



TRI CITY DISPATCH

Westminster-Fountain Valley-Huntington Beach March 2025

WHERE ONE HEARS THE RAIN



Chris will tell us how to find out voice and craft our story from inspiration to publication. *Where One Hears the Rain* draws on Chris' journey as an author, collaborative writer, and decade-long tenure as a memoir writing workshop instructor. He offers invaluable insights and practical advice to guide writers to their unique voice and shape their personal stories. This book delves into the essential aspects of memoir writing, from uncovering inspiration, to developing compelling narratives, to organizing and structuring the autobiographical narrative for maximum emotional impact.

General Meeting

March 15, 2025

Center for Spiritual Living

7641 Talbert Avenue

Huntington Beach

Social

10:00 – 10:15 a.m.

Speaker

10:15 – 11:15 a.m.

Business Meeting and Lunch

11:15 a.m.

Menu: Corner Bakery

Box Lunch includes:

Turkey/avocado sandwich,
salad, fruit cup, cookie,
beverage

Vegetarian option by request

\$25.00 check due by

March 9

AAUW: WM-FV-HB

c/o Kathi Rand

306 Coral Reef #53

Huntington Beach, 92648



**CALENDAR
OF
EVENTS**

March

- 3 Board Meeting 7 p.m.
- 6 Happy Hikers 10 a.m.
- 15 General Meeting 10 a.m.
- 19 Travel Group 3 p.m.
- 21 Luncheon Meeting 10 a.m.
- 24 Book Review 7:15 p.m.
- 27 Quest 9:30 a.m.

April

- 7 Board Meeting 7 p.m.
- 26 Authors Luncheon 10 a.m.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles must be in no later than
March 10, noon.

Send to Jeanne Smith

dandjsmith@earthlink.net

BOARD MEETING

The board consists of all officers and committee chairs. Meetings are usually held the first Monday of each month. All members are encouraged to attend. The February 2025 Board of Directors meeting was held on ZOOM.

Finance Officer's Report

December General Fund

Beginning Balance \$ 18,577.01

Ending Balance \$ 18,348.13

December Fund Account

Beginning Balance \$ 14,588.33

Ending Balance \$ 14,715.16

Website: wm-fv-hb-aauw@weebly.com

**BRANCH EMAIL
ADDRESSES**

Membership inquiries and new member

sandraguerrero@me.com

Update member contact information

ralphkaj@aol.com

Programs

carolkanode@me.com

Website problems, comments, corrections

jenjimmyrick@gmail.com

Click on the above links to email



Presidents' Message

Hello All!

March is peeking around the corner. Will the month come in like a lion and go out like a lamb? As we leave the month of love, please share your affection for AAUW. Let us continue to show love for the girls and women in our community by donating your time and energy towards our Authors Luncheon.

Please add your voice to AAUW CA, support for public school education. Read about The School Board Project. Collectively, our voices will continue to advocate for issues reflected in our mission statements. Maybe this is the year you participate in Lobby Day on April 9th via Zoom.

Now is the time to help our branch grow stronger by serving on our board. There are many talented, wise, and skilled women amongst us. Please talk to current or past board members about their experiences. Thanks for supporting our work.

Warmly,

Donna Kratter and Ann Kajdasz, co-presidents

BRANCH WEBSITE

We are excited to announce that we have a new website for our branch!

It isn't finished but take a look at it.

wm-fv-hb-aauw@weebly.com

INTEREST GROUP

Quest

Thursday, March 27 9:30 a.m.

THE DR. WILLELLA HOWE-WAFFLE HOUSE AND MEDICAL MUSEUM

If you have ever been to a doctor's office, a hospital or given birth, you will be awe-struck seeing the early equipment they have on display!

This grand 2 ½ story Queen Anne style Victorian house was built in 1889 and was the residence and medical office of one of the first female doctors in Santa Ana who delivered more than 1000 "Waffle Babies".

The house has been moved to this location to save it from demolition and has been thoroughly restored by volunteers from the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society. The house is located at 120 Civic Center Dr on the corner of Sycamore with its own adjacent parking lot. The old Orange County Courthouse is across the street. We will meet in the parking lot at 9:30 a.m.

There are about 4 steps, with a handrail, to enter the house to the first floor where most of the museum and interesting furniture are located. The tour does go upstairs if you care to view that area also since it was used for her children and later her patients.

There will be a \$10 change for this Quest tour as it will also include tea and cookies served at the antique dining table and chairs.

Lunch at Crave Café a short drive from the house with free parking at 410 W. 4th Street.

Please contact Barbara Islas if you are able to attend:
[Flyingfish531@gmail.com](mailto: Flyingfish531@gmail.com)

BOOK REVIEW

March 24, 2025

The book for March is
Ths Age of Innocence
by Edith Wharton

Hostess: Judy McLeod
Leader: Judy McLeod

7:15 Social

7:30 Meeting

17391 Almelo Lane
Huntington Beach

RSVP to Judy by Saturday, March 22
714-846-5155 or judy12don@aol.com

Travel Group

Wednesday, February 19th at 3 p.m.

Where: Karen Jackle
6132 Hampshire Dr.
Huntington Beach
714-612-0028

Everyone is welcome. There is always lots of good information for future trips.

Questions, call Rita Collins 714-840-3642



HAPPY HIKERS

March 6, 2025 Los Alamitos Bay Channel to Belmont Pier 10 a.m

Long Beach City beach stretches over 4 miles in the Belmont Shore area. It is a level seaside pedestrian walk with lovely ocean views. We will meet at 10 a.m. at the corner of Ocean and 54th at the beginning of the beach path. We will walk from there to the Belmont Pier where we will have lunch at the Belmont Brewery.

Please let me know if you are coming at ralphkaj@aol.com. Thanks! Ann

DONATIONS AND BASKETS NEEDED!

As you all know, we always have a silent auction of gift baskets at our Authors Luncheon. This is a huge moneymaker and we need your help in collecting donations. Gift cards, unopened gifts that you have never used, and items from local businesses are needed to fill the baskets (which we also need!) We will have letters available to request donations from businesses and tax forms for any donors. Please keep track of where you get donations so we can list the businesses in our Authors Luncheon program. Also, this year we are asking members who receive business donations to send out the thank you letters themselves. It was very confusing last year and we are trying to streamline the process. We have form thank you letters that you can use. Many thanks for all your wonderful assistance in making our luncheon a huge success!

AUTHORS LUNCHEON MEETING

The next meeting of the Authors Luncheon committee will be March 21 at 10 a.m. at the home of Donna Kratter. The jobs have been assigned, and most decisions made but we want to make sure everything is good before our luncheon in April. Please join us if you would like to help out. We can certainly use eager and talented volunteers to make our event a success!

Opportunities to Invite Prospective New Members

As 2025 gets going, you have so many opportunities for inviting your friends, neighbors, or family to find out about AAUW. Quest, Book Club, Travel Club, and Happy Hikers are great places on a monthly basis for new people to get to know our members and exchange ideas. Our monthly branch meetings offer a time for social interaction as well as hearing interesting speakers and learning about our Tech Trek and scholarship projects.

But our annual Authors Luncheon only happens once a year. And it is coming soon – April 26! This is an exciting time to hear from local authors and raise funds for our Tech Trek and scholarship projects. Check it out elsewhere in this newsletter. Plan to attend and bring a friend or two!



Westminster-Fountain Valley-Huntington Beach, CA

Thank you for your donation to the Westminster-Fountain Valley-Huntington Beach Branch of AAUW. The silent auction will be held in conjunction with our 32nd Authors Luncheon on Saturday, April 26, 2025.

All monies raised will benefit programs such as scholarships for women returning to college and Tech Trek.

Please mail or make arrangements for pick-up with the AAUW member who has solicited the donation before **Wednesday, April 16, 2025**.

For questions, please contact: Donna Kratter at dkratter@hotmail.com

Name of Donor: _____

Address: _____

Item(s): _____

Value: \$ _____

Or Check No. _____ \$ _____ Donation made
payable to AAUW : Wm-FV-HB

AAUW / Federal TAX ID # 23-7163865

Please return this original with your donation to
Ann Kajdasz 7412 Seabluff Dr. #111, Huntington Beach, CA 92648

We appreciate your generosity and support as we work together to provide educational opportunities for women and girls.

Donna Kratter and Ann Kajdasz, Co-Presidents
AAUW Westminster- Fountain Valley - Huntington Beach branch
For more information about AAUW, please visit AAUW-California website: aauw-ca.org



Dear Business Leaders,

The Westminster-Fountain Valley-Huntington Beach Branch of AAUW is requesting donations for a silent auction that will be held in conjunction with our 32nd Authors Luncheon.

All monies raised from this event will benefit programs such as scholarships for women returning to college and Tech Trek (CA camps designed for young girls with a focus on math, science and technology).

The Authors Luncheon will be held Saturday, April 26, 2025, at Mile Square Golf Course. Remarkable authors John Thill and Hong-My Basrai along with a prior participant from the Tech Trek program are scheduled to present. This event is open to the public and we encourage you to attend. Please see our Branch website for ticket information later this year.
<http://aauw-wm-fv-hb.com>

Your donation of one or more items of merchandise, tickets, services, gift certificates or cash will be greatly appreciated and recognized in our program. A donor receipt is attached.

Please make arrangements for pick-up before Wednesday, April 16, 2025. Contact information: Ann Kajdasz, 7412 Seabluff Dr. #111, Huntington Beach, CA 92648 or the AAUW member that contacted you. If you have questions, please contact Ann at ralphkaj@aol.com.

Thank you for your generosity and support as we work together to provide educational opportunities for women and girls.

Sincerely,

Ann Kajdasz
Co-President, AAUW-WM-FV-HB branch
For more information about AAUW, please visit AAUW – California website: aauw-ca.org



Westminster-Fountain Valley-Huntington Beach, CA

32nd ANNUAL WM-FV-HB AUTHORS LUNCHEON
"PASSAGES: OUR JOURNEYS AND STORIES"
Saturday, April 26, 2025

Mile Square Golf Course, 10401 Warner Ave., Fountain Valley, CA 92708

Menu: Grilled Marinated Chicken Breast, Chive Mashed Potatoes, Garden Vegetables, and Decadent Chocolate Brownie Dessert

10:00 Check-in Silent Auction Book Signing

11:30 Welcome 11:45 Luncheon 12:30 Author Presentation

RESERVATION FORM

Please cut and mail this form with your check for \$85.00 payable to AAUW:WM-FV-HB by April 14, 2025.

Tables of 8 may be reserved. In order to sit together send check/checks in one envelope along with list of names. Mail your reservation early to assure good seating. Please note any dietary needs (gluten free, Vegan, Vegetarian, etc.)

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____
(as you wish it to appear on name tag)

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Telephone/Cell _____

Email _____

Dietary Needs _____

Please feel free to duplicate this form for additional reservations.

Total Enclosed \$ _____ for _____ reservations

I am unable to attend but wish to make a 100% donation to AAUW: WM-FV-HB

Scholarships for women \$ _____

Or

Tech Trek (CA science, math camps designed for young girls) \$ _____

Mail reservation form and check(s) to:
Zelda Rice, 4565 Birchwood Ave, Seal Beach, CA 90740

NO WALK-INS, THIS IS A NON-REFUNDABLE EVENT
Your check is your reservation



2025 AAUW Author Luncheon
Passages: Our Journeys; Our Stories

John W. Thill

John Thill. born in Oceanside, attended Oceanside and El Camino High Schools, then studied business and speech communication at San Diego State University. His father had influenced him to pursue bodysurfing, hunting, and fishing. He is now a wildlife conservationist.

After college, he worked for the Jazercise Corporation and helped establish JM Television Productions. For 24 years he served in the Hi-Noon Rotary Club and the Rotary Club of Carlsbad, experiences that helped him develop lifelong friendships and a new understanding and appreciation for service. For 19 years Thill worked as a partner in Carlsbad's Personal Strengths Publishing Company. He supported and facilitated leadership and team-building courses for PricewaterhouseCoopers, Indian Health Services, Amazon's Leadership Institute, Harvard's School of Public Health, the University of California Office of the President, and USC's Marshall School of Business.

It took him 36 years to finish and publish A California Love Story, a compilation of letters exchanged between his grandparents in the 1920s.

Hong-My Basrai

Born and raised in Saigon, Vietnam, Hong-My Basrai (née Lê Thị) is fluent in Vietnamese and French. From a very young age, Hong-My has demonstrated a propensity for literature and a love of languages. Transplanted at age 22 to Southern California, she learned English and improvised upon the borrowed language to make it her own.

She holds a degree in Chemical Engineering, and an informal degree in self-taught English. Hong-My is the author of Behind the Red Curtain, A Memoir, about her seven years living inside fallen Saigon under communism. Her writing appears in Eastlit Literary Journal, 2011.

She is a member of the Writers' Club of Whittier, and a board member of Finlandia Institutes of the Arts, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to recognize, support, and expand literary activity in the Inland Empire. She also serves on the board of PIVOT to elevate progressive Vietnamese Americans' political voice.

WESTMINSTER- FOUNTAIN VALLEY- HUNTINGTON BEACH BRANCH

THE 32nd ANNUAL AUTHORS LUNCHEON

“PASSAGES: OUR JOURNEYS AND STORIES”



SATURDAY APRIL 26, 2025

MILE SQUARE GOLF COURSE

10401 WARNER AVENUE FOUNTAIN VALLEY

10:00AM – 2:00PM

FEATURING LOCAL AUTHORS :



Hang-My Basraj:

Behind the Red Curtain

John W. Thill:

A California Love Story



SILENT AUCTION BASKETS, DRAWINGS, BOOK SALES & SIGNINGS

RESERVATION FORMS AND INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE

AT <http://wfh-ca.aauw.net>



Westminster-Fountain Valley-Huntington Beach, CA

In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability.

The mission of AAUW is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

AAUW is California's most active and diverse organization for women offering action for equity, personal and professional growth, community leadership and friendship.

Co-Presidents: Donna Kratter & Ann Kajdasz

Membership Co-VPs: Cheryl Kelly & Sandi Guerrero

Programs Co-VPs: Phyllis Sakioka & Carol Kanode

Treasurer: Kathi Rand

Membership Treasurer: Jeanne Smith

Newsletter Editor: Jeanne Smith

Communications: Manager Jennifer Solano

Web Master: Jennifer Solano

Facebook Site Manager: Jennifer Solano

Address Correction Requested

American Association of University Women

Tri-City Dispatch

19191 Harvard Ave. Apt. 330A

Irvine, CA 92612