



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

# The Mission Gateway

## President's Message



Elena Velarde

Dear Colleagues,

We March on—resuming our discussion of the AAUW Value of Intersectionality. Of all the values we stand behind in AAUW, intersectionality is probably the least understood and verbalized—yet it is essential information for us who advocate the rights of

women and girls in this American landscape. Intersectionality describes the various ways people with different backgrounds encounter the world. It captures our lived experiences—and clearly shows that discrimination experienced by a black woman differs from that experienced by a white woman.

Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw, born in 1959 in Canton, Ohio, attended the University of Wisconsin Law School and Cornell University. Her 1989 thesis *Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics and Violence Against Women of Color* took the relatively obscure legal concept *intersectionality* and thrust it virally into the worldwide vernacular. In her research, she didn't find many tools available for understanding how race worked in our legal and social institutions. Thereupon she coined *intersectionality* to describe how race, class, gender and other individual characteristics “intersect” with one another and overlap.

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## AAUW Fund Presents Rochelle McFee

Our March program will be a presentation by Rochelle McFee at 11:00 AM, Saturday, March 20, 2021 via Zoom.

Rochelle McFee, a citizen of Jamaica, received an International Fellowship from the AAUW Fund to support her work towards a Ph.D. in ethnic studies from the University of California at San Diego.



Rochelle McFee

In her research, Rochelle McFee brings structural analysis to bear on systems of power, social discourses and historical conditions that shape [il]legibility of sexualized violence particularly against queer women in Jamaica. She cofounded WE-Change (2015) and the Tambourine Army (2016). The former is a women-led organization focused on increasing the number of LBT women participating in social-justice advocacy; the latter is a movement organized around eliminating the scourge of sexual violence against women and children.

The fellowship drew funding from three Fund accounts: 1181 - San Fernando Valley (CA) Branch, 1186 - Lucy L. Spaulding, and 1191 - Dora B. Thompson.

**For much more about this event  
go to Page 3!**

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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People who are “both women and people of color” have been historically marginalized by laws shaped to respond to only one identity or the other, rather than both identities. Intersectionality maintains that all women do not share the same degrees of discrimination.

Williams Crenshaw referred to intersectionality as a “prism [bringing to light] dynamics within discrimination law that weren't being appreciated by the courts.” Intersectionality opened vistas “for more advocacy and remedial practices” creating a more egalitarian system.

Williams Crenshaw does not want to replicate existing power dynamics and cultural structures simply to give people of color power over white people. Intersectionality is not “an effort to create the world in an inverted image of what it is now.” Rather, it levels the playing field by changing the institutional structures that undergird our politics, law and culture.

Still, Williams Crenshaw explains, “plenty of people choose not to assume that the intersectionality prism demands anything of them.” But in reality, intersectionality asks a lot of individuals, organizations and movements. It asks that everyone who addresses one form of oppression also take into account other forms of oppression.

Very difficult questions are raised. Questions that many people are perhaps unprepared, unwilling, or unable to answer. Who is responsible for addressing racism, anyway? Intersectionality operates both to observe and to analyze power imbalances. It's also the tool that could eliminate those power imbalances altogether. Observing power imbalances is far less controversial than the tool that could eliminate them.

What we do know is that required in each of us, is a “deep commitment to gender justice in all its intersectional complexity.”

How many of us have made or will make this commitment?

Please share your thoughts with me on intersectionality. Let's continue the conversation together!

mailto: [la.elenalove@gmail.com](mailto:la.elenalove@gmail.com)



# Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw on Intersectionality

Intersectionality is an analytic sensibility, a way of thinking about identity and its relationship to power. Originally articulated on behalf of black women, the term brought to light the invisibility of many constituents

within groups that claim them as members but often fail to represent them.

There are many, many different kinds of intersectional exclusions - not just black women but other women of color. Not just people of color, but people with disabilities. Immigrants. LGBTQ people. Indigenous people.

Intersectionality is not easy. It's not as though the existing frameworks that we have - from our culture, our politics, or our law - automatically lead people to being conversant and literate in intersectionality.

Intersectionality has given many advocates a way to frame their circumstances and to fight for their visibility and inclusion.

All too often, girls are ignored because their challenges aren't thought to be as serious as those faced by boys.

A lot of people think that intersectionality is only about identity. But it's also about how race and gender are structured in particular workforces.

"Separate but unequal" didn't work in respect to race, it doesn't work in respect to gender, and it especially doesn't work when looking at the intersection of race and gender.

Families, community leaders, and others must create the public will to address the challenges facing black girls and other girls of color as well by listening to them, valuing their experiences, and becoming actively involved in creating policies and innovative programs that promote their well-being.

*Elena*

# Box Lunches for the March Program

AAUW Fund Committee invites you to lunch with us while Rochelle McFee describes her studies supported by the AAUW Fund.

You can purchase box lunches for \$20.00 each, payable to AAUW Alhambra--San Gabriel Branch. Lunch includes soup (in a microwavable container), salad and dessert. Gluten free lunches are available for those with dietary restrictions. Lunches must be ordered by noon on Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. The lunches will be available for pick-up after 10:00 AM on the morning of the event, or you can request delivery.

Proceeds from the AAUW Fund luncheon will go toward our branch's Colorful Stories project. Colorful Stories is a project to provide students in the Alhambra Unified School District with books that feature persons of color as protagonists and heroes in order to foster respect for people from different races, religions, and cultures. The books, in electronic format to accommodate remote learning and sharing, cost \$5.00 to \$12.00 apiece. We have identified \$250 in initial funding and hope to raise more.

If you'd like to participate but don't want a box lunch, you can donate<sup>1</sup> the cost of a book. We suggest a donation of \$10.00 per book.

Contact [Kathleen Doty](#) to order your box lunch or to donate to the Colorful Stories project.

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1. Donations to the Colorful Stories project are not tax-deductible at this time. With your help we hope the project will grow large enough to qualify for tax exemptions in the future.



Colorful Stories

# Rochelle McFee

## My Project

I am currently pursuing a Ph.D in Ethnic Studies at the University of California San Diego with research interest in Gender Justice and Ethical Feminist Movement Building in the Caribbean. My Current Project - Witnessing Self: Fungibility and Embodying Survival in Jamaica, contends with structures of power that systematically enable violation of women and gender non-binary persons. One of the central



Rochelle McFee

aims of my project is to mobilize a chorus of survivor voices that helps to map a framework of “thrivance” and healing that can support movements aiming to ethically respond to survivors. My project is an intervention into a collective understanding of models for community advocacy, representation, access to resources, and the very notion of justice and is situated within the long tradition of Black, Caribbean, women of color, and third world feminist thought.

Towards this larger project, and as a way to continue thinking about what an ethical movement can look like, I have contributed to the Routledge Handbook on the Politics of the #MeToo Movement through a chapter On Tambourines, Hashtags, and Rerooting/Rerouting Survivor Voice in Caribbean Feminist Movement Building. Here I examined the efforts of grassroots and social media movements in the Caribbean and the way activists, survivors, and state institutions work to create a just future. The context for these movements was set by foregrounding gender violence - through an exploration of reported statistics - within a colonial history and national identity formation. I recounted the formation and experiences of two of the central gender justice movements in the Caribbean region: #LifeInLeggings and #saytheirnames. I explored how they have differentially contended and/or cooperated with neo-colonial and imperial imperatives. Finally, in sharing the story of one survivor, I explored how our work facilitates healing but can also reproduce harm. I question the possibility for a transformative justice approach within this framework particularly in the era of social media. I have also written two creative pieces, one published in a Black Feminist Zine - Mocho House and the other under review for

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publication. The first thinks about the Tribe and the second, about Black mothering and intergenerational trauma. I am currently writing about how the media, both in terms of journalism and entertainment form part of the conducive context for sexual violation of women and girls in Jamaica.

Also, as a way to supplement my research, and building on my experiences as a monitoring and evaluation Specialist working in the field of social justice, I have been serving on the planning committee for an upcoming summit on violence against women and girls (VAW/G) and gender-based violence (GBV); worked with Million Women Rise Coalition for activities throughout 16 Days of activism and International Women's Day 2021 and supported 2 international organizations in their restructuring by thinking about the possibilities for decolonial Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) framework that at all times centers marginalized communities even as they balancing donor expectations.

### **Bio**

My professional work has been dedicated to alleviating social discrimination and providing access to resources for a variety of vulnerable groups in Jamaica and the Caribbean at large. My early work, including my B.Sc. and M.Sc. theses from the University of the West Indies in Sociology/Criminology and Sociology, respectively, focused on socially vulnerable groups. My B.Sc. final paper interrogated how blind men differently understood and negotiated their masculinity in light of their disability, while my M.Sc. focused on the challenges of reintegration faced by deported migrants who had returned to Jamaica (research supplemented by my volunteer work with the National Organization for Deported Migrants).

I have worked with Aphrodite's Pride, an advocacy group focused on LGBT youth, where I led a series of trainings that focused on skills development and understanding gender and sexual diversity. From there I went to United Nations Population Sub-Regional Office (UNFPA SRO) where my work expanded to further include gender policy and advocacy and communication, particularly targeting socially produced vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and supporting sexual reproductive health in Jamaica.

At UNFPA I began building Monitoring and Evaluation [M&E] skills that I have continued to develop. As

a result, building off of ongoing volunteer work with J-FLAG, I joined the organization (2015) as the M&E Specialist responsible for overseeing the efficacy and strategic implementation of the Health and Youth projects. This work included developing work plans in line with strategic objectives, monitoring implementation of activities, and conducting impact analysis, appraisals, and trainings.

As an ardent advocate to end violence against women and encouraging the self-empowerment of LBT women in Jamaica, I co-founded both WE-Change (2015) and the Tambourine Army (2016); the former a women-led organization focused on increasing the number of LBT women participating in social justice advocacy in which I worked as M&E Specialist and Associate Director with responsibility for policy and advocacy; and the latter a movement organized around eliminating the scourge of sexual violence against women and children.

I have other experiences including work with the JCF through COMET II around its Diversity Policy, which specifically targeted LGBT population, sex workers, and people living with disabilities; conducted training around sexual grooming and domestic violence for community based organizations and police officers, also through COMETT; and editor of the Developmental Cost of Homophobia, a national study published in 2016. My experience spans research, policy management, the evaluation of advocacy efforts, and teaching. Since the completion of my M.Sc. I have taught multiple courses at UWI and UCSD including Research Methods, The Sociology of Development, and Sociology for Development and Circulation of Difference. My broad interests in the social conditions that not only render various populations vulnerable to interpersonal, social, and political violence, but also hampers them from accessing resources necessary for living a quality life, fundamentally structures my approach to the various projects I have worked on. By interrogating how exclusion, stigma, and discrimination come to shape social structures, while attending to most effective ways in which advocacy policy leads to tangible results. My experience and approach includes both a commitment to interrogative research and an attention to material efficacy.

I am currently pursuing a Ph.D in Ethnic Studies with research interest in sexual violence against gender and sexual minorities, feminist movement building, Immigration and reintegration of Deported Migrants.



Carmen Gonzalez-Ball with her daughters and husband Mike.

## Membership Corner

We Want to Hear from YOU!

Get to know your fellow AAUW member and how she and her family are surviving the pandemic and Safer at Home orders...

Letty

### From Carmen Gonzalez-Ball

I was introduced to AAUW by a friend from AYSO who cheered me on as I completed my graduate degree.

I have 2 demanding yet rewarding roles: mom and social worker. I am a mother of 2 strong-minded daughters who have been online-learning since March 2020. While my girls (1st grade and high school) attend class, I ensure they stay on schedule, stay fed, and provide (or try to) some sanity in a frustrating new learning environment. Sometimes we laugh and dance in the kitchen and other times we argue over homework and chores.

The chaos stops when I leave for work and my husband takes over, and different chaos ensues. I've been working as a hospital social worker since graduating in 2019, not prepared for what 2020 would have in store for me. In the ER, I deal with other people's chaos: traumatic injuries, abuse, mental health, etc.). It keeps me on my toes, keeps me informed on the pandemic, and helps me to be grateful for my own chaos at home.

On days I work, my husband and I don't see much of each other but we cherish the time we do get. Depending on the day, our only conversation is over the phone while one of us is at work. As a family, we have spent the pandemic watching TV, dinner in the park, movie nights outside, baking, watching our cats play, or simply going

for a walk for much beloved boba. These have been our little moments of peace amongst the chaos. There are times when I'm frustrated, crying, and silently cursing the pandemic, but my heart melts when my girls are excited to see me home, when they save me some hot chocolate, or when my husband waits up until I come home from work. It's the little things that are the peace amongst the chaos, this is what gets me through.

### Public Policy:

## AAUW's Opportunity to Do What's Right

In a very short time AAUW membership will vote on issues everyone espouses: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion! Yes, that is what the vote on eliminating the membership requirement is all about. AAUW long ago positioned itself **first** in the fight for gender equity back at its founding in 1881 when women found themselves denied access to university education and eventually the work force and professional occupations even with their hard-fought for degrees. When all women can fully participate in this organization's continuing struggle for gender equity, we will have achieved an unassailable milestone.

### ***GENDER EQUITY IS THE AAUW HALLMARK.***

Gender equity does not have exclusionary limits. As an international organization, AAUW fights for gender equity for all women and girls no matter their location.

As presently structured, AAUW cannot offer membership to any young women or men, for that matter, who upon high school graduation, choose a career path that does not include post-secondary ***education regardless of these young people's support of AAUW's vision.*** Gender equity is the struggle for women to be treated equitably with men in all areas of society. Continuing a membership exclusion based upon educational attainment is moral disservice to AAUW's avowed stand for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

The world has changed drastically from what it was in 1881. We honor the AAUW Founders by acknowledging that ***all women should be valued as contributing members of society, in addition to university women.***

In the final analysis, a membership requirement that

*Public Policy continued on next page...*

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does not benefit all members of a society is one that favors advancement of SOME at the expense of OTHERS. I do not believe that's what AAUW stands for. As one of our Author's Luncheon speakers reminded us, "we go out to the margins of society to include rather than to exclude. We continue to open our society so at some point there are no longer "others" but merely, yet substantially, "us"!

Joe

# César Chávez Day

César Chávez Day is observed in the United States on March 31 each year. It celebrates the birthday of César Estrada Chávez, born March 31, 1927 and serves as a tribute to his commitment to social justice and respect for human dignity. He and Filipino farmworkers worked together to form the Community Service Organization which helped fight racial and economic discrimination. It is most notably remembered for the grape boycott. Chávez, along with Dolores Huerta, co-founded the National Farm Workers Association in the early 1960s that focused attention on the plight of migrant farm workers and became the first successful farm workers' union in the United States. He used principles of non-violence, with strikes and boycotts. César Chávez remained president of United Farm Workers of America until his death on April 23, 1993.



## Update on Tech Trek

We have submitted the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for participation in the 2021 virtual camp. All committee members are now reading past documents to be able to sign the Conduct Agreement. AAUW has developed a series of policies and procedures that all committee members must be aware of:

AAUW Policies and Procedures Manual, Diversity and Inclusion Manual, Americans with Disability Act Accommodation Manual, Staff and Volunteer Manual. In addition, training in sexual abuse and bullying prevention guide is needed. Of course, this is all being done virtually.

The 2021 virtual camp is centered on a morning project-based robotics/engineering/coding class that meets daily and results in a personalized creation by week's end.

We are hoping soon to receive the online documentation for the nomination process to begin. The deadline for selection of participants is March 29<sup>th</sup>. So all in all both Tech Trek North and Tech Trek South will have lots of work to do on a short time line.

Jane Krause  
& Lilia Hall

## AAUW Fund Raffle

### Dining with the Dotys



Let us prepare a semi-formal dinner for you and three of your friends in our home in Alhambra on May 8<sup>th</sup> (or as arranged post pandemic). Raffle tickets are \$10 each – 3 for \$25. Please make checks payable to "AAUW Fund." Contact us at: The Dotys, 1224 S. 4th St., Alhambra, CA 91801 or 626-284-0763 or

[aauwfundraffle-dotys2021@yahoo.com](mailto:aauwfundraffle-dotys2021@yahoo.com).

All money and ticket stubs must be returned to us by the drawing on April 19, 2021. Ticket holders do not need to be present at the drawing to win. One hundred percent of ticket proceeds will be donated to AAUW Fund to help complete unfinished AAUW California endowments.

### Risk Averse?

We also will prepare a semi-formal dinner for you and three of your friends if you donate \$500 or more to AAUW Fund through Dining with the Dotys.

# We Have a Nominating Committee!!! Speech Trek Did Not Disappoint!

It's a pleasure to announce the 2021 Nominating Committee has been elected by our branch membership at the January 30th Authors Luncheon General Meeting. This election holds the distinction of being the first committee elected [virtually] in Paris, France!

The honor is ours to welcome aboard: Imelda Valencia, Cheryl Prentice, Jackie Fisher, Letty Peralta and Past President Betty Morín who will chair this VIP Committee! Their task is to forge the slate of officers to helm the 2021-22 Alhambra-San Gabriel Board of Directors. We thank them and wish them all great success in the weeks ahead. Their efforts will set the stage for our annual meeting and election of new officers on Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup>! Mark your calendars!

*Elena*

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of February, Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch gathered via Zoom for the annual speech competition. This year's topic is: *Has social media helped or hindered the breaking down of barriers for women and girls?*

There were four contestants representing three area high schools; Gabrielino, Mark Keppel and Alhambra. All of the speeches were impressive. The judges were: Sasha Renée Pérez, Alhambra Mayor; Laura Farber, Immediate Past President of Tournament of Roses; and Ruth Edsall, retired human resources expert. The judges had a difficult time determining the outcome. Congratulations to Dara Dispanurat of Mark Keppel High School for taking first place. Her winning video is being submitted to the statewide competition. We will be informed of those results in April. Good luck to Dara!



## 2021 Speech Trek

Top Row: Dara Dispanurat (speaker), Alhambra Mayor Sasha Renée Pérez (judge), Jay Wang (speaker), Sarah Huapaya (speaker), Marian Hallin (branch member);

Second Row: Joe DesBarres (branch member), Branch President Elena Velarde, Virginia Orenos (branch member), Tiffany Truong (speaker), Dolores Seidman (branch member), Deanna Arthur (branch member);

Third Row: Bonnie Gonzalez (branch member), Kathleen Doty and Jane Anderson (Speech Trek Co-coordinators), Laura Farber (judge), Ruth Edsall (judge),

Bottom Row: Janice Lee (branch member), Jim Doty (timer), and Gloria Ing (guest)

Photo courtesy of Sasha Renée Pérez



Craig Carlson and Julien Chameroy

# Authors Luncheon With Craig Carlson and Julien Chameroy

*A Collage des Comments* from Our Members & Friends

January's Authors Luncheon was held after the deadline for the February issue of the Mission Gateway. We received the following comments. Some comments have been edited due to space constraints.

*What a terrific Author's Luncheon! I did buy and read Craig's new book. Joe, you did an excellent job as moderator.*  
Lilia Hall

*A great event - Joe - you were amazing - you did a super super job Relax this afternoon Have a glass of wine! You both deserve it. A Branch Board Member reported that her sister (who lives in Alabama), who "took the trip" at her invitation, never ever raves about anything. HOWEVER, our ZOOM conversation was one about which she could not stop raving [positively]. She was so happy and excited by it.* Jane Krause

*A rounding success! ...with pancakes, of course.* Betty Morin

*What a fun event.... I missed it when they were first in-*

*troduced to us due to State Board meeting but thoroughly enjoyed them today. Kudos!* Janice C. Lee

*You guys knocked it out of the park. I loved the meeting; they were so delightful. I want to go to Paris for a visit. Great job!* Rozanne Child

*I've never been to an Author's Luncheon and I must say I'll need to do it again - it was very entertaining. I've never had a chance to attend in the past due to soccer games on Saturdays. So, this year it was a highlight during this pandemic.* Kacy Do

*What a great meeting! Thanks so much for arranging it which must have taken a lot of doing. It was such fun to see them in their Paris apartment! Thanks too for including some of our Greater Whittier Area Branch members.*  
Dolores Seidman

*A great time in Paris!! I thoroughly enjoyed the experience!!*  
Marilyn Jeffs

*It was absolutely delightful! I loved the book and the program surpassed the book. Thank you for this opportunity. If and when my kids or grandkids travel to Paris, they will have a request from me to be sure and visit the BIA. ...Jack actually joined me and stayed for the whole program! He enjoyed it, too. ...he commented, I really enjoyed the program even though I did not read the book....* Marian Hallin

*Couldn't find my passport in time. How was the trip?*  
Bobby Levins

*I certainly enjoyed the delightful visit with Craig and Julien and hearing about their darling neighbors and friends. Only someone who loves French culture as much as I do, can fully appreciate their story of the diners and all the cooking involved. I appreciated the questions about the impact of the current American political situation in Paris and the surprising response. Thanks for the great program. I'm looking forward to reading the books about pancakes (and everything else).* Chris and Bob Moore

*Listened from beginning to end. It flowed. What neat gentlemen. Yes, articulate, wonderful storyteller & diplomatic. Loved Craig's relationship with Madame Hubert. I'd like to buy a copy of their book and make a donation to AAUW. I think Joe is ready for Prime Time!* Rosemary Esparza

*Thank you! That was great!* Jill Lembke

Comments in their entirety were sent to Craig and Julien in Paris. They loved your comments and will treasure them always!

*Elena*



# AAUW CALIFORNIA

FROM DIANNE'S DESK...

Dianne Owens, President

AAUW California

[statepresident@aauw-ca.org](mailto:statepresident@aauw-ca.org)

## An Important Question & Vote for 2021

Between April 7<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM PDT and May 17<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM PDT, all AAUW members will have the opportunity to vote on an important bylaws amendment that will eliminate the degree requirement for membership. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the rationale for the proposed bylaws change brought by the [AAUW Board of Directors](#) and the AAUW Governance Committee.

Plan to attend (via Zoom) the AAUW California Annual Meeting on April 17<sup>th</sup> to hear AAUW Board Chair Julia Brown as she brings us all the news from AAUW National and the latest about the proposed bylaws change. Registration is required. Click [HERE](#) to register.

Save March 24<sup>th</sup> for Lobby Day (via Zoom). The registration deadline has been extended. See the Public Policy article below for the opportunity to register. This will be a brand-new experience for AAUW California. Plan to attend the March 22<sup>nd</sup> webinar to learn how to talk with your legislator before the big day.

Thanks to all the branch leaders who have energized your members and delivered mission-based programs that are innovative and impactful.

You are rock stars! Be bold, brave, and brilliant.

Dianne

## This Just In...

On February 19<sup>th</sup> the AAUW California Board of Directors voted unanimously to support the proposed AAUW National bylaws amendment to eliminate the degree requirement for membership in AAUW. A Zoom webinar, tentatively scheduled for March 8 at 7:00 PM, is planned to explain why the "pros" outweigh the "cons" of this historic change.

## 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).

March 8. **Build Community and Campus Relationships through Work Smart.** Join a panel of experts to learn the importance of negotiating your salary and benefits when asking for equal pay, a raise or new position. Registration is required. Click [HERE](#) to register. Lead by Donna Lilly.

March 22. **How to Talk to Legislators.** This workshop will provide training for members who are signed up for Lobby Day on March 24<sup>th</sup>. It will also be useful to members who are not coming to Lobby Day but would like to learn more about talking with legislators in their districts about AAUW public policy priorities and AAUW-supported bills. Registration is required. Click [HERE](#) to register. Lead by Kathi Harper.

March 28. **Congratulations! You've joined AAUW! Now get the most from your membership!** Let's review the expansive committees, programs and projects that make up this public organization and identify how you can help make a difference. Lead by Alice Hill.

## AAUW National Webinar

March 4<sup>th</sup>. **In Conversation with Dr. Shanna Benjamin: "Half in Shadow: The Life and Legacy of Nellie Y. McKay."** Join us for an informative and engaging conversation with AAUW fellowships alumna Shanna Benjamin, Ph.D, Educator and Scholar, to discuss her upcoming book, *Half in Shadow: The Life and Legacy of Nellie Y. McKay*, which will be published in April. Dr. Benjamin is a biographer and scholar who studies the literature, lives, and archives of Black women. She has published scholarly works on African American literature and Black women's intellectual history in *African American Review*, *MELUS*, *a/b: Auto/Biography*, *Studies in American Fiction*, and *PMLA*.

# AAUW CALIFORNIA

## MARKETING

Michelle Miller-Galaz and Sharyn Siebert, Directors  
Marketing Committee Co-Chairs,  
[marketing@aauw-ca.org](mailto:marketing@aauw-ca.org)

## Ask Your Elected Officials to Proclaim March 24<sup>th</sup> as Equal Pay Day

You can encourage your city council, mayor, or county board of supervisors to proclaim Equal Pay Day in your community using one of the sample proclamations on our website [HERE](#). Equal Pay Day marks the symbolic day when women's earnings catch up to men's earnings from the previous year.

Started by the National Committee on Pay Equity (NCPE) in 1996, the goal was to raise awareness about the gender wage gap. Since then, other Equal Pay Days have been added to the calendar to denote that mothers and most women of color face a wider-than-average gap and need to work even longer to catch up to men's earnings.

## NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS

Janice Lee, Nominations & Elections Chair,  
[nominating@aauw-ca.org](mailto:nominating@aauw-ca.org)

## We Have A Slate – Now What?

AAUW California currently has a full slate. Please click [HERE](#) to visit the state nominations and elections page and see the bios of the candidates: Sandi Gabe, President-Elect; Roli Wendorf, CFO and Directors, Carol Holzgrafe and Judy Cavin Brown. We will also be voting on the State's Public Policy Priorities. Our voting period is April 16<sup>th</sup> through May 7<sup>th</sup>.

Nominations are still open until March 16<sup>th</sup> so if you are thinking about joining the state board but are not quite ready to commit, please let the Nominations and Election Committee know so they can give you personal

attention and answer your questions.

National elections will also be taking place this year. The dates for the AAUW National election are April 7<sup>th</sup> through May 17<sup>th</sup>. The elimination of the degree requirement for membership will be up for a vote.

We have seen what happens when we work together and vote. Please vote in both elections and please consider running for office – whether it is National, State, Interbranch Council, or your local branch. WE NEED YOU.

## FINANCE

Roli Wendorf, Chief Financial Officer  
[cfo@aauw-ca.org](mailto:cfo@aauw-ca.org)

## Membership Renewal

Starting March 16<sup>th</sup>, it will be time to renew your AAUW membership for the upcoming fiscal year, 2021-2022. Any new members joining after March 15<sup>th</sup> will get the remainder of this year free along with next year's membership.

Some branch members still have not renewed their membership for the current year (2020-2021). A message was recently sent out to all finance officers by Angela Cooper of AAUW National outlining the procedure for those renewals. If you need that information, let me know.

National dues will be \$62 for the coming year, of which \$59 is tax-deductible.

### State Membership Dues

State dues remain the same at \$20 but are NOT tax-deductible as AAUW California is a 501(c)(4) entity. Here is a reminder of who does and does not pay state dues. For more complete information, check the website [HERE](#).

- 50-Year Honorary Members are exempt from paying state dues but paid Life Members must pay full state dues (\$20).
- State dues will be waived for past state presidents.
- State dues will be waived for representatives from college/university (C/U) partner institutions.
- Students from AAUW C/U partner institutions do not pay state dues, but other students pay half (\$10).

# AAUW CALIFORNIA

## COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY (C/U) COMMITTEE

Donna Lilly, C/U Committee Chair

[cu@aauw-ca.org](mailto:cu@aauw-ca.org)

## More Than \$800,000 In Scholarships Awarded

Seventy-four branches in California awarded over \$800,000 in scholarship funds to 442 scholars during the 2019-2020 academic year. These figures include 47 scholars who attended the May 2019 National Conference of College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) in-person conference at the University of Maryland. Currently, 18 branches of those contacted do not award college scholarships. The good news is all branches raise funds for Tech Trekkers and even better news is that many Tech Trekkers are also honored to receive college scholarships from branches to pursue their STEM dreams.

Terrific fundraising ideas collected during the personal phone calls to 119 branch presidents will be distributed to branch presidents.

### Save a Spot at NCCWSL

AAUW invites you and hundreds of college students to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders virtual leadership training and networking conference on May 25-26, 2021. Click [HERE](#) for further information, registration, and FAQ. Tell your college and university students to apply for a free scholarship to NCCWSL prior to the deadline.

The registration fee has been decreased to \$125 this year due to the conference being virtual.

NCCWSL offers college students professional skill-building workshops in addition to well-known speaker panelists. This is your opportunity to enable a college student to learn the skills of a leader. You can pay the registration fee as an individual or ask your branch or interbranch council to cover the cost. You may consider registering for the conference yourself to enhance your own leadership skills.



## DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Elaine Johnson, Director

[diversity@aauw-ca.org](mailto:diversity@aauw-ca.org)

## A New Splash of Color

It has arrived! The new interactive Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Toolkit (DEI) is now available [HERE](#) with splendid and inviting color and design.

Will branches use the great new resources? That, of course, is up to each branch. If we all begin using the DEI Toolkit, we can make a difference in our membership and leadership.

Key elements of the new DEI Toolkit include:

- Our Commitment
- Getting Started with Difficult Conversations
- Key Terms and Concepts
- Dimensions of Diversity & Identity
- What's Next?

Of special interest are examples of:

- Equity vs Equality
- Intersectionality
- Unconscious Bias

Explore the DEI Toolkit. Now is the time to try out and use some of the materials in the DEI Toolkit and to provide feedback to [diversity@aauw-ca.org](mailto:diversity@aauw-ca.org). Diversity, equity, and inclusion are priorities for all of the AAUW California committees.

# MARCH QUIZ

1. Who was the first black female to refuse to give up her bus seat to a white person?
  - a. Rosa Parks
  - b. Dorothy Height
  - c. Claudette Colvin
2. What is Molly Murphy MacGregor known for founding?
  - a. Friends of the Everglades
  - b. National Women's History Alliance
  - c. Alaska's Anti-Discrimination Act of 1945
3. What is the largest impediment to Latina educational success?
  - a. Lack of role models
  - b. Poverty
  - c. Economics
4. Who is the Swedish female, Greta Thunberg?
  - a. Climate activist
  - b. Movie star
  - c. Nuclear scientist
5. Spring Cleaning Trivia
  - a. Wipe this Bell invention with a paper towels soaked in alcohol, perhaps while you are on "hold".
  - b. What citrus fruit is most associated with house cleaning?
  - c. This "white" type of salad dressing ingredient will make your glass shower doors sparkle?

Betty

## ANSWERS TO MARCH QUIZ

5a. telephone; 5b. lemon; 5c. vinegar  
(1) c; (2) b; (3) b; (4) a;

# AAUW Fund

The vaccines are being distributed and we are almost a step closer to meeting in person. We have learned what a valuable tool Zoom is and how useful it is to get more members to attend. Who knows what the future will bring?

This year we will be meeting our AAUW Fund speaker virtually on Zoom. Rochelle McFee will be sharing information about her work in Jamaica.

To add a little something to our event, lunches will be available for purchase. They are \$20.00 each and will consist of soup, salad, and dessert. They are available in gluten free for those with dietary restrictions. The proceeds from this event will be used for the "Colorful Books" program. If you don't want lunch, you can also donate by donating the cost of a book for \$10.00. These books will be given to the Alhambra Unified School District.

We will also be announcing the Named Gift Honoree recipient(s) for the branch.

As always, Dining with the Doty's raffle tickets are available and we are still collecting toner and ink cartridges.

Thanks so much for your continuing support of AAUW, the AAUW Fund and all the programs of the branch.

Deanna

## 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.

### Mission

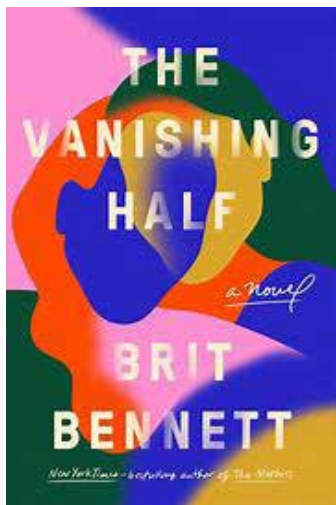
To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy.

Vision  
Equity for all.

### Values

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

# Books<sup>1, 2</sup>



**Day Books:** will meet via Zoom on March 17<sup>th</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday) at 2:00 PM to discuss *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett. Contact Kathleen Doty.

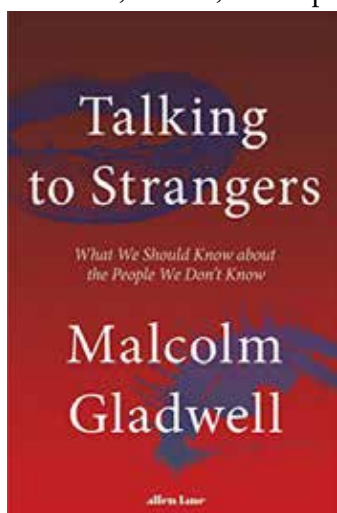
The Vignes twin sisters will always be identical. But after growing up together in a small, southern black community and running away at age sixteen, it's not just the shape of their

daily lives that is different as adults, it's everything: their families, their communities, their racial identities. Many years later, one sister lives with her black daughter in the same southern town she once tried to escape. The other secretly passes for white, and her white husband knows nothing of her past. Still, even separated by so many miles and just as many lies, the fates of the twins remain intertwined. What will happen to the next generation, when their own daughters' storylines intersect?

Weaving together multiple strands and generations of this family, from the Deep South to California, from the 1950s to the 1990s, Brit Bennett produces a story that is at once a riveting, emotional family story and a brilliant exploration of the American history of passing. Looking well beyond issues of race, *The Vanishing Half* considers the lasting influence of the past as it shapes a person's decisions, desires, and expectations, and explores some

of the multiple reasons and realms in which people sometimes feel pulled to live as something other than their origins.

**Evening Books** will meet via Zoom on March 22<sup>nd</sup> (4<sup>th</sup> Monday) at 7:00 PM to discuss *Talking to Strangers* by Malcolm Gladwell. All are welcome to join/visit even if you haven't finished or read the



1. Book Group members can purchase books on the group's reading list at Vroman's Books in Pasadena.
2. Synopses are from goodreads.com

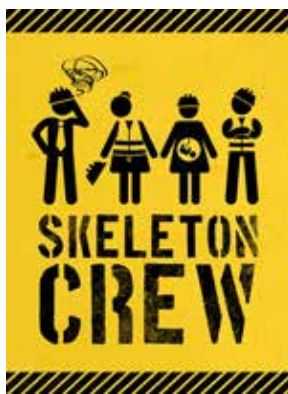
book.

Malcolm Gladwell, host of the podcast Revisionist History and author of the #1 New York Times bestseller *Outliers*, offers a powerful examination of our interactions with strangers -- and why they often go wrong.

How did Fidel Castro fool the CIA for a generation? Why did Neville Chamberlain think he could trust Adolf Hitler? Why are campus sexual assaults on the rise? Do television sitcoms teach us something about the way we relate to each other that isn't true?

Something is very wrong, Gladwell argues, with the tools and strategies we use to make sense of people we don't know. And because we don't know how to talk to strangers, we are inviting conflict and misunderstanding in ways that have a profound effect on our lives and our world.

# Drama<sup>1</sup>



**Drama** will meet via Zoom on March 8<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday) at 7:00 PM to read *Skeleton Crew* by Dominique Morisseau. 2f, 2m

At the start of the Great Recession, one of the last auto stamping plants in Detroit is on shaky ground. Each of the workers have to make choices on how to move forward if

their plant goes under. Shanita has to decide how she'll support herself and her unborn child, Faye has to decide how and where she'll live, and Dez has to figure out how to make his ambitious dreams a reality. Power dynamics shift as their manager Reggie is torn between doing right by his work family, and by the red tape in his office. Powerful and tense, *Skeleton Crew* is the third of Dominique Morisseau's Detroit cycle trilogy.

CRITIC'S PICK! "Clifford Odets' dramas come to mind and so does the great Pittsburgh cycle of August Wilson. But *Skeleton Crew* is squarely in the tradition of Arthur Miller...A deeply moral and deeply American play." - The New York Times

1. Synopsis and review from concordtheatricals.com

# ACTIVITIES

Tap into the Fun!

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

**Branch Board of Directors** will meet via Zoom on March 1<sup>st</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> Monday) at 7:15 PM. The host will open Zoom at 7:00 PM. Open to all members. Contact Elena Velarde.



**Creative Crafters** will gather via Zoom on March 3<sup>rd</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday). Would you like to join us? For more information contact Jane Krause – jkbigdog517@gmail.com. Jane will be sending the Zoom link the day before the scheduled meeting.

**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.



**Professional Women Gourmets** will meet via Zoom on Saturday evening, March 6<sup>th</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> Saturday) at 6:00 PM. Contact Jane Anderson for more information.



**Drama** will meet via Zoom on March 8<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday) at 7:00 PM to read *Skeleton Crew* by Dominique Morisseau. Contact Kathleen Doty.

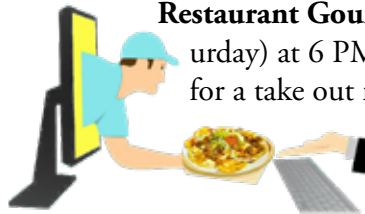


**Meetup:** via Zoom March 10<sup>th</sup> happy hour at 6:00 PM conversation with friends with or without a cocktail. Looking for some new or any faces. Contact Deanna Arthur.

**Every Member Event:** via Zoom on Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM. International Fellowship recipient Rochelle McFee. Details on page 1.

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.

**Restaurant Gourmets:** March 27<sup>th</sup> (4<sup>th</sup> Saturday) at 6 PM. Looking for a suggestion for a take out restaurant. Cook your own, pick up a meal or have it delivered and enjoy it with your friends. A chance to break up the quarantine monotony and be safe. For details contact Deanna Arthur.



**Day Books:** will meet via Zoom on March 17<sup>th</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday) at 2:00 PM to discuss *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett. Contact Kathleen Doty.

**Evening Books** will meet via Zoom on March 22<sup>nd</sup> (4<sup>th</sup> Monday) at 7:00 PM to discuss *Talking to Strangers* by Malcolm Gladwell. All are welcome to join/visit even if you haven't finished or read the book. Contact Deanna Arthur.



## 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 (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>)

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