



Alhambra-San Gabriel (CA) Branch Serving Alhambra, San Gabriel and Surrounding Communities

The Mission Gateway

President's Message



Elena Velarde

Dear Branch Members,
During the course of the pandemic our incoming AAUW branch board picked right up from the banner year of Betty Morin and her Board. Their legacy paved the way for us to establish our own way. Through summer, the new board steadily delved

into the work: set down the 2020-21 calendar; planned programs; practiced Zoom skills; and dreamed of new opportunities to be relevant and interesting for you, your guests and potential new members—a variety of steps towards expanding branch visibility in the community.

Speaking of dreams, let me take you back for a moment to August 3rd. I invited our board to participate in a Midsummer Night's Exploration to "take stock" of our AAUW commitment. The group was motivated by a method known as "hearing of voice." This strategy enabled us to listen actively and share out our personal thoughts to five vital questions. We took turns responding with our individual reasons for selecting and staying with the Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch.

The questions were:

1. What motivated you to join AAUW?
2. What values/activities within the Branch would you never want to see neglected or lost?

continued on Page 2

AN EVENT FOR EVERY MEMBER

Welcome (Back) to Alhambra-San Gabriel AAUW!!

The current situation necessitates some changes to the way we do things, especially meetings. For the remainder of 2020, the meetings will be virtual. So, join us on Zoom September 26th at 11:00 AM as we:

- Thank Betty and her 2019-2020 board,
- Greet Elena and her 2020-2021 board,
- Learn a bit about our branch for the coming year and
- Have some fun learning what we have been doing during this strange and wonderful time we are experiencing.

The Zoom link will be distributed to all branch members via email and posted on our branch calendar on our website on or about September 19th. New to Zoom? You can reach out to Kathleen and Jim for some tips.

Bring a Friend!

Prospective members are always welcomed to our meetings. Guests are especially welcome on this occasion since we could not hold our customary Summer Soirée. Take this opportunity to introduce a friend to AAUW by inviting them to tune in.

Kathleen & Janice

Elena Velarde, President • Joe Des Barres, President Elect • Betty Morin, Secretary • Cheryl Plotkin, Treasurer • Jim Doty, Newsletter Editor • Deanna Arthur, AAUW Fund VP • Leticia Peralta, Membership VP • Janice Lee & Kathleen Doty, Program VPs

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.

continued from Page 1

President's Message

3. What have been, or are, your most meaningful interests and/or volunteer activities outside AAUW?
4. (a) What are your limits to any branch commitment you might make that need to be considered? Health? Family?

(b) Because AAUW must be virtual for the time being, are there any technological limits you face (e.g., problems with Zoom, internet access, etc.)?

I invite each of you to respond to these questions and email them to me by Tuesday, September 15th.

With everyone sharing their valuable personal insights and history, we truly will be member-driven. And, our branch will be in alignment with national and state AAUW—from operations to order of business, current programming and projects, etc.

Knowing where we are today will inform us and guide us: in decision-making; exploring potential projects; and intentionally achieving diversity, equity and inclusion within our branch and our community.

Your responses are essential to our Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch moving forward.

Email to: la.elenalove@gmail.com, or

US Mail to: Elena Velarde
4315 San Rafael Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90042

And faithfully I echo to all of you my personal vision for the branch in this historic year of 2020-2021:

- Working together with courage to accomplish diversity, equity & inclusion;
- Working together to expand our branch presence in the communities we serve; and,
- Working together to maximize our member-to-member connectedness.

TOGETHER, we will honor our AAUW mission, vision and values.

Elena

AAUW Fund

Seems like only yesterday we were quarantined at home looking forward to being COVID-free in the fall. Sorry folks, that is still a dream and welcome aboard as we navigate our new year in Zoom at least for now.

This year's fund luncheons will be virtual events. Saturday, October 10th and October 24th will be the big days for the statewide events. I am assuming that the "southern luncheon" will be October 24th. So many of you will have the opportunity to attend this event via Zoom. Although I will miss seeing all of our AAUW Friends from the southern half of the state, every member will have an opportunity to see the fellows that will be able to speak that day via Zoom. In fact, if you so choose, you could attend both luncheons, something that would have been difficult in the old normal times.

I have something up my sleeve that I hope to announce in next month's newsletter. There will be more information to follow.

Anyone that is interested in joining the fund committee please let me know. Thanks to the Jim and Kathleen Doty, Kacy Do, and Cheryl Plotkin who have already committed themselves to this activity.

Speaking of the Doty's, they will once again be hosting their Fund dinner. "Dining with the Doty's" tickets will be available soon. This is an opportunity to break bread at the Doty home and have a wonderful assortment of food. Ask any of our members that have had an opportunity to partake of this culinary adventure. This quarantine will not last forever and it will give you something to look forward to.

One final push for the month, please consider joining the Legacy Circle. There is a statewide contest that ends in November. The branches with the most new members will be invited to a virtual celebration. The celebration will include: Dianne Owens, California State President, Judy Cavin Brown, AAUW California Fund Director, and Heather Miller, AAUW National Director of Development. It doesn't cost anything to join now. A simple bequest in your will or trust will do the trick. This assures that the business of AAUW will continue long after we are gone. If you have questions, please contact me or Judy Horan (queenjah@pacbell.net).

Welcome back to a great year of AAUW.

Deanna



Leticia Peralta

Membership News

Hello Members,

I just want to send out a quick note to introduce myself. My name is Leticia (Letty) Peralta. I am new to the Board of Directors and am the 2020-

2021 Membership Vice-President. I have been a proud member of AAUW since 2016. I just celebrated my 30th wedding anniversary and have two amazing boys, 24 and 20. I've worked for the same telecommunications company for 29 years in various positions, but currently serving as a Service Program Manager supporting the company's largest healthcare client. I am currently in my final quarter of an MBA program in project management. I am a lifelong learner and I hope to inspire women and girls to realize the value of education. I am ready to jump into my new position and help develop new and creative ways to support our membership. Please do bear with me while I learn more about AAUW, membership responsibilities and how I can better serve you all. I look forward to speaking with you and someday meeting you all in person (pandemic permitting).

Letty

Meet new branch members Diane Askew and Veronica Alvarez.

Diane Askew

My name is Diane Askew and I'm a new member of the Alhambra-San Gabriel branch of AAUW.

My three grandchildren are the reasons I moved to Pasadena from San Juan Capistrano, and it was a great decision. As much as I miss the San Juan Mission, my friends and country western dancing at the historical local Swallows Inn, being available for my grandchildren's events and impromptu visits are priceless. I'm so grateful to be able to be here close to them.

As a young wife and mother in the 60's, I attended 7 junior colleges to complete my AA degree, taking one or two classes at a time depending on my family's needs. I finally had the opportunity in my early 40's to return to school and ultimately graduate with a B.S. from the University of California, Irvine, and then completed my doctoral work in San Diego at the age of 50. I am a

licensed Psychologist and continue to practice part time. Having been able to realize an almost lifelong dream to become a psychologist, I am happy to be involved with a group of people who are interested in supporting the education of young women who have goals and dreams of their own.

My interests are many, but topping the list are reading, playing bridge, crocheting/knitting, playing word and board games and social interactions with friends. From what I read in the newsletter, it sounds like I'm in the right place.

In addition to the very nice members I've met and friends I've made so far, I look forward to meeting more of the members in the Alhambra-San Gabriel branch of AAUW.

Veronica Alvarez

My family and I are long-time residents of Alhambra. I have one brother. Upon graduating from Alhambra High School, I attended UCLA. After obtaining my Bachelor's of Science, I attended Southwestern University Law of School. I have a 14 year old son, Aydin, that currently attends Alhambra High School.

I am a sole practitioner with my office located in the City of Montebello. My law practice consists of Criminal Defense, Family Law and Estate Planning.

I was involved with Alhambra AYSO for 6 years where I met wonderful people including the Doty's, Deanna and Kacy. I currently sit on the Alhambra High School Site Council and am a proud member of the Alhambra High School PTA.

I enjoy spending time with my friends. I like fine dining. I like to read. My spare time is limited because of my work and family commitments.

Thank You

The last few months of my term flew by at light speed and am sorry that before it was over in July, I did not have the opportunity to say, "Thank you so much for your support as a first time branch President." To the elected and appointed 2019-20 board and committee members, your gracious mentorship and guidance was especially appreciated. I offer my continued branch support and am confident that it is in the good hands of your 2020-2021 President, Elena Velarde.

Betty



Tech Trek South

As fall is almost upon us - we should be excited about starting our Tech Trek process for the 2021 year: fundraising, recruiting, etc. – and yet here we are almost in the same place as the last time we wrote you. COVID-19 is still with us and now quarantine, masks, social distancing have become part of life. We never thought that it would last as long as it has and yet we all know we have a ways to go before we are “out of the woods.”

Tech Trek South and North are ready to start their work – but at the moment we have no idea if there will be a 2021 Tech Trek program. We will wait for direction from the AAUW California and of course we will keep you updated through *Mission Gateway* newsletter.

Stay safe!

Jane Krause

Tech Trek North

As AAUW members are aware, Tech Trek California cancelled the 2020 camps due to the pandemic. We are hopeful that camps can again reopen in 2021. We are most grateful to all our members who have supported this AAUW community based program. We hope you will continue to send in your donations. We would like to thank the Alhambra Day Nursery for contributing a grant to support one camper (\$900) for 2021. Also thanks to Sandy Jelinek, a member of our branch, for contributing another camp scholarship. Members who shop at Ralphs also made possible a quarterly check being sent to us from Kroger Community Rewards Program for \$126.20. The Tech Trek program has made a difference in the lives of girls from the Alhambra and San Gabriel schools whose passion lies in a STEM field. Thanks again to the Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch!

Lilia

Public Policy: a Right and a Responsibility

AAUW has an admirable record advocating for public policy initiatives affecting women and girls. It has been doing so for nearly 140 years!

As you know, AAUW adopts public policy priorities every two years by a vote of the membership. These priorities become a resource for branches to guide their advocacy efforts on state and local issues. They are based upon “viability, critical need, strong member support and potential for distinctive AAUW contribution or leadership.” (AAUW Public Policy Priorities, adopted May 2019)

All public policy efforts are grounded in “the understanding that true equity requires a balance between the rights of the individual and the needs of the community.” Or we might say that a truly functional society is diverse, equitable and inclusive.

AAUW’s national public policy priorities are education and training, economic security and leadership:

- To support a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, diversity and inclusivity, and to address the barriers and implicit biases that hinder the advancement of women and girls;
- To achieve economic security for ALL women and;
- To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society.

The action items accompanying these priorities are numerous. Three deserve mention:

1. Increased support for and protection of programs that meet the needs of girls and women in elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education, including strong promotion of *science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education and comprehensive sexual health education. (emphasis added)*
2. Equitable access and advancement in employment, *free from systemic barriers and biases*, including vigorous enforcement of employment discrimination statutes.
3. Vigorous enforcement of and full access to civil and constitutional rights, *including affirmative and expanding voting rights.*

Access the complete list at www.aauw.us/aauwissues and while there sign up for the two-minute activist,

www.aauw.us/twominuteactivist

an online tool giving you an easy way to be heard by your legislators!

In conclusion, if you would like to be part of our branch's public policy activities, please contact me at alhsangab44@gmail.com. The urgency for citizen engagement has, perhaps, never been greater.

BE SURE YOU ARE REGISTERED TO VOTE SO THAT YOU EXERCISE THIS MOST BASIC, YET ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL, INGREDIENT OF CITIZENSHIP!

Joe

Preserving Our Vote

Many AAUW members will vote by mail in the upcoming election as a precaution against being infected by COVID-19, but ballots may not arrive in time to be counted. News reports relate that over 600 electronic sorting machines and barcode sorters have been taken off-line, causing delays in mail delivery. This is being done, according to Mr. DeJoy, new Postmaster General, for efficiency and to cut costs.

AAUW advocates vigorous enforcement of and full access to civil and constitutional rights, including affirmative action and expanding voting rights. Letter writing and emails work to inform our congressional representatives about our concerns. The more letters and emails a representative receives, the more she or he knows how much this situation weighs on her or his constituents. As proof of the positive influence emails have already had, Nancy Pelosi is bringing the House back this coming Saturday to block changes that will slow down mail delivery.

The Two-Minute Activist Network is another tool AAUW members have to advocate for our postal service and urge Congress to investigate the actions of Mr. DeJoy. As Kate Nielson, AAUW Director of Public Policy and Legal Advocacy, says, "When a whole bunch of constituents focus their voices collectively on an issue, we can really shape the conversation."

Our voices in the form of letters, e-mails and the Two-Minute Activist will help ensure everyone's votes will be counted. For members in Judy Chu's District, here is her email: CA27JCima-113@mail.house.gov

Jackie

AAUW NATIONAL NEWS Potential Dues Increase in July 2021

The AAUW Board of Directors will consider and vote on a change in Individual Member dues at their upcoming Board meeting on October 16, 2020. Any increase would take effect on July 1, 2021. The board will consider two different options:

- A. An increase to take effect on July 1, 2021, of an amount between \$3 and \$10.
- B. An increase to take effect on the 1st of July of each of the next three fiscal years of between \$3 and \$10 each year.

The selection of option A or B and the exact amount of the increase for the option chosen will be determined by the board at its October meeting. Any change to individual member dues will impact paid life membership as well, since AAUW's bylaws require paid life membership to equal 20 years of annual dues. The board is not considering a change to college/university member dues at this time.

Membership dues cover between 15% and 20% of AAUW's annual budget. While AAUW's expenses increase annually, in recent years dues have not increased with enough regularity to keep pace with expenses. Increasing individual member dues will help AAUW cover more expenses, including important functions like the Connect Team, critical technology and infrastructure such as the website and Member Services Database, and other member support.

Please send any comments regarding this dues increase to connect@aauw.org no later than Friday, September 25, 2020. All comments will be reviewed by AAUW staff and the Board of Directors prior to the board's vote.

Julia T. Brown, Esq., Board Chair

Mission Gateway

Articles relating to AAUW's mission or Branch activities are gladly accepted. Material for the *Mission Gateway* must be received no later than the 15th of the month prior to the intended month of publication.

ACTIVITIES

Tap into the Fun!

New faces, and used ones, are always welcomed.
Join Us!

Board Meeting Monday, September 8th via Zoom at at 7:30 PM. The host will open Zoom at 7:15 PM. Open to all members. Contact Elena Velarde for access code.

Any branch member may bring a proposal in writing [including email] to the board for discussion and action at its regular meeting by requesting the president to include the proposal as an agenda item at least seven days before agenda is published or may request to speak to the proposal at board meeting.

Meetup - at 4:30 PM on Thursday September 10th. Get your favorite beverage and munchie and call into Zoom for quality bonding time. Reservations are necessary - please call Deanna Arthur so a code can be sent for joining the meeting. Let's try it and see - we can be together while apart.

Books will meet Wednesday, September 16th at 2:00 PM on Zoom to review their summer reading and chose the next reading list. Contact Kathleen Doty for access code.

Every Member Event: We will launch the 2020-2019 program year with a ZOOM on September 26th at 11:00 AM. Details on page 1. Connection information will be distributed to all branch members via email and posted on our branch calendar on our website on or about September 19th.

Scattergories! How many "Things you can do online" beginning with the letter "S" can you list in 2 1/2 minutes? Scattergories meets for about an hour via Zoom at 3:00 PM every Thursday. Silly, serious, intellectually challenging. Contact Deanna Arthur for access code.

Drama: September will be drama-free, but if you are curious about the group that spends one evening each month reading a play aloud (no rehearsals, acting talent not required--just love of drama), contact Kathleen Doty.

Professional Women Gourmets are still recovering from their summer travels and digestive adventures, but they will dine together again in October. If you want to know what's cookin', contact Jane Anderson or Lillia Hall.

How to Zoom

Any device connected to the internet can be used to join a Zoom meeting, but you must have the Zoom application on that device. The basic version is free and can be installed from [Zoom](https://zoom.us) (zoom.us) or by clicking on the meeting link provided by the meeting host and following the prompts. Installation will take a few minutes, so if Zoom hasn't already been installed, link early. The Pasadena League of Women Voters has tips for mastering Zoom on their [website](https://my.lwv.org/california/pasadena/article/zoom-tips#.XzMUWdVc6bo.gmail) (https://my.lwv.org/california/pasadena/article/zoom-tips#.XzMUWdVc6bo.gmail)



Need Zoom Help?

Contact Deanna Arthur, Jim or Kathleen Doty or Betty Morin

AAUW California Webinars

The following AAUW California online webinars are open to all members simply by registering at aauw-ca.org.

September 14 **Waging a successful Get Out The Vote (GOTV) campaign in the time of COVID:** AAUW California Public Policy Committee members will present useful strategies for educating members and the public on candidates and ballot measures and for increasing voter participation in their communities.

September 23 **Show me the Money:** How to raise funds differently, especially now.

October 1 **How to manage your Speech Trek contest on ZOOM:** Learn how to set up Zoom to support your contest. We'll cover recording, managing contestants and judges for a successful event.

October 10 **AAUW Funds:** Meet the fellows and learn about the work they accomplished with AAUW funding.

Our branch email address is

alhsangab44@gmail.com

Our branch website is

alhsangab-ca.aauw.net

Our MeetUp.com page is

[Am. Assoc. Univ. Women -- Alhambra, San Gabriel, Monterey Pk](#)

Our Facebook page is

[AAUW-Alhambra-San-Gabriel-Branch](#)