



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

# The Mission Gateway

## President's Message



Elena Velarde

Since a major election is around the corner, it seems to be the right moment to incorporate a bit of recent reading and share it with you.

It has come to be general knowledge that the hundred-year-old 19th Amendment mainly helped white women to access the vote. Black women and other women of color continued to face discrimination and intimidation when they tried to assert their right to vote.

Even though Black women and other women of color supported the famous suffragists Susan B Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, they did not receive much, if any, recognition for their efforts. In the South, racial segregation statutes called Jim Crow laws also became forbidding obstacles to obtaining the vote. These restrictions were not officially lifted until **45 years after the 1920 ratification** with the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

One of the many Black women who established the suffragist movement offers us inspiration today in 2020. We are indebted to the sacrifices and heavy lifting she experienced and overcame to ensure that we and all women can choose our electoral leadership and governance. Let's get familiar with this role model and do further reading about her life.

*continued on Page 2*

## AN EVENT FOR EVERY MEMBER 12 Propositions!!

Do you need to know more about the propositions on the ballot in November?

Are any of those advertisements for and against the propositions telling the truth?

Even if you already have a position on all of the California propositions on the ballot in November you will want to join Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch AAUW for an evening exploring the pros and cons of all 12 propositions appearing on the November ballot. Connect with us on Zoom as our members present both sides of each issue and help us navigate those pesky ads.

October 19, 2020 at 7:00 PM  
from the comfort of your own home

The Zoom link will be distributed to all branch members via email and posted on our branch calendar on our website on or about October 12<sup>th</sup>. 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.

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## President's Message

She is the awesome Sojourner Truth.

She was a renowned speaker, a preacher, abolitionist and the **first known Black suffragist**. She was born in 1797 as Isabella Baumfree in Ulster County, New York, and enslaved until 1827. At the age of 30, she ran away to an abolitionist family who paid for her freedom, and became the wondrous Sojourner Truth. In 1851 she delivered her famous speech, "Ain't I a Woman?" Here excerpted:

"That man over there says that women need to be helped into carriages, and lifted over ditches, and to have the best place everywhere. Nobody ever helps me into carriages, or over mud-puddles, or gives me any best place! And ain't I a woman?"

"Look at me! Look at my arm! I have ploughed and planted, and gathered into barns, and no man could head me! And ain't I a woman?"

"If the first woman God ever made was strong enough to turn the world upside down all alone, these women together ought to be able to turn it back, and get it right side up again! And now they is asking to do it, the men better let them."

So, let Sojourner be our guide as we push the envelope and inspire others to participate in this coming Election period. We still have time to Get Out The Vote (GOTV). No matter how you vote, it's our hard-fought right to vote. Get in touch with friends, family and your social media community. Make phone calls, write postcards, remind acquaintances you have not been in touch with for a while. And apply this African Proverb to yourself: "If you think you are too small to make a difference, you haven't spent a night with a mosquito."

Thank you, Sojourner Truth. *Elena*



Sojourner Truth

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## Branch Exploring Two New Projects

At their September meeting, the branch board of directors approved the establishment of two *ad hoc* committees to explore the feasibility of two new projects:

### Scholarships

Given the ongoing pandemic with its disruption in income for so many, it seems very timely to re-visit the idea of assisting young women in their educational trajectory when their funds to do so may have been negatively impacted by the current pandemic. The committee is chaired by Joe DesBarres and members include Kiem Tjong and Betty Morin.

### Books

This is a branch project to provide local schools with books that feature persons of color as protagonists and heroes in order to foster respect for people from different races, religions, and countries. Initial work will focus on one or two grade levels at one or two schools in the Alhambra school district. The committee is chaired by Jim Doty and members include Jane Anderson, Cheryl Plotkin, and Kathleen Doty.

Both committees welcome and encourage ideas and thoughts from our members as they go about their deliberations. Any branch member wishing help or wanting additional information is invited to call the committee chair.

# AAUW Fund

I challenge all of you to put on your rose colored glasses. We have a unique opportunity in October. We can attend BOTH Fund luncheons virtually for free--something that was unheard of just last year.

Sign up and register on the AAUW California website to see the California fellows. Both dates are Saturdays, October 10th and 24th at 1:00 PM.

The Northern Fellows are October 10th and the Southern Fellow are on the 24th.

Please listen to their short presentations. Let the Fund Committee know which speakers you would like to hear more from and we will ask them to speak at our March meeting via Zoom or, if we are very lucky, in person.

Here comes the final surprise. The Fund Committee and friends are putting together tea boxes for the event. These boxes will be for sale for \$25 each and can be delivered within a reasonable distance or picked up. Contents are subject to change but will include tea bags, scones, sweets, tea sandwiches and jam for two.

We are looking for more help to assemble these boxes and provide contents. Please let me know at 626-818-6536 or deannaauw@gmail.com if you would like to help.

Please let me know if you care about Funds and want to be part of the committee.

Thanks for your attention. Please see the flyer enclosed to order. Orders are limited to 36. Hope you get to be the first order. Let's keep Kacy busy sending all the checks to National. This will be a tax deductible donation.

*Deanna*

## Congratulations to Cheryl Prentice!

Delayed by the pandemic, the 2020 Dining with the Dotys raffle was held at the September board meeting. The winner for the 2020 event is Cheryl Prentice and arrangements for a delicious meal are underway. A total of \$750 was raised for the AAUW Fund through the Dining with the Dotys raffle.



*Do you miss going out to tea?*

*Are you going to watch the Virtual AAUW Fund event?*

*October 24, 2020*

*Treat Yourself to a Tea Box*

*It includes 2 scones, 2 tea bags, tea sandwiches, small pot of jam, and other goodies.*

*\$25.00 picked up or delivered  
(Compare to Rose Tree Cottage - \$60 for 2)*

*Please send reservations to:*

*Deanna Arthur  
1608 S. Atlantic Blvd.  
Alhambra, CA 91803*

*Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Boxes @ \$25.00 Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
number*

*Make checks payable to the AAUW FUND*

*Delivery method (check one)*

- I will pick it up, or*  
 *Please deliver to the following address:*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*The boxes will ready by eleven a.m. on October 24, for pick-up or delivery.*

"Whatever community organization, whether it's a women's organization, or fighting for racial justice ... you will get satisfaction out of doing something to give back to the community that you never get in any other way."

—Ruth Bader Ginsburg

## Membership News

The 2020-21 Branch Directory has been mailed to all members. Contact Letty if yours hasn't arrived.

## Directory Updates

Please add Diane Askew and correct Donna Tucker's email address.

<b>Askew, Diane</b> 289 N El Molino Ave #106 Pasadena, CA 91101  AAUW member since 2020	(949) 463-1380  <a href="mailto:drdianeaskew@gmail.com">drdianeaskew@gmail.com</a>
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Tucker, Donna 1720 Huntington Dr Apt 5 South Pasadena, CA 91030-4840 BA Loyola Marymount U, MA USC AAUW member since 2014	626-799-8408* *messages only <a href="mailto:dhctucker@gmail.com">dhctucker@gmail.com</a>
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## Meet branch member...

### Dolores Seidman



Dolores Seidman

Here are a few answers to the questions posed in the September *Mission Gateway*. I thought it was a good idea to do this. It gave me an opportunity to reflect on my 50 years with AAUW! This response will enable you get to better know me and other long-time members.

1. What motivated you to join AAUW?

I was first motivated to join AAUW by being asked to do so by a neighbor. This was long ago, as I have just been awarded 50-year Honorary Life Membership. I don't believe I was familiar with the organization although I have a faint memory of being invited to a

reception by the Los Angeles Chapter of AAUW upon graduation from Immaculate Heart College. The branch owned their own home—imagine that! Incidentally, the proceeds from the sale of that home upon the closing of that branch is what supported Tech Trek scholarships for many years.

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

The values that I would not want to see lost naturally include those expressed in our mission: "To advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research." I support the educational mission of AAUW through AAUW Fund and am proud to be a member of the Legacy Circle which means I have pledged to re-member AAUW in my trust.

Of course, I value our participation in Tech Trek and hope it can be restored soon. As a member of the Whittier Branch I've also been active in participating in the Math/Science Conference held on the Whittier College campus for 8th grade girls each January.

3. What have been, or are, your most meaningful interests and/or volunteer activities outside AAUW?

My most meaningful (outside AAUW) activities include: volunteering at the Monterey Park Library (on hiatus); being on the Laura Scudder Scholarship Committee (through the M.P. Historical Society); supporting scholarships at Roosevelt H.S. where I was a teacher and counselor for over 30 years; and being a member of the League of Women Voters-Pasadena and the Monterey Park Democratic Club.

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've served in leadership capacity with the AAUW Montebello-Monterey Park Branch until its closure, and with the Greater Whittier Area Branch for the last 12 years. I have served with LA County Interbranch Council, and as a member of the AAUW CA public policy committee.

Now on the branch level I'm ready to enjoy participation in book groups, and being on the Tech Trek committee when it resumes. In a way, participation is easier now since I don't drive far at night and "zooming" is easy! We'll see what the future brings!

# 2020-2021 Budget Adopted

The branch board of directors adopted the following budget at their September meeting.

## INCOME

Branch Dues 46 mbrs @ \$21	\$966.00
Interest	2.00
Events	250.00
<u>Donations</u>	<u>25.00</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$1,243.00</b>

## EXPENSES

Newsletter	\$0.00
Yearbook	200.00
Insurance	242.00
Rent	50.00
Memorial AAUW Fund	10.00
National Convention <sup>1</sup>	0.00
Programs	150.00
Hospitality	50.00
LACIC Assessment	25.00
AAUW Funds Assessment	100.00
Membership Scholarship	0.00
Speech Trek <sup>1</sup>	300.00
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	<u>20.00</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,147.00</b>
<b>NET (INCOME-EXPENSES)</b>	<b>\$96.00</b>

1. \$300 normally allocated for attendance at the National Convention is re-allocated to Speech Trek

## Public Policy: a Right and a Responsibility

Upon reading this issue of the *Mission Gateway*, we will be barely over a month away from this year's Presidential and Congressional elections. And there are a number of state and local elections, including CA Propositions that will garner our interest.

If you've not done so, please talk up the necessity of voting to all your family and friends, as well as anyone who will listen. Voting is a fundamental part of all that entails being a good citizen. Active participation in civic life is what's best for the country and our own communities. The "voice of the people" is heard loudest

and with the most impact at election times. It is our opportunity to determine those individuals who will lead our country and our communities over the next 2, 4, or 6 years in the case of the U.S. Senate. It's that time when comments, complaints, suggestions, wants, needs, letters to our representatives and the like coalesce into one action: CASTING OUR VOTE.

The AAUW California's Public Policy Committee reviewed the ballot measures to see which ones are relevant to our public policy priorities and to our mission. There are seven that AAUW California supports based on this review. Five do not address issues relating to our priorities and mission. Those are listed as "no position."

14: Stem Cell Research	support
15: Property Taxes/Split Roll	support
16: Affirmative Action	support
17: Voting for Parolees	support
18: Voting at 17	support
19: Property Taxes	no position
20: Criminal Justice	no position
21: Rent Control	support
22: Gig Workers	no position
23: Dialysis Clinics	no position
24: Consumer Privacy	no position
25: Cash Bail	support

More detailed information on each of these propositions, including who sponsored and who supports or opposes each, can be found on the Public Policy page of the AAUW California website.

The pros and cons of these propositions will be discussed in our October general meeting. I'd like to offer you a site where you can get a jump start on reading the pros and cons: CAVOTES.org. It's the CA League of Women Voters website filled with lots of accurate information. Once on the website scroll down a short way to Latest News under which you'll see PROS & CONS. There you'll find the 12 statewide propositions, each segment with the proposition followed by The Situation, The Proposal, Fiscal Effect, Statements of Support and Opposition along with Official Links to the Supporters & Opposers. You will get the full picture along with a link "How to Evaluate Ballot Propositions" which is compelling in its own right.

Vote by Mail Ballots are being mailed out in early October to every registered voter even if you have never voted by mail previously. Complete your ballot and drop it off at an early drop-off location or mail it (NO

POSTAGE NECESSARY) back immediately. You can also drop it off on Election Day at your regular Polling Place or you can vote in-person on November 3. The only question you need to answer is how will you cast your vote.

November 3, 2020 is the time for everyone's voice to be heard locally, statewide and nationally!

Joe

## AAUW California Webinars

The following AAUW California online webinars are open to all members simply by registering at [aauw-ca.org](http://aauw-ca.org).

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.

October 12 **Increasing Gender Diversity on the Boards of Nonprofit Organizations:** There is a serious gender gap, particularly for women of color, on the governing boards of higher education and healthcare institutions ("eds and meds"), which are among the most powerful and consequential of our nonprofits. Explore the story behind the numbers, discuss why we should care, and consider what you and other stakeholders can do to effect change. Our speakers co-authored a recently published national study on this subject and are members of the Philadelphia-based Women's Nonprofit Leadership Initiative, which has been working since 2012 to change the numbers in their area.

October 24 **AAUW Fund Luncheon:** Meet our 2020-21 AAUW California Fellows/Grant recipients at a virtual "luncheon" which will showcase their studies and goals for the year! There is no lunch included this year and no charge to join the webinar. If it is possible in your budget, we ask you to consider a donation to AAUW Fund and note that it is "In honor of AAUW California Fund Luncheon."

October 28 **Why Public Policy Matters:** This workshop is for branches whose members are doing no or little public policy work; who do not have a public policy chair or committee; and who want to learn how to encourage members to engage in public policy projects, how to garner ideas for projects, and how to use PP

to attract new members.

November 9 **Keeping in Touch With Your Tech Trekkers - and Why You Should:** Many branches keep in touch with their former Tech Trekkers. Some former campers have even built their own "Keep in Touch" groups. In this workshop you will learn how to track down and guide these young women through high school and college and, even, into their careers. The workshop will introduce these ideas - and the people working on them. Keeping your former Tech Trekkers close allows them to help you at branch events, mentor new campers, and keep in the loop about junior and senior counselor positions. You will be surprised how much your branch and these young women can help each other.

November 11 **Work Smarter not Harder:** Quality collaborations will benefit your branch and increase your influence. A collaboration isn't just about sharing work. It's about sharing resources. By investing your branch's time in building good relationships now, you can make them pay off for years to come.

"Generalizations about the "way women are" and estimates of what is appropriate for most women no longer justify denying opportunity to women whose talent and capacity place them outside the average description."

—Ruth Bader Ginsburg

## 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](https://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 Doty or Kathleen Doty



Here is the latest update on Tech Trek from AAUW California:

“AAUW National announced that in the 2021 season, Tech Trek camps in all states must be delivered on a virtual platform. This decision was made due to the many unknowns and changing regulations, which are happening so rapidly that in-person events can not be advised this far in advance.

They also advised that all states should delay student recruitment until further into 2021.

As announced in prior communications, since the cancellation of our 2020 season, California Tech Trek has been working on alternative solutions, which includes a fully tested virtual platform option designed and implemented by our UC San Diego camp director. In addition, our delay of the student selection process to January 2021 aligns with the National decision.

While this announcement is certainly a disappointment, but not a surprise given the pandemic still actively impacting our country, the California Tech Trek Program leaders are fully prepared to continue the Tech Trek tradition by providing selected campers with a stimulating, fun and rewarding STEM virtual experience.

Rest assured that when the time is right, our goal is a return to the residential Tech Trek camp model that since 1998, has been AAUW California's premier STEM camp legacy.

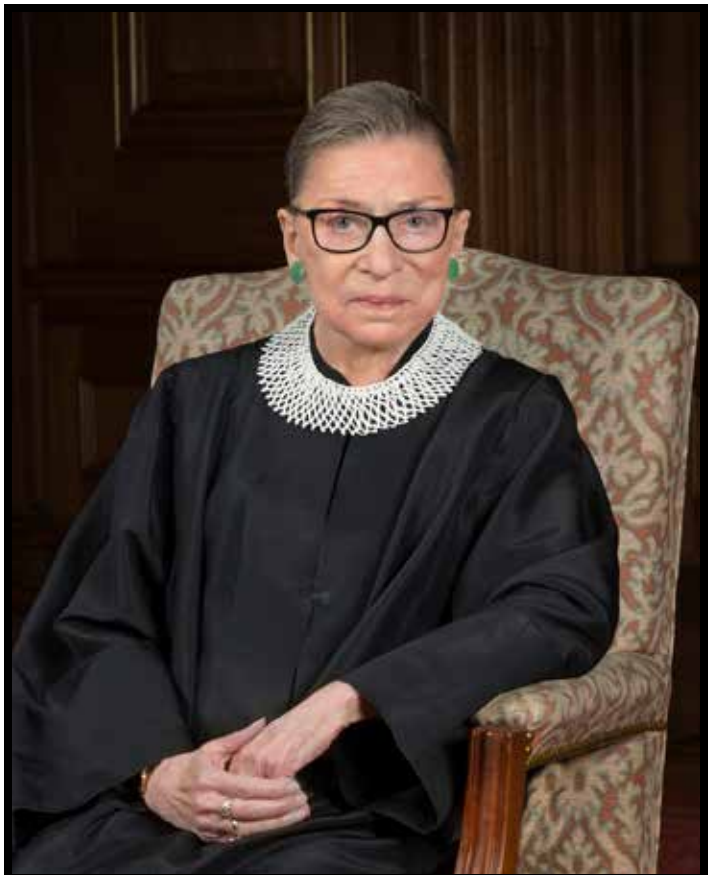
California Tech Trek will not go dark in 2021 - we're looking forward - and we appreciate your support and enthusiasm!"

Susan Negrete & Alice Hill

So at the moment both TTN and TTS are still “on hold” – we will start recruiting when we get more direction from the state. Stay safe everyone.

If you would like to take a tour of the Pasadena Showcase virtually - check out their website at [pasadenashowcase.org](http://pasadenashowcase.org) for more information on dates and cost of tickets.

*Jane Krause  
& Lilia Hall*



# Ruth Bader Ginsburg

America lost one of our most beloved role models tonight, a pioneering jurist and iconic feminist who blazed new trails, not only in her own life, but in the lives of the countless women she championed — and inspired. On behalf of AAUW and its members and supporters who recognized Justice Ginsburg with a 1999 AAUW Achievement Award, we extend our condolences to her family, her colleagues and to every American whose lives and hearts she touched. The nation owes it to her – and to all women – to honor her final wishes and refrain from naming a replacement until after a new president is inaugurated.

AAUW CEO Kimberly Churches  
September 18, 2020

**Vision**  
Equity for all.

**Mission**  
To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy.

**Values**  
Nonpartisan.  
Fact-based.  
Integrity.  
Inclusion and Intersectionality.

# ACTIVITIES

Tap into the Fun!

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

**Scattergories:** (every Thursday) at 3:00 PM via Zoom. 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.

**Meetup:** October 1<sup>st</sup> (1st Thursday) at 4:30 PM. 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.

**Professional Women Gourmets:** October 3<sup>rd</sup> (1st Saturday) at 7:00 PM. Contact Jane Anderson or Lillia Hall for details.

**Board Meeting:** October 5<sup>th</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> Monday) at 7:30 PM via Zoom. The host will open Zoom at 7:15 PM. Open to all members. Contact Elena Velarde for access code.

**Drama:** October 12<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday) at 7:00 PM to read *Intimate Apparel* by Lynn Nottage, contact Kathleen Doty.

**Books:** October 15<sup>th</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday) at 2:00 PM. For books and details contact Kathleen Doty.

**Every Member Event:** October 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. Connect with us on Zoom as our members present the pros and cons of all 12 propositions appearing on the November ballot. Details on page 1.

**Restaurant Gourmets:** October 24<sup>th</sup> (4<sup>th</sup> Saturday) via Zoom. Bring in your favorite take out and dine on line with your friends. For details contact Deanna Arthur.

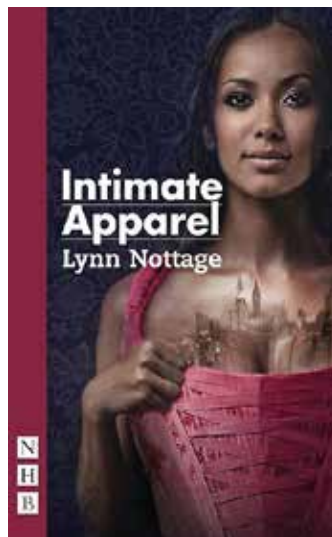
**Evening Books:** October 26<sup>th</sup> (4<sup>th</sup> Monday) at 7:00 PM via Zoom. For books and details contact Deanna Arthur.

## 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 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the intended month of publication.

October 12

## Drama Group



*Intimate Apparel* is a play written by Lynn Nottage. The play is a co-production and co-commission between Center Stage, Baltimore, Maryland, and South Coast Repertory, Costa Mesa, California. The play is set in New York City in 1905 and concerns a young African-American woman who travels to New York to pursue her dreams, becoming an independent woman as a seamstress.

Winner of the 2004 New York Drama Critics Circle and the Outer Critics Circle Awards.

"...a deeply moving portrait of Esther, a middle-aged African-American woman...Nottage's play has a delicacy and eloquence that seem absolutely right for the time she is depicting...New York has no richer play..."

—NY Daily News

"...thoughtful, affecting...The play offers poignant commentary on an era when the cut and color of one's dress—and of course, skin—determined whom one could and could not marry, sleep with, even talk to in public."

—Variety

"Ms. Nottage has done so much good historical research...I want Ms. Nottage to keep working with this form; we see it so little, and we need it so much."

—NY Times

Our branch email address is

[alhsangab44@gmail.com](mailto:alhsangab44@gmail.com)

Our branch website is

[alhsangab-ca.aauw.net](http://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](#)