



Serving Alhambra, San Gabriel, Monterey Park, Montebello, South Pasadena, Rosemead, Temple City, Arcadia and Surrounding Communities

The Mission Gateway

The President's

PUSH



In writing this Mission Gateway article, it hit me that we are barreling toward the end of 2021. This issue is the last of the year! Who could have imagined two years of COVID-19? But we are closer to emerging from its clutches than ever before.

Joe DesBarres

I came across another way that my PUSH acronym could be translated:

Persist **U**ntil **S**omething **H**appens

How fitting is this acronym for all that we do to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy!

As the end of the year approaches, we can celebrate AAUW-backed legislative gains in California which you can read about in this issue.

I invite you to read about & participate in our **Branch Winter Festival of Gifts Program** on December 6.

And as we come to the end of this Calendar Year, I ask

Holiday Program

December 6, 2021

6:45 p.m.



Once again, our branch will ring in the holidays on Zoom, Monday, December 6, beginning at 6:45pm. Joe Des Barres, our president and Master of Ceremonies will introduce the performers for the **Winter Festival of Gifts Program** and end the festivities by 8pm. Sharpen those pencils and put your creative thinking caps on to create and share your personal greeting.

The Professional Gourmets will treat us to a delectable recipe and the Creative Crafters will entertain us with poems. Kathleen Doty will tickle our interest with a story while the Athena and Gabrielino Choirs will regale us with choral works of the season. Jane Krause will report on the blankets our branch is gifting children at La Casa preschool and how this small project expanded with Kacy Do's guidance. Joe will enlighten us about how Santa is tracked every year on his magical journey.

Mark December 6 on your calendar and watch for your zoom invitation to the **Winter Festival of Gifts**. Family and friends are invited.

Jackie

Program Committee Coordinator

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Joe Des Barres, President • Betty Morin, Secretary • Cheryl Plotkin, Treasurer • Kathleen Doty, Newsletter Editor
Deanna Arthur, AAUW Fund VP • Leticia Peralta, Membership VP • Jackie Fisher, Program Chair

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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The President's PUSH...

each of you to consider an end-of-year monetary gift to our **Branch-Sponsored Community Projects**:

- AAUW Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch/ELAC STEM Scholarships (gifts tax-deductible)
- Colorful Stories (exploring tax-deductibility)
- La Casa de San Gabriel Community Center: Family Essentials (gifts tax-deductible)

Each of our projects is worthwhile and vision-advancing. They demonstrate visible commitment to our local communities. Our projects foster positive change.

Please join your AAUW Alhambra-San Gabriel friends and colleagues to make this Holiday Season just that much brighter for the recipients of our **Branch-Sponsored Community Projects**.

As Rabindranath Tagore reminds us...

I slept and dreamt that life was joy.

I awoke and saw that life was service.

I acted and behold,

service was joy.

Joe

Membership Corner

Meet Marilee Wood:

I am a retired principal from LAUSD. I believe in the work you do and empowering women to become influential leaders in our community and beyond. My college info is: AA in Fashion Design from FIDM - Los Angeles, BA in Music from the University of Texas - Austin, Multiple Subjects Credential from Cal State LA, MA in Educational Administration from Cal State LA. I love quilting and spending time with my 2-year-old granddaughter.

Directory Updates

The following new members have been added to the Branch Directory:

Wood, Marilee A.

(626) 864-0890

PO Box 281

South Pasadena, CA 91031

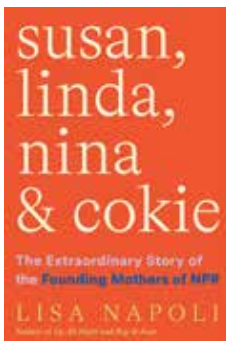
mlawood@yahoo.com

AAUW Member since 2021

BA University of Texas - Austin

MA in Educational Administration - Cal State LA

Letty



It is not too early to anticipate the Authors Luncheon meeting January 22, 2022. Mark it on your calendar now! The featured author is Lisa Napoli, author of susan, linda, nina and cokie. She has sent the following note to our Branch Members:

For those who would like to read my book "susan, linda, nina and cokie", prior to our meeting at the Authors Luncheon, you may order online and receive a signed copy at: livetalksla.org/store

Otherwise, please feel free to contact your local book seller, such as Vroman's in Pasadena.

AAUW Fund

As I say in my elevator speech, “Did you know AAUW killed Madame Curie?”

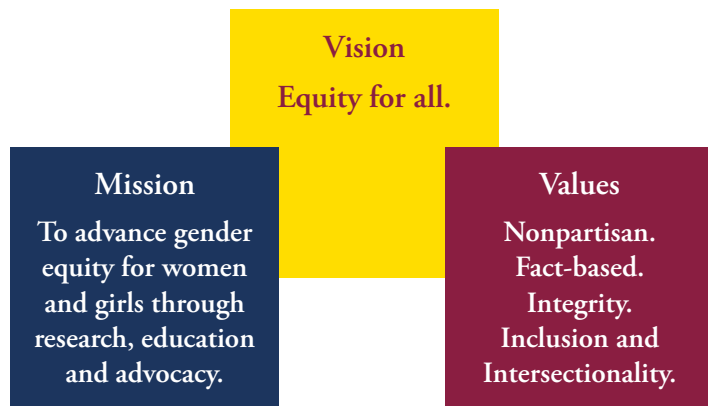
Many of you know but for those of you that don't, the AAUW Fund paid for one (1) gram of radium for Madame Curie's research. The radioactivity ultimately led to her demise.

We still have 2 opportunities to hear from young women who may be the next Madame Curie in *their* fields. Hope some of you were able to hear the first presentation on October 23rd by some of the AAUW Fund fellows studying in California. On October 30th from 10:00 AM to Noon and on Sunday November 7th from 1 PM to 3 PM, we will have the ability to listen to more of these young women from the comfort of our homes and in our favorite chairs. The cost is FREE. Just go to the California AAUW website to register. If you are so inclined, make a donation. AAUW CA is asking you mention the CA AAUW Fund Luncheon when you make your donation and I am asking that you include our branch, CA-001, as well.

This is our last newsletter of the 2021 year. As you are making your year-end donations, please don't forget the AAUW Fund. I believe Jim's honorarium is still unfinished, Fund #4497.

Hope you are all safe and healthy. Enjoy your family and friends.

Deanna



SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AT THE NEXT EDUCATIONAL LEVEL

Our AAUW branch currently supports **OUR** Pre-Kindergarten through High School students who live in our service area: Preschoolers at La Casa de San Gabriel with *no-sew blankets*; Elementary, with *Colorful Books*; Middle School, with *Tech Trek*; and High schoolers with *Speech Trek*. Now, please extend that support for community college students through our branch's **ELAC STEM Scholarship**.

Dr. Armond Aghakhanian, Director of the ELAC Foundation, spoke to us on October 18, 2021 during the general membership meeting and detailed the challenges many of the ELAC students face daily... homelessness, food insecurity, or can't afford textbooks or supplies. However, the college continues its mission to transform the lives of students in the eastern Los Angeles area through education and career opportunities and the number of transfers to four-year institutions still manages to increase each year. It is ranked 12th in CSU-Transfers (up from 20th) and ranked 15th in UC Transfers (up from 20th) for transfers to 4-year universities.

As you begin to make plans to give back during the holiday season, please consider donating to the **ELAC STEM Scholarship** in an amount that is meaningful to you...no matter how small. Each dollar goes towards supporting the AAUW mission as well as that of ELAC by transforming the lives of **OUR** students. And it is tax deductible.

It's easy! See the September issue of the *Mission Gateway* for detailed instructions on how to donate online or how to mail it in.

If you have questions, please contact me, Betty Morin at meromo44@gmail.com.

Betty

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.



Update from Tech Trek South

California Tech Trek has two new people that have been appointed: Karen Manelis, California Tech Trek Program Director and Susan Steckclair as Financial Liaison.

You might remember Karen, she now resides in Washington, but has long time ties in California. She recently sent out an email:

“I still do have strong ties to AAUW California. Tech Trek started in California during my term as AAUW California president back in the late 90’s and I established and directed the camp at CSU-Fresno from 1999 to 2007 when I moved out of state. In 2012, when AAUW took the Tech Trek program nationwide, I was fortunate to guide the AAUW WA Tech Trek program into existence. I was the Tech Trek WA camp director for the first several years and now serve as the program director.”

Susan is a former president of the Sunnyvale-Cupertino branch and has been active with the Sierra Club recently as their treasurer. She has a financial background with Quicken and QuickBooks.

Tech Trek South Committee will be meeting in early November hoping that a decision will be made regarding whether TT 2022 will be virtual, residential or a combination (hybrid). However, I don’t think that a decision will be made this early.

I am hoping that my next report will have facts on the details for the Tech Trek “camp” in 2022. There is a scheduled Zoom meeting with the new director the end of October.

Jane Krause

Tech Trek South Program Coordinator

CHOOSE TO HELP AT THE HOLIDAYS

GIVE TO A BRANCH-SPONSORED COMMUNITY PROJECT...

La Casa de San Gabriel Community Center
NEEDS Family Essentials

Make a Monetary Gift to Help La Casa Purchase Family Essentials

La Casa de San Gabriel is one of AAUW Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch-Sponsored Community Projects. “La Casa” means “The Home.” This “Home” has served our community for 75 years—nearly as long as our own Branch. Indeed, it is the “home base” for many working families unable to climb out of poverty. La Casa provides a variety of services to families including: preschool, toddler care, and many forms of emergency assistance, including donations of clothing and household items.

Every year La Casa strives to ensure their community receives Family Essentials, as well as the spirit of winter holiday gift-giving. Family Essentials include, for example: disposable diapers; cleaning agents such as washing detergents, bar soap, toothpaste, shampoo and conditioner; combs, brushes; warm clothing, shoes, socks, mittens, masks, etc.

In response to these needs, our AAUW Alhambra-San Gabriel Creative Crafters Interest Group is gifting 50 or more hand-crafted blankets to the preschool children. As you see above there are significant needs in the La Casa community for items that most of us take for granted.

Please consider making a financial donation to La Casa de San Gabriel Community Center. Some members have already written checks to La Casa following last month’s Mission Gateway article.

Tax-deductible donations may be made in 2 ways:

1. Through their website: lacasacommunitycenter.org using the “DONATE” button;
2. I am also collecting checks **payable to La Casa de San Gabriel Community Center** for presentation to the Center at the time the Creative Crafters present their gift of blankets. These checks should have **AAUW Alb-SG** written on the MEMO LINE.

In this time of COVID-19 that has exacerbated the plight of our neighbors in so many ways, please consider an end-of-year donation to La Casa de San Gabriel Community Center.

Joe

Public Policy



Here's something to unwrap! Two important AAUW-supported bills were introduced at the federal level by California legislators. Yep, California! That's us! Keep an eye on the Women's Health Protection Act (H.R.3755) and Title IX: The Patsy Mink

and Louise Slaughter Gender Equity in Education Act (GEEA) (H.R.4097). This may be the most low-cal thing you do all month.

Elena

Updates from AAUW California Public Policy Committee

by Kathi Harper, Co-Chair

Abortion Justice

Although the constitutionally-guaranteed right to an abortion has been systematically under attack for decades, it is currently in danger of disappearing altogether. As AAUW National recently noted, "Every person should have the ability to make their own informed decisions regarding their reproductive life. It is beyond time for abortion to be secured legally, funded fully, and equitably available for all who need it, when they need it, without shame or stigma." With the recent refusal of the U.S. Supreme Court to intervene in the onerous Texas case, it is clear that we can no longer count on the courts to protect this critical right. Congress must pass the Women's Health Protection Act. Watch for Action Alerts from National, use them to keep pressure on your representatives, and sign-up now for the 2-Minute Activist if you haven't already done so by clicking here <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>.

Be sure to let us know if members from your branch participated in the Rally for Abortion Justice on October 2nd, along with Beach Cities, Palos Verdes, San Fernando Valley, Pasadena, Alameda, Carlsbad-Oceanside-Vista, Los Altos-Mt. View, San Jose and Morgan Hill, and send pictures if you have them to publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org.

Legislative Updates

Our last five priority bills that were awaiting the Governor's signature have been acted on, here are the results
SB 62 (requires fair pay, instead of "by the piece" payment, for garment workers) **SIGNED**

Updates *continued*

AB 367 (free menstrual products must be provided in girls/women's bathrooms in schools) **SIGNED**

AB 887 (allows domestic violence restraining orders to be filed electronically) **SIGNED**

AB 123 (increases paid family leave benefits to 65 – 75% of regular pay) **VETOED**

AB 1074 (requires hotel and janitorial workers who have lost their jobs due the pandemic to be prioritized for hiring as businesses reopen) **VETOED**

Economic Equity

October 21st is Latina Equal Pay Day – the day Latina women, who are paid just 57 cents to every white male's dollar, finally catch up from the previous year. To help raise awareness, our coalition partner Stronger California is hosting a Latina Equal Pay Day & Essential Women Workers Virtual Summit. If you are interested in joining to learn more and hear from iconic civil rights leader Dolores Huerta as well as California's First Partner Jennifer Newsome, click here [register](#) to register.

Gourmet Gala with Kathleen and her sister



Let us prepare a semi-formal dinner for you and three of your friends at Kathleen's home in Alhambra on May 7th (or as arranged). Raffle tickets are \$10 each – 3 for \$25. Please

make checks payable to "AAUW Fund." Contact Kathleen at: Kathleen Doty, 1224 S. 4th St., Alhambra, CA 91801 or 626-284-0763 or dotyk@sbcglobal.net.

All money and ticket stubs must be returned by the drawing on April 18, 2022. 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 Gourmet Gala with Kathleen and her sister.



WHERE AAUW STANDS: REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

The Rally for Abortion Justice — and Beyond...

Thousands of people across the country participated in the Rally for Abortion Justice on October 2, demanding an end to the escalating attacks on reproductive rights and freedoms.

AAUW joined more than 150 partners, led by key reproductive justice organizations, to mobilize events in every state, some 650 in all. Hundreds of AAUW members participated in local events: Some hosted and spoke at in-person rallies; others participated virtually, amplifying information online and contacting their elected officials.

This was not the first time AAUW took action to defend the right to bodily autonomy and abortion care — and likely won't be the last. While the Supreme Court of the United States has repeatedly confirmed this right since the Roe vs. Wade court decision in 1973, abortion rights have been under attack ever since. States have enacted medically unnecessary restrictions and erected barriers that limit abortion access. The recent anti-abortion laws in Texas and Mississippi, as well as the Supreme Court's alarming refusal to defend a constitutional right, prompted the latest round of protests.

AAUW believes it is important to keep up the drum beat in the weeks ahead. On December 1, the Supreme Court, which now includes a majority of anti-abortion justices, is scheduled to hear arguments in a Mississippi case, *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. This case, asking the court to rule on the constitutionality of certain state abortion bans, could potentially overturn the Roe v. Wade decision. Here is what you can do to help protect abortion rights:

What We Can DO:

1. Contact your elected officials: Direct constituent interactions have more influence on lawmakers' decisions than other advocacy strategies. You can hold a virtual meeting in your district to remind everyone to urge members of Congress to support the Women's Health Protection Act!
2. Write a letter to the editor: Writing a letter to the editor or an op-ed is a great way to energize branch members, promote AAUW visibility in the community and spread the word about important issues.
3. Build community: Educating friends and family and enlisting their support is a valuable contribution to the cause. Have a conversation with loved ones or host a community forum to discuss the importance of defending reproductive health and freedom for all.
4. Share on Facebook, Share on Twitter, Share via Email

(1) "The United States as we know it was founded on the principle of inalienable rights, this idea that some rights are so sacrosanct not even a government can take them away. Of course, this country's founding fathers were only thinking of wealthy white men when they codified this principle, but still, it's a nice idea, that there are some freedoms that cannot be taken away.

What this debate shows us is that even in this day and age, the rights of women are not inalienable. Our rights can be and are, with alarming regularity, stripped away."

— **Roxane Gay, *Bad Feminist***

(2) "Until the state or the church takes full responsibility for a newborn, without claiming custody, no bill or bible is qualified to even offer suggestions on a woman's right to abortion."

— **Abhijit Naskar, *Hometown Human: To Live for Soil and Society***

(3) "The day Speaker of the House Paul Ryan announced that he was going to do everything he could to repeal the Affordable Care Act and defund Planned Parenthood, [...] we saw a 900% increase in requests for appointments to get IUDs, a form of birth control that lasts for several years. Women wanted to make sure their birth control would outlast the [new] Administration."

— **Cecile Richards, *Make Trouble: Standing Up, Speaking Out, and Finding the Courage to Lead***

BOOKS

Day Books will meet Wednesday, November 17, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom to review The Dry by Jane Harper.

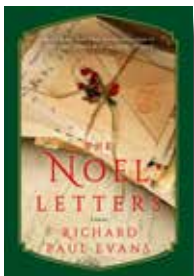


In the grip of the worst drought in a century, the farming community of Kiewarra is facing life and death choices daily when three members of a local family are found brutally slain.

Federal Police investigator Aaron Falk reluctantly returns to his hometown for the funeral of his childhood friend, loath to face the townsfolk who turned their backs on him twenty years earlier.

But as questions mount, Falk is forced to probe deeper into the deaths of the Hadler family. Because Falk and Luke Hadler shared a secret. A secret Falk thought was long buried. A secret Luke's death now threatens to bring to the surface in this small Australian town, as old wounds bleed into new ones.

AND, Wednesday, December 15, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom to review The Noel Letters by Richard Paul Evans.



After nearly two decades, Noel Post, an editor for a major New York publishing house, returns to her childhood home in Salt Lake City to see her estranged, dying father. What she believed would be a brief visit turns into something more as she inherits the bookstore her father fought to keep alive. Reeling from loneliness, a recent divorce, and unanticipated upheavals in her world, Noel begins receiving letters from an anonymous source, each one containing thoughts and lessons about her life and her future. She begins to reacquaint herself with the bookstore and the people she left behind, and in doing so, starts to unravel the reality of her painful childhood and the truth about her family. As the holidays draw near, she receives a Christmastime revelation that changes not only how she sees the past but also how she views her future.

Evening Books will meet Monday, November 29, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom to review The Last Thing He Told Me by Laura Dave.



Despite her confusion and fear, Hannah Hall knows exactly to whom the note refers: Owen's sixteen-year-old daughter, Bailey. Bailey, who lost her mother tragically as a child. Bailey, who wants absolutely nothing to do with her new stepmother.

As Hannah's increasingly desperate calls to Owen go unanswered; as the FBI arrests Owen's boss; as a US Marshal and FBI agents arrive at her Sausalito home unannounced, Hannah quickly realizes her husband isn't who he said he was. And that Bailey just may hold the key to figuring out Owen's true identity—and why he really disappeared.

Hannah and Bailey set out to discover the truth, together. But as they start putting together the pieces of Owen's past, they soon realize they are also building a new future. One neither Hannah nor Bailey could have anticipated.

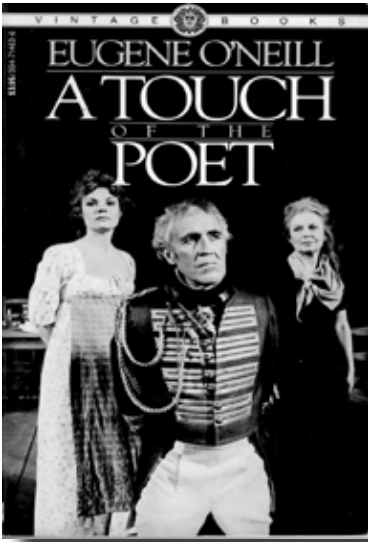
AND, Monday, December 27, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom to review The Downstairs Girl by Stacey Lee.



By day, seventeen-year-old Jo Kuan works as a lady's maid for the cruel daughter of one of the wealthiest men in Atlanta. But by night, Jo moonlights as the pseudonymous author of a newspaper advice column for the genteel Southern lady, "Dear Miss Sweetie." When her column becomes wildly popular, she uses the power of the pen to address some of society's ills, but she's not prepared for the backlash that follows when her column challenges fixed ideas about race and gender. While her opponents clamor to uncover the secret identity of Miss Sweetie, a mysterious letter sets Jo off on a search for her own past and the parents who abandoned her as a baby. But when her efforts put her in the crosshairs of Atlanta's most notorious criminal, Jo must decide whether she, a girl used to living in the shadows, is ready to step into the light. With prose that is witty, insightful, and at times heartbreaking, Stacey Lee masterfully crafts an extraordinary social drama set in the New South.

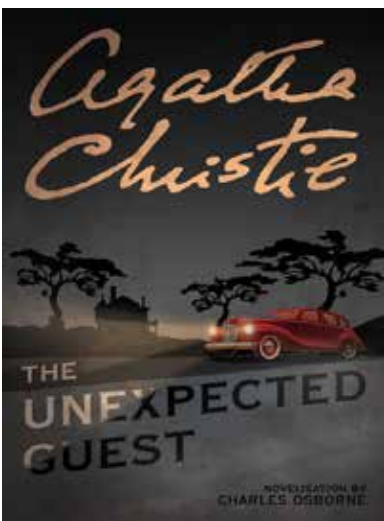
Drama

Drama will meet November 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom to read A Touch of the Poet by Eugene O'Neill.



Drama (7M, 3F) The time of the play is 1828 and the setting is a tavern in a village near Boston. The tavern is owned by a tempestuous Irishman who is as proud as he is ill-tempered and is determined to show his pride and importance to the Yankee townsmen.

AND, December 13, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom to read The Unexpected Guest by Agatha Christie.



Drama (6M, 4F) When a stranger runs his car into a ditch in dense fog in South Wales and makes his way to an isolated house, he discovers a woman standing over the dead body of her wheelchair-bound husband, gun in her hand. She admits to murder, and the unexpected guest offers to help her concoct a cover story.

But is it possible that Laura Warwick did not commit the murder after all? If so, who is she shielding? The house seems full of possible suspects.

ACTIVITIES

Tap into the Fun!

New faces, and used ones, are always welcomed.

Join Us!

Board Meeting Monday, November 1st via Zoom at 7:00 PM. The host will open Zoom at 6:45 PM. Open to all members. Contact Joe DesBarres for access code.

Meetup - at 6:00 PM on Wednesday November 10th at The Chicken Coop, 101 W. Main St., Unit C, Alhambra. There will be a link on Meetup, or call Leticia or Deanna closer to the date.



Day Books will meet Wednesday, November 17th and Wednesday December 15th at 2:00 PM on Zoom. See page 6 for the books. Contact Kathleen Doty for access code.

Evening Books will meet Monday, November 29th and December 29th at 7 PM on Zoom. See page 6 for the books. Contact Deanna Arthur for access code.



Every Member Event: Hope to see you at the Winter Festival of Gifts program on December 6th via Zoom at 7:00 PM. 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 December 3rd.

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 Kathleen Doty for access code.



Drama: Join us Monday, November 8th and Monday December 13th for cold readings of the plays described on page 8. Place: Zoom. Time: 7:00 PM. For more information, contact Kathleen Doty.

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.



Professional Women Gourmets will gather Saturday, November 6th. Contact Jane Anderson for more information.

Restaurant Gourmets will gather at Bella Sera Trattoria, 422 S. Myrtle St., Monrovia. Please call Deanna for more information. (We are going to move the day around and it may be via Zoom.)



Creative Crafters will gather via Zoom on November 3rd (1st Wednesday) at 3:00 pm. The December meeting (NOTE CHANGE OF DAY) will be December 8th at 3:00 pm, at a member's home. 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.



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) (https://my.lwv.org/california/pasadena/article/zoom-tips#.XzMUWdVc6bo.gmail)

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](#)