



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

# The Mission Gateway

## The President's

### *PUSH*



Joe DesBarres

As I sit down to write, I recall how many of us, if not all, think about supporting today's younger generations even though we'll not see their world when they are our current age. Yes, it's a sobering thought but, as Walter Cronkite used to say each night at the end of his news-cast, "And, that's the way it is"!

He had a way of letting us know that despite upsetting news, all was really OK. At least that's the way I related to his nightly message.

We have been subjected to a lot of posturing over the last few years about Intergenerational Warfare. I hold that groups and individuals with much to gain have perpetrated this "war" despite the fact that it's not a war at all. But it has been an attempt to keep us off guard and pre-occupied while some take advantage of these diversions.

Do earlier generations owe anything to later ones? Some might say "yes" while others feel just the opposite. At the end of the day, it's one of those questions that you and I answer in our own unique way. We know that AAUW has made clear through its legislative work, ongoing programs and, in particular, its FUND awards what it values most acutely. It believes in the potential of young women to contribute to the achievement of its Mission,

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## AAUW ALHAMBRA-SAN GABRIEL OCTOBER 18, 2021 GENERAL MEETING

DR. ARMOND AGHAKHANIAN



### *ELAC Students Today: Challenges & Support*

You're invited to hear all about the *recent addition* to our **Ongoing Branch Community Projects 21-22\***.

**Join our General Meeting Zoom on Monday Evening,  
October 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.**

Give a Branch Welcome to our amazing East Los Angeles Community College (ELAC) Liaison who has collaborated with us to launch our budding *ELAC/AAUW Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch STEM Scholarship* tradition.

During the Meeting, we will connect personally and informatively with **Dr Armond Aghakhanian**—public service, education and business leader representing East Los Angeles, San Gabriel and San Fernando Valleys. Known far and wide as **Dr. A**, he currently serves as Director of the East Los Angeles College (ELAC) Foundation. With Dr. A's guidance and inspiration, our Branch now has the capacity to invest intentionally in tomorrow's future, by awarding STEM scholarships to community women and girls who aspire to careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

Dr. A's personal mission is to serve and strengthen our communities. Besides directing the ELAC

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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...***

Vision and Values. What it's moving us toward, is a more diverse, equitable and inclusive world. Each of us, you and I, through our membership mirrors that same commitment albeit first at the local level. What we do to improve the lives of all in our community percolates upward, shifting our country to be better for all.

For sure, our State and National dues and additional donations promote positive change above and beyond our local branch. However, our AAUW visibility occurs most notably at our community level through the eyes of our neighbors observing what we do. Our mission, vision and values are made real through our work and actions with people at the local level. Think about:

- The transformational experience for young girls we send to *Tech Trek*.
- The affirming experience of a *Speech Trek* participant developing communication skills.
- The ELAC student receiving our *Branch Scholarship*; feeling the support of our community to continue her academic STEM journey.
- The young children at *La Casa de San Gabriel* as they embrace their blanket made by the Creative Crafters.
- The families at *La Casa* who receive Holiday gifts signifying the help we've all needed and received at some point in our own life journey.
- All the children who now read stories where the *she-ro* and *he-ro* look like them because of our *Colorful Stories* project.
- The education and inspiration to be experienced by audiences attending our *Readers Theater* performances.
- Most importantly, how **YOU** make these experiences possible through your hard work, perseverance and donations.

For me, the Bengali poet, **Rabindranath Tagore**, offers a touchstone for why we do what we do in AAUW: "*I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy.*"

My wish for you is a continuing life of inestimable **JOY!**

Advancing Our Vision,

Joe

## **General Meeting *continued from Page 2***

Foundation, he is co-founder of ELAC's Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation and Incubator, the only institution of its kind in East Los Angeles. Its purpose is to accelerate the startup and growth phase for enterprises owned by minorities, women, veterans, the formerly incarcerated, and members of the LGBT community. In addition, he founded the Transforming Lives Campaign (TLC), supporting students and their families facing significant challenges: hunger, homelessness, clothing, transportation, and the digital divide.

Currently Dr. A teaches at both Glendale Community College and East Los Angeles Community College. He serves on the Burbank Unified School (BUSD) Board, focusing on issues of mental health, technical education, higher education, and DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion). He founded and chairs the BUSD DEI Committee. As an immigrant, Dr. A has developed a deep commitment to equity and diversity, finding great value in being a part of systems committed to serving students of diverse backgrounds.

Building on his two decades of teaching and education, he has been on the faculties of Woodbury University, Marymount California University, the Salvation Army College, and several other educational institutions. He received his bachelor's degree in Political Science from California State University Northridge; a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree from Woodbury University; and Doctorate in Education from Pepperdine University. Included among Dr. A's Awards: 2010 Presidential Council on Service & Civic Participation Volunteer Service Award; 2003 Character & Ethics Project Award; the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry Volunteer of the Year Award; the LA Coalition to End Hunger & Homelessness Volunteer Award; and the YMCA Service Award.

Here's your opportunity to be *in the know* about one of our **Ongoing Branch Community Projects**.

Join your Colleagues! Ask an interested potential member to attend on Monday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.

Together We Choose to advance our Mission, Vision and Values through our membership and participation.

### **\*Ongoing Branch Community Projects 2021-22**

Readers Theater ♦ Colorful Stories ♦ ELAC/Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch STEM Scholarship ♦ Creative Crafters La Casa de San Gabriel Blankets ♦ La Casa de San Gabriel Winter Holiday Gift-Giving

# Membership Corner

Meet Sonia Tuma:

Sonia Tuma is the Regional Director for the American Friends Service Committee's (AFSC) West Region. In that role, she manages AFSC's programming in the 13 state area that is the western third of the US.

Sonia's academic background is in International Relations and in addition to program and administrative work with the AFSC, she has been a researcher, educator, organizer and activist on Middle East peace issues for more than 25 years.

Sonia is a trained mediator and facilitator who has worked with a number of community groups and non-profit organizations to develop shared visions for their work together, and then helped them to create and begin to implement impactful, creative and strategic initiatives toward social change. Sonia also teaches various strategic planning tools to organizers and activists in the US and internationally so that they can increase their efficacy and funding options.

Sonia graduated from US International University- Europe in 1990, with a degree in International Relations.

Sonia joined AAUW because she is interested in supporting Tech Trek and other educational opportunities for girls and young women.

## Directory Updates

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

Tuma, Sonia (818) 209-2965  
1717 West Clark Avenue  
Burbank, CA 91506 [soniast@aol.com](mailto:soniast@aol.com)  
AAUW Member since 2021  
US International University, Europe

Maya, Yuliana (626) 493-4631  
435 W. Main Street, #4  
Alhambra, CA 91801 [yulianamaya722@gmail.com](mailto:yulianamaya722@gmail.com)  
AAUW member since 2021

Thank you,

*Letty*

# About National Hispanic Heritage Month

Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988, on the approval of Public Law 100-402.

The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. Also, Columbus Day or Día de la Raza, which is October 12, falls within this 30-day period.

About this Site

This Web portal, <https://www.hispanicheritagemonth.gov/>, is a collaborative project of the Library of Congress and the National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and U.S. National Archives and Records Administration.

Other Dedicated Web Sites

National Archives and Records Administration

National Endowment for the Humanities

National Park Service

Smithsonian Education – Hispanic Heritage Month

*Elena*

# STEM Scholarship Monthly Update

This year the Branch inaugurates our joint venture with East Los Angeles College Foundation (ELAC) to provide a STEM Scholarship to local women and girls aspiring to careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics careers. This scholarship is available to ELAC students who have graduated from one of our local high schools in Alhambra, San Gabriel, Montebello and Monterey Park.

The AAUW Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch Scholarship Committee is happy to update our Donor Honor Roll. We are most grateful to **Dolores Seidman** and **Jane Krause** for their recent gifts which will support the next generation of STEM scholars.

**Dolores** and **Jane** join our Donor Honor Roll which includes Richard Alvarado, in honor of his mother, Maria Gomez; Lena Hines; Betty Morín; Kiem Tjong; Elena Velarde. We applaud and salute our donors whose generosity will ease the financial burden of women continuing on to acquire a Bachelor's degree at a 4-year institution.

Our Branch Scholarship is an enduring legacy of Branch members' participation in local programs that advance gender equity for women and girls, our AAUW VISION. Donors give expression to their desire to leave the world better than how they found it.

## AAUW NATIONAL PRIORITY ISSUES

### Removing Bias from Education

Startling inequalities persist in American education. Gender, economics, race and ethnicity should not limit our opportunities.

### Fighting for Fair Pay & Economic Equity

It's time to close the pay gap and for the work world to embrace diversity, equity and inclusion so we can all thrive.

### Advancing Women in Leadership

Women make up more than half of college graduates and half of the labor force. But we're still not represented at the upper levels. We need equal representation.

## You know these women:

Rozanne Child, Janice Lee, Imelda Valencia, Lovey Sherman and Jane Krause. But in addition to being AAUW Alhambra-San Gabriel members, what else do they have in common? Answer: They complete the cast of the branch's original Readers Theater production of *Brave, Resilient Women and Their Contribution to the Fabric of America*. Welcome!

Betty

## SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT...

*Remember that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more.*

*We secure our friends not by accepting favours, but by doing them.*

*Being happy is of the utmost importance. Success in anything is through happiness.*

*Happiness is a place between too little and too much.*

## 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.

# OUR HOLIDAY GIFTS TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN URGENT NEED

Thank you, Creative Crafters, one of our newest Branch Interest Groups, for initiating the 2021-22 Branch holiday gift-giving activities. Creative Crafters are constructing nearly 50 No-Sew Blankets for Toddlers at La Casa de San Gabriel Community Center. Thank you to all Branch members who are contributing meaningful support to these toddlers and their families.

This Holiday Season, we dedicate our local gift-giving to the families and children served by La Casa de San Gabriel. Essential, needed items identified by La Casa include the following NEW items:

1. School, Arts & Crafts Supplies: pencils, pens, paper, art paper; large crayons, markers, washable paint
2. Preschool Books and Educational Toys
3. Children's Clothing and Shoes
4. Non-Perishable groceries and canned goods
5. Household Items: liquid detergent; toothpaste, diapers
6. Gift Cards: grocery stores, clothing stores, etc.
7. Playground Equipment: tricycles, balls, yoga mats

Take a moment to look at the above list and see if you would like to join other Branch Members providing items on this list. A number of members have already indicated they will make a tax-deductible contribution to *La Casa de San Gabriel Community Center, a 501 (c) (3) organization.*

Regarding any items that you can contribute, please phone or text me—Joe Des Barres—at 310-363-3457 or email me at [joedesbarres@gmail.com](mailto:joedesbarres@gmail.com).

If you prefer to make a tax-deductible contribution, let me know, too, and I'll provide the details.

Cheryl Prentice and I will continue to sort out the process for collecting the above items.

As always, I'm open to your questions and comments! And I look forward to hearing from everyone!

Advancing Our Vision,

*Joe*

What do you know about the historical basis for the California Initiative Process? Want to know more? Check out this article on the AAUW CA website: <https://www.aauw-ca.org/historical-basis-initiative-process/>

# BOOKS

Day Books will meet Wednesday, October 20, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom to review Intimacies by Katie Kitamura.



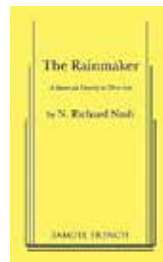
An interpreter has come to The Hague to escape New York and work at the International Court. A woman of many languages and identities, she is looking for a place to finally call home.

She's drawn into simmering personal dramas: her lover, Adriaan, is separated from his wife but still entangled in his marriage. Her friend Jana witnesses a seemingly random act of violence, a crime the interpreter becomes increasingly obsessed with as she befriends the victim's sister. And she's pulled into explosive political fires: her work interpreting for a former president accused of war crimes becomes precarious as their relationship is unbound by shifting language and meaning.

This woman is the voice in the ear of many, but what command does that give her, and how vulnerable does that leave her? Her coolly impassioned views on power, love, and violence, are tested, both in her personal intimacies and in her role at the Court. She is soon pushed to the precipice, where betrayal and heartbreak threaten to overwhelm her; it is her drive towards truth, and love, that throws into stark relief what she wants from her life.

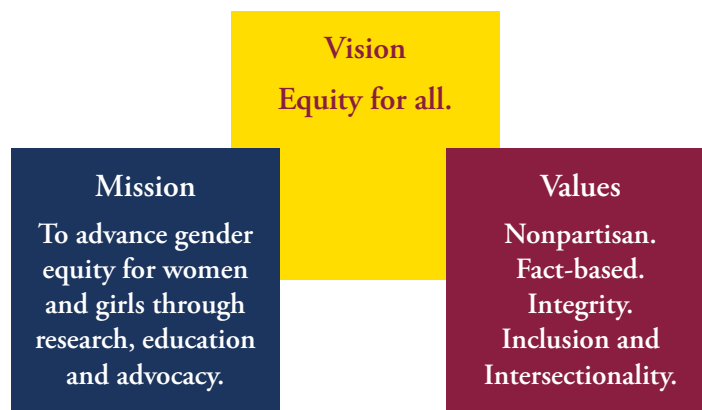
# Drama

Drama will meet October 11, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom to read The Rainmaker, A Romantic Comedy in Three Acts by N. Richard Nash.



Comedy (6M, 1F) At the time of a paralyzing drought in the West we discover a girl whose father and two brothers are worried as much about her becoming an old maid as they are about their dying cattle. For the truth is, she is indeed a plain girl. The brothers try every possible scheme to marry her off, but without success.

Nor is there any sign of relief from the dry heat. When suddenly from out of nowhere appears a picaresque character with a mellifluous tongue and the most grandiose notions a man could imagine. He claims to be a rainmaker. And he promises to bring rain, for \$100. It's a silly idea, but the rainmaker is so refreshing and ingratiating that the family finally consent. Forthwith they begin banging on big brass drums to rattle the sky; while the rainmaker turns his magic on the girl, and persuades her that she has a very real beauty of her own. And she believes it, just as her father believes the fellow can actually bring rain. And rain does come, and so does love.



# 2020-21 Legislative Session Winding Down – How Did AAUW California-sponsored Bills Fare?

Kathi Harper, Co-Chair Public Policy, AAUW California

Not particularly well, as it turns out! We started the year off with 39 bills we selected for varying degrees of support. We chose one bill to co-sponsor, AB 92, with four additional bills for top-priority attention (“A” level bills), five bills for “important” status (“B” level bills), twenty-two bills for low- (“C”) level attention, and seven bills to “watch.”

Over-all, 28 of our 39 bills have been designated “2-year” bills, which means they are dead for this year and likely will be taken up again in 2022. Our advocate, Kathy Van Osten, has explained that this is because Senate and Assembly leadership set a limit of just 12 bills that a member could move to the second house, so members had to pick and choose what would they wanted to move forward.

Some of our bills did not make the cut. Four of our five “A” bills, along with our co-sponsored bill, and four of our five “B” bills, did not make it through. These include AB 22, AB 92, AB 737, AB 966, AB 1361, and SB 245. However, several of them were converted into the Budget and Budget “trailer bills,” which will provide funding for childcare. Although we were not entirely successful in getting AB 92 passed (establishing a sliding scale for family fees for childcare through 2023), the state budget includes \$60 million for one year of relief for all families using subsidized childcare, increased reimbursement rates for childcare providers, and funding for 206,000 new childcare slots.

We are pleased that several bills have passed and been sent to the Governor, and we are working hard to secure his signature on these bills: AB 62 and AB 367, as well as 3 of our “C” level bills: AB 123, AB 1074, and AB 1461.

Thanks again to all our members who participated in Lobby Day and/or weighed in at critical junctures on social media. For descriptions of each of these bills and/or more information on their status, visit our Bill Tracker on the AAUW California website, Public Policy/Legislative Advocacy/Bill Tracking.

## 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 7<sup>th</sup> (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.



# ACTIVITIES

Tap into the Fun!

New faces, and used ones, are always welcomed.

Join Us!

**Board Meeting** Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup> via Zoom at 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 October 13<sup>th</sup> at Vino at Charlie's Trio, 10 N. 1<sup>st</sup> St., Alhambra. There will be a link on Meetup, or call Leticia or Deanna closer to the date.



**Day Books** will meet Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM on Zoom to review Intimacies by Katie Kitamura. Contact Kathleen Doty for access code.

**Evening Books** will meet Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM on Zoom. Contact Deanna Arthur for access code.



**Every Member Event:** Hope to see you at the membership meeting on October 18<sup>th</sup> 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 October 17<sup>th</sup>.

**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, October 11<sup>th</sup> as we read The Rainmaker by N. Richard Nash. 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, October 9th. Contact Jane Anderson for more information.

**Restaurant Gourmets** will gather Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM. Location is undetermined at this time. 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 October 6<sup>th</sup> (1st Wednesday) at 3:00 pm. 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](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](#)