



American Association of University Women

Alhambra - San Gabriel Branch



AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

February, 2017

Cheryl Plotkin
President

Virginia Orenos
Program VP

Kathleen & Jim Doty
Newsletter Editors

Delora Brown
Membership VP

Eleanor Stem-Allen Memorial Speech Trek

Students from Alhambra and Gabrielino High Schools will debate

Is it Time to Pass the Equal Rights Amendment?



12:30 PM, Saturday, February 11, 2017

at the

First United Methodist Church San Gabriel

201 N. San Gabriel Blvd., San Gabriel.

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.

President's Message

Alhambra/San Gabriel AAUW Needs You!!

Do you want to shake things up? See the branch do something new or restart a previous program? Then get active! The nominating committee is looking for members with ideas and enthusiasm to lead the club. The nominating committee is looking for you!

Please contact Kathleen Doty and take the branch into the future.

Reminders:

In February we will be having the students present their speeches on February 11 location to be determined. Please come to support the students and hear their fabulous speeches.

If you are looking for a great evening join the Drama group to read a play. See the Activity section of your Newsletter as to the Tuesday date and the play to be read. The activity takes place at the Doty's house.

Wishing everyone a Happy Valentine Day

Cheryl



In Pasadena, Left photo: Marian Hallin. Center photo (left to right): Whittier branch members Fay Weber, Karen Van Der Baan, Maury Greeley and Dolores Seidman (dual member with Whittier and Alhambra San Gabriel). Right photo: Hope for the future.

Women's March

What can I tell you about the Women's March on January 21st? Exciting! Encouraging! Positive! Overwhelming! It was all those things. Dolores Seidman and Marian Hallin joined Whittier branch members Fay Weber, Karen Van Der Baan, and Maury Greeley at the March in Pasadena. Lilia Hall and Virginia Orenos attended the March in Los Angeles. Deanna Arthur and Kathleen Doty joined the San Diego march just before the AAUW CA Board of Directors meeting there. The gatherings proclaimed that women's rights are human rights; not so much a protest as a message that everyone present will work to ensure that there is no going back.

Even if you didn't attend one of the marches, you, too, can help ensure the gains that our foremothers achieved. One of the first steps is to keep informed - follow the instructions in the Public Policy message this month

to sign up to be an activist and AAUW will keep you informed of all that's going on in Washington that affects the AAUW priorities. Another is to meet with your legislators, both state and national. It is important that they hear from their constituents about their issues. If you can't meet with the legislator directly, it is just as good to meet with their staff who will pass your concerns along.

The bottom line is: our government is you!
Participate every chance you have!!

Kathleen

Tech Trek Fundraiser Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts

April 23rd-May 21st, 2017
The house is in Pasadena.

We hope YOU will work as a Community Volunteer for Alhambra-San Gabriel AAUW Tech Trek. We hope you'll bring your FRIENDS and FAMILY to staff too.

Each 4-hour shift earns \$40 to help send a 7th grade girl to Tech Trek Camp. Two shifts are available on Sunday & Tuesday: 10 AM-2 PM and 2 PM-6 PM. Three shifts on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday: 10 AM-2 PM; 2-6 PM and 5-9 PM. There is an hour overlap between the afternoon and evening shifts on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Thursday evening the House closes to the public at 6 PM, but private evening parties may be scheduled with staffing needed. The House is closed on Mondays.

The Tech Trek Committee gratefully accepts monetary donations of \$10 or more. Please make out checks to: AAUW. Send them to Sue Carr, 617 E. Norwood Place, Alhambra, CA 91801.



If you work two four-hour shifts, you will receive a complimentary ticket. Community Volunteers may purchase up to two additional tickets at the members' price of \$30 each.

We need to know the dates and shift hours you want, as well as two alternate dates and hours in case your first choice(s)

are filled. We will sign up 20 staff beginning March 1, 20 staff on March 2 and additional staff March 3 as available.

We'll do our best and we thank you for being flexible. We'll send you additional information as we receive it.

We want to get these dates and times to you early to give you time to plan and to get your choices to us as soon as possible, but no later than February 20th, Presidents' Day.

*Bonnie
& Lilia*

Bonnie: bonmago@att.net or (626) 446-8714
Lilia: liliaehall@gmail.com or (626) 570-8067

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, April 8

for the 2008 Tony Award Best Musical

**IN THE
HEIGHTS**

2:00 P.M. Matinee at Pasadena City College

Details to be Announced!

Eleanor Stem-Allen Memorial Speech Trek

Is it time to pass the Equal Rights Amendment?

The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) was a proposed amendment to the United States Constitution designed to guarantee equal rights for women. The ERA was originally written by Alice Paul and Crystal Eastman. In 1923, it was introduced in the Congress for the first time.

Several attempts to ratify the amendment were made in 1972, 1978 and then a possible ratification in 1982, but it still has never been put into law.

Actress Patricia Arquette, who made headlines and brought new attention to the gender pay gap with her infamous 2015 Oscar speech has started a petition to assure the passage of ERA NOW! "People think it's a women-only issue but it's not," Arquette told PEOPLE magazine. "It's an equality issue."

Filmmaker Kamala Lopez's new film, Equal Means Equal, examines the startling effects of gender inequality in the United States, the inadequacy of current laws in place and the dedicated advocates who've been fighting for decades to rectify the situation.

Is it time to pass the Equal Rights Amendment? If so, how can this be accomplished? How can organizations such as AAUW help in getting this amendment ratified once and for all?

Students from Alhambra and Gabrielino High Schools will provide their answers at the first round of the Eleanor Stem-Allen Memorial Speech Trek on Saturday, February 11th at 12:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church San Gabriel, 201 N. San Gabriel Blvd., San Gabriel. The best 5-minute speech will be submitted for consideration by the state speech trek committee.

The State Speech Trek judges will invite the top three finalist to compete for cash prizes at AAUW California's annual meeting April 22nd at the San Mateo Marriott Hotel. First place winner at the State contest will receive \$1500; second place will receive \$1000 and third place will receive \$500. Two more finalists will be named as Honorable Mention. The judges will award the 4th place

finalist with \$250 and the 5th place finalist with \$150.

The first Speech Trek final competition was held at the April 2007 state convention. Our branch has participated in every year and has had finalists place among the top three on five occasions: Peggy Truong (3rd in 2007), Tiffany Chia (3rd in 2008), Alexandra Lossada (2nd in 2009), Pavin Trinh (1st in 2013) and Sharon Lu (1st in 2016).

Rozanne

Public Policy

It is Time to Become an AAUW Activist!

Nancy Mahr and Sue Miller, Co-Chairs
AAUW CA Public Policy Committee

The outcome of the November election and subsequent events have raised concerns in organizations that focus on women's issues, including AAUW and its coalition partners in California, the California Coalition for Reproductive Freedom, and Stronger California. Finding appropriate ways to express the concerns of members is a challenge. We see issues that we thought to be "settled" now have become front-page news, such as access to health care for people at all income levels, forthcoming challenges to Roe v. Wade, and freedom to make personal reproductive choices. "Rights" that women have taken for granted are now at risk!

AAUW is a non-partisan organization engaging in issue-based advocacy. Our messages do not and cannot identify with political parties, but this does not mean that we must remain silent when key components of our mission are being challenged. In fact, we *must* speak up. As Lisa Maatz, AAUW VP for Governmental Affairs has stated, "AAUW will speak truth to power," and has already made strong statements as candidates for cabinet posts are being vetted by Congress. It is critical that AAUW members, and all citizens concerned with equity, be knowledgeable and aware of the current status of important issues, and take action. Women's rights are human rights!

What can you do as an AAUW member? First, become

[continued on next page]

informed. Use the AAUW website to educate yourself on issues. Check your facts in these days of “fake news” messages being planted. AAUW staff is closely monitoring actions contemplated by the incoming administration and Congress, and posting information on the website. Next, get connected to AAUW’s national Two -Minute Activist network. If you haven’t done so already, take advantage of the easiest way to express advocacy: sign up for AAUW Action Alerts. Go to the national website, <http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/> and sign up. AAUW will notify you when it is time to make contact with your elected officials. When you use Two-Minute activist you are automatically connected with the office of your elected Member of Congress or U.S. Senator. Make yourself heard! Elected officials have offices in their districts – consider making a visit there to express your views!

When you are signed up for the AAUW National Two-Minute Activist, you are automatically signed up for AAUW CA Action Alerts. As this legislative session moves forward you will also be receiving messages about taking action on CA bills and other actions that might require immediate responses from members. Change only takes place when we collectively demand it...Act now!

Our new Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch website is up and running!
alhsangab-ca.aauw-net

AAUW Fund

Annual AAUW Fund Tea

March, Women’s History Month, is on its way! Make sure you have the annual AAUW Fund Tea on your calendar. What’s that? You don’t know when it is? Why, it is to happen March 18th in the Dotys’ back yard! We are in the process of inviting a Fund recipient to speak and plans for the tea are underway. It is sure to be an enjoyable event. You might consider getting out that hat you haven’t worn for years and finding those gloves that used to be so ubiquitous then plan on joining us for an elegant afternoon.

And, we can’t let an opportunity go by to remind you that raffle tickets to Dining with the Dotys will be available until April 1st. The winner and 3 of their friends will enjoy a delicious meal and an entertaining evening provided by Jim and

Kathleen in their home. You may purchase one ticket for \$10 or take advantage of the multiple ticket discount – 3 for \$25. 100% of the proceeds are going to the AAUW Fund to help complete unfinished AAUW CA fellowships.

Deanna & Kathleen

IN MEMORY OF
BETTY GAROUTTE

We lost a wonderful friend and former member, Mary Elizabeth (Betty) Garoutte on January 5, 2017. Betty was born in Pennsylvania in 1919 and moved to California with her family after World War II. She was married to Robert and had four children. She was active in her church and many community organizations in San Gabriel. She joined AAUW Alhambra/San Gabriel in 1978 and was President of the Branch in 1983-84. She was an active member of our special interest groups until her health forced her to move to Royal Oaks Manor. She had a wonderful active and productive life.

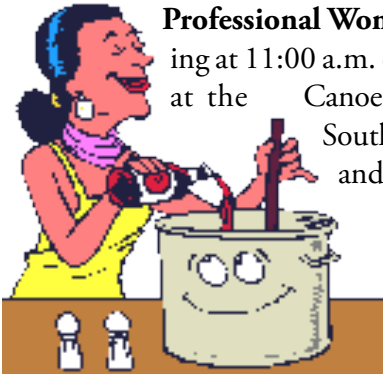
Membership News

We are already a month into the new year and really experiencing some winter weather. It is refreshing and a time to dig out all our cold weather clothes that haven’t been used for several years. Again, I want to remind you to send me names of potential members. I will get applications out to them immediately. Dues are half (only \$24.50 for national) until we start our new dues year in June. I urge you to attend the Speech Trek Contest on February 11 and hear some excellent speakers.

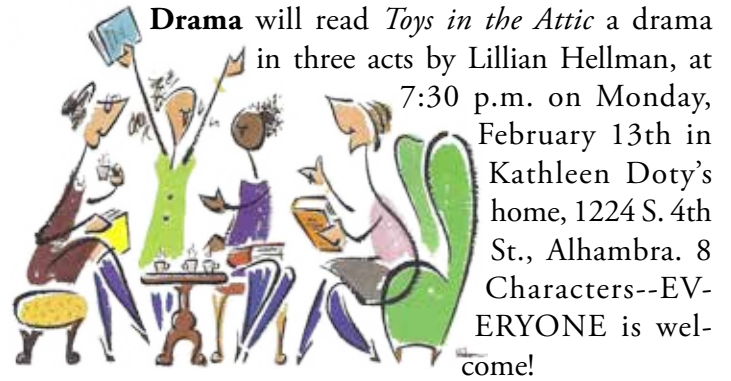
Delora

ACTIVITIES

Where the Fun will be in February



Professional Women Gourmets are gathering at 11:00 a.m. on **Sunday**, February 12th at the Canoe House, 805 Fair Oaks Ave, South Pasadena. Hosted by Bob and Sue Carr.



Drama will read *Toys in the Attic* a drama in three acts by Lillian Hellman, at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, February 13th in Kathleen Doty's home, 1224 S. 4th St., Alhambra. 8 Characters--EVERYONE is welcome!

Walkettes meets every Sunday morning at 7:30 a.m. We walk for approximately one hour and have breakfast at approximately 8:30 a.m. In case of rainy or doubtful weather we meet at the restaurant at 8:00 a.m. For further information or directions, please call Mary Smeritschnig.



General Meeting: Eleanor Stem-Allen Memorial Speech Trek: Is It Time To Pass The Equal Rights Amendment? 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 11th at First United Methodist Church San Gabriel. See page 1 for details.

Evening Books will get together at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, February 27th to discuss *The Other Sister* by Dianne Dixon. in Delora Brown's home, 5619 "A" Sultana Ave., Temple City EVERYONE is welcome!



Board Meeting there will be no board meeting in February. The next meeting will be on Monday, March 6th, at 7:30 p.m. (socializing starts at 7:00 p.m.) in Cheryl Plotkin's home, 201 S. Golden West Ave., Arcadia.

Restaurant Gourmets are trying something new this month. Everyone has such busy schedules that we are giving two opportunities to go to the The Derby, 233 E. Huntington Dr., Arcadia. Join us Wednesday February 22nd at 7:30 p.m. or Sunday February 26th at 6:30 p.m. Please join us. We always have a great time and lots of good conversation. Please RSVP by February 18 so we can make sure to get tables. Deanna

