holiday figure of Santa Clause plays a key role.

Christmas Day is a public holiday in many countries. December 25—Christmas Day—has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1870.



**Hanukkah** is a widely observed Jewish festival that is usually celebrated in December.

Hanukkah reaffirms the ideals of Judaism and commemorates the freedom that the Maccabees fought to preserve nearly 2,000 years ago and the rededication of the Second Temple of Jerusalem. It is a winter festival of light that is observed by Jews around the world who gather with family and friends to light a Hanukkah menorah (*hanukkiah*) for eight nights—bringing more light into the world during the darkest season of the year. Modern celebrations of Hanukkah focus on family and friends and, in addition to the lighting of the menorah, singing and playing Hanukkah songs and games and eating special foods .

Hanukkah is one of the most popular Jewish religious observances.



**Kwanzaa** is a secular festival celebrating of African-American culture, running from December 26 to January 1 and culminating in a communal feast called *Karamu*, usually on the sixth day. It was created by activist Maulana Karenga based on African harvest festival traditions from various parts of Africa. Family and community celebrations may include songs and dances, African drums, storytelling, poetry reading, and a large traditional meal. On each of the seven nights, a child lights one of the candles on the Kinara (candleholder), then one of the seven principles is discussed. The principles, called the Nguzo Saba (seven principles in Swahili), are values of African culture which contribute to building and reinforcing community among African-Americans. Kwanzaa also has seven basic symbols which represent values and concepts reflective of African culture.

Twenty-first-century estimates place the number of Americans who celebrate Kwanzaa between 500,000 and 2,000,000.

Submitted by Nancy Mahr



Thank you to everyone who donated to this worthy cause! If anyone missed the November meeting and would like to hear more, please contact me. In the presentation I referenced a few materials (links below) that illustrate how the Tech Trek program methodology and goals are evidence based. In 1991, AAUW sponsored a highly regarded study that is worth reading. More recent research shows that most of these findings are relevant today.

**Shortchanging Girls, Shortchanging America :** <https://studylib.net/doc/8897121/shortchanging-girls--shortchanging-america>

**The Girl's Index:** <https://www.rulingourexperiences.com/research>

**Bye bye, Ms. American Sci:**

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0272775723000183>

Currently Mrs. Rodriguez at Wilmington Middle School, and Miss Acosta at Dana Middle School are collecting camper nominations from the teachers. For the 2025 camp season the San Diego camp has been changed from UCSD to the University of San Diego, and they are reopening the camp at UCSB.

This year we are seeing a drop to almost half of the number of campers we can send. This is not as dire as it seems. In the past few years, we had an unusual surplus of funds from 2020 when no campers were sent (pandemic), and the support of a very generous limited-time donor. The numbers we are seeing this year are more typical for the PVP Tech Trek program. The committee is actively seeking donations and brainstorming other fundraising methods.

YEAR	RESIDENTIAL CAMP	VIRTUAL CAMP
2019	17	0
2020	0	1
2021	0	18
2022	16	1
2023	20	2
2024	15	0
2025	8?	?

We encourage you to ask friends, neighbors and other contacts if they would consider sponsoring a camper this year. A camp experience costs \$1200. Thank you for your support!

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

## ART APPRECIATION



The Art Appreciation Group visited the David Kordansky Gallery, to see an exhibition of paintings by Chase Hall, titled *Halffrican*. We were intrigued by the way Hall uses coffee-based pigments to explore themes of freedom, friendship, self-determination, and unity.

Pictured are Elissa Hoxie, Diane Hembacher, and Dana Gorman, in front of the painting titled *The Future and the Past*.

## RUTH BLOLAND WOMEN HELPING WOMEN GROUP



The Ruth Bloland Women Helping Women Interest Group meets in members homes, but got together and celebrated the holiday season with lunch at Serendipity.



## ROSA KWON EASTON, AUTHOR

Our Branch Member, Rosa Kwon Easton, at the book launch of her debut novel, *White Mulberry*. Inspired by the life of her grandmother, *White Mulberry* is a moving portrait of a young Korean woman in 1930's Japan who is torn between two worlds.

This is featured as one of Amazon's historical fiction books of winter.

Pictured with Rosa is her father who is portrayed as a little boy in the book.

## *AN AFTERNOON OF GIVING!*

The Nov. 12, 2024 Branch meeting was a festive time of giving! Combining a holiday kickoff celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Thanksgiving and New Years with our missions of TechTrek and TTAG (TechTrek Alumni Group) was fun and inspiring!

Prior to the meeting, donations to “A Sense of Home” were collected in the Hesse Park parking lot, facilitated by Hazel Lord, Heather White and Jeff Brown. The contributions were amazing both in quantity and variety! These household items will be used to furnish homes for young people, mainly women, transitioning out of the foster care system.

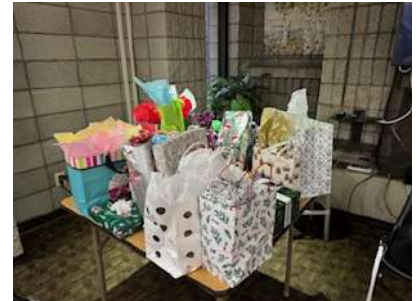
Diane Hembacher and Joanie Gale opened the meeting, welcoming new members and guests and announcing upcoming events.

Back-to-back presentations on TechTrek and TTAG by Kaaren Lee and Denise DeVenuto, respectively, informed, inspired, and enthralled the membership. Their dedication and expertise for these missions was evident; the impact to the girls is life-changing.

Holiday treats included cornbread (Kwanzaa), Hanukkah gelt and cookies, Christmas cookies, and Thanksgiving-stuffing flavored popcorn! Drinks included egg nog and sparkling apple juice – a Hesse Park-approved substitute for New Years champagne!

The giving continued with a lively gift exchange! Members selected wrapped gifts or “took” an opened present from another member. Favorites included beauty products, pajama pants, tea, and Starbuck gift cards. “Whoo” knew we have several “owl fan club” members in AAUW!

The next branch meeting will be held on January 14, 2025! Don Mottinger will be speaking on Climate Change and its local effects.





## AAUW Visits the Long Beach Art Museum



On October 18, AAUW made an appearance at the Long Beach Museum of Art. We were puzzled and challenged by the multi-media exhibit Moving Pictures by Greg Ito in the downstairs gallery. Upstairs, screens displayed LBMA Video, a display on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a TV cable access series Shared Realities about the impact of computers and TV on the arts. It was interesting to see the styles, landscape and lack of traffic! from the 70s and 80s. Following our visit, we enjoyed lunch at Claire's, the museum restaurant.

It was the perfect setting...a sunny October day, next to the water, a gentle breeze, and delicious food! Conversation flowed between the attendees...Fran Brown, Charlene Pickarts, Leann Roque, Lee Ann Farmer, Dana Gorman, Joanie Gale, Myra Plost, Barbara Schach, Ginny Whittaker and her visiting daughter, Laura Glead.

Many thanks to Shera Dolmatz who organized the outing, even though she was on the east coast that day!

Table photo – front left: Lee Ann Farmer, Myrna Plost, Fran Brown, Charlene Pickarts, Joanie Gale, Laura Glead, Ginny Whittaker, Leann Roque, Dana Gorman, Barbara Schach.



## Anne Destabelle and the Pennyroyals sing holiday songs at the Torrance Memorial Festival of Trees.

AAUW members attending.....Myrna Plost, Shera Dolmatz, Judy Purvis, Carol Torelli and Elissa Hoxie



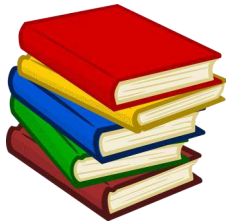
## All Book Clubs' Holiday Luncheon

Members of the four AAUW book groups gathered to discuss favorite books of the year. The luncheon, hosted by JoAnn DeFlon, was a fundraiser for TechTrek! Many thanks to JoAnn for providing the yummy food! Enjoying sandwiches, fruit, veggies and desserts, the attendees digested several topics.

Fran Brown led us in a lively discussion of all the books we've been reading this year. *The Women* by Kristin Hannah provoked the most comments, it was the most popular in an informal poll. *Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride was another favorite.

The following books were mentioned as well:

- Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt
- Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon
- A Fever In The Heartland by Timothy Egan
- Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghese
- River in The Sky by Elif Shafak
- Island of Missing Trees by Elif Shafak
- Absolution by Alice McDermott
- White Mulberry by Rosa Kwon Easton
- Small Things Like These by Claire Keegan
- All The Beauty in the World by Patrick Bringley
- Anxious People by Fredrik Backman
- A Piece Of My Heart by Alafair Burke and Mary Higgins Clark
- Bottoms Up And The Devil Laughed by Kerry Howley
- We Begin At The End by Chris Whitaker
- Fraud by Zadie Smith
- Tomorrow, Tomorrow, and Tomorrow by Gabrielle Zevin



## INTEREST GROUP CALENDER – JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2025

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

January 8 – Going Baroque – North  
versus South

February 5 – 18<sup>th</sup> Century Reality &  
Decorative Rococo

### COOKS' CORNER

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

January 18 – Slow Cooker Recipes  
February 15 – Instant Pot Recipes

### DAYTIME SCRABBLE

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

January 8 and 22

February 12 and 26



### EVENING SCRABBLE

Leader: Mary Ann Donahue  
[ma.donahue45@gmail.com](mailto:ma.donahue45@gmail.com)  
4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 7PM

January 28 – meetings held at  
member homes

February 25 - "

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



### NIGHT BOOKS

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

January 13 – *By Any Other Name* by  
Jodie Picoult

February 10 – *The Vegetarian* by  
Han Kang

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

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

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

January 27 – *Life After Power* by  
Jared Cohen

February 24 – *White Mulberry* by  
Rosa Kwon Easton

### CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE

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

January 13 – *The Paris Novel* by Ruth  
Reichl

February 10 – *Bottoms Up* by Kerry  
Howley

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

### ECLECTIC READERS

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

January 16 – New Year Lunch at  
Szechwan Restaurant

February 20 – *All the Colors of the  
Dark* by Chris Whitaker

### WOMEN IN TRANSITION

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

January 8–Annual Business Meeting  
February 5 – Topic tbd

### FIRST FRIDAY TEA & CONVERSATION

Leader: Helen Vakil  
[helenvakil@yahoo.com](mailto:helenvakil@yahoo.com)  
1<sup>st</sup> Friday 2 – 4pm

January 3 – Your Biggest Challenges  
Right Now

February 7 – The Biggest Change in  
the Last 50 Years

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



*President's Day - February 17*

### 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

### BRIDGETTES

Leader: Dale Richards  
[dalerichards@gmail.com](mailto:dalerichards@gmail.com)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 1PM  
January 21 – Eunice McConaughy's  
home  
February 18- Jan Cofer's home

## INTEREST GROUP CALENDER – JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2025

RUTH BLOLAND WOMEN HELP-  
ING

WOMEN

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

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

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

January 2 - Elections are over;  
where do we go from here?  
February 6 - topic tbd

**THIS GROUP IS OPEN AND WEL-  
COMES NEW MEMBERS**

HANDICRAFTS

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

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

January 11 - location tbd

February - Date & Location tbd

**THIS GROUP IS OPEN AND WEL-  
COMES NEW MEMBERS**

FUN AT THE MOVIES

Leader: Myrna Plost  
[mplost@verizon.net](mailto:mplost@verizon.net)

4<sup>th</sup> Thursday 2PM

January 23 - The Constant Gardner  
& Wicked

February 20 - Movie tbd

**THIS GROUP IS OPEN AND WEL-  
COMES NEW MEMBERS**



MARTIN LUTHER KING

I HAVE A DREAM

*Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*

*January 20*

READERS THEATER

Leader: Cecilia Rogers  
[fafivr@mac.com](mailto:fafivr@mac.com)

(310)293-7071

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday 6:00PM

January 13

February 10

**ASPIRING THESPIANS ARE ALWAYS  
WELCOME! NO ACTING EXPERI-  
ENCE REQUIRED &  
DINNER IS ENJOYED BEFORE MTGS.**

LUNCH BUNCH

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

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

January 7 - Okane Umi Lomita

February 4 - Hof's Hut - Torrance

WOMEN EATING LUNCH LEISURE-  
LY (WELL)

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

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

January 15 - Cream Pan - Lomita

February 19 - tbd



**BRANCH CALENDAR**  
**January/February 2025**

December 21, Saturday 3-5 pm

Holiday Happy Hour-Joanie Gale's home

January 14, Tuesday 2-4 pm

Branch Meeting-Hesse Park

**Council Co-Chairs:** Joanie Gale  
and Diane Hembacher

**Treasurer:** Dale Richards and  
Leann Roque

**Membership Chairs:**  
Libby Bergen and JoAnn DeFlon

**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, February 15, 2025

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Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274