The Mission Gateway **THE PRESIDENT'S**

Alhambra-San Gabriel (CA) Branch

Serving Alhambra, San Gabriel, Monterey Park, Montebello, South Pasadena,

Rosemead, Temple City, Arcadia and Surrounding Communities



PUSH Dear Branch Friends,

"We are all affecting the world, every moment, whether we mean to or not. Our actions and states of mind MAT-TER—because we are deeply **INTERCONNECTED** with one another." -Ram Dass

Joe DesBarres

Our interconnectedness has

been sorely tested these past two years living under the threat of COVID and its inevitable variants. And yet... our commitment to women and girls has not waivered.

As AAUW Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch, we continue to:

- Sponsor middle school girls to attend Tech Trek
- Give high school students opportunities to hone • their voices on contemporary topics through Speech Trek
- Offer Colorful Books to young students to learn about people who "look like them" in their library books
- Promote STEM post-secondary education via scholarships at East Los Angeles College
- Educate via the upcoming production of "Brave • Resilient Women"

recently, of <u>Up All Night: Ted Turner, CNN, and the Birth of</u> <u>24-Hour News</u>. She has also written a biography of NPR benefactor Joan Kroc, titled Ray & Joan: The Man Who Made the McDonald's Fortune and the Woman Who Gave It All Away, and a memoir, Radio Shangri-La: What I learned in Bhutan, the Happiest Kingdom on Earth. Lisa lives in Los Angeles.

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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.

Where were you? ... May 3, 1971*



You are Invited

to Welcome

Honored Author Lisa Napoli

AAUW Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch's Annual Author's Event

Saturday, January 22, 2022 at 11:00 AM via Zoom.

There is no charge for this event.

Lisa Napoli comes to us from a long career in journalism,

including staff reporting jobs at public radio's Marketplace,

the pioneering New York Times Cybertimes, and as colum-

nist/correspondent at MSNBC. She is the author, most

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continued from Page 1 The President's PUSH...

- Advance gender equity and professional development through donations to AAUW National
- Lift the underrepresented and those struggling with poverty via the Creative Crafters Blanket Project for La Casa and the Alhambra Unified School District—including financial donations and gifting essential articles for daily living

AAUW has thrived for 140 years due to its members' insistence and persistence in making the world a better place for women and girls. This year ends with stepping into the next, acknowledging the truth of Ram Dass's words in our AAUW and personal lives. Highlighting our actions is essential recognition for each and every one of us, that despite 2 years of COVID uncertainties, we have in the best possible ways, "NEVERTHELESS PERSISTED."

Concluding AAUW's 140th year, we embark on a journey to ensure that diversity, equity and inclusion find their completion with BELONGING. DEI has gotten us to where having a voice at the table (Inclusion) AND creating the agenda (Belonging) are now inextricably paired.

We now go forth supporting and advocating for future generations to make the ideal of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging the reality. AAUW has never shied away from such a righteous struggle.

Best wishes for a wholesome, productive and fulfilling 2022.

Advancing Our Vision,

Toe

General Meeting continued from Page 1

In her 2021 book, *susan, linda, nina & cokie: The Extraordinary Story of the Founding Mothers of NPR*, Napoli takes us on a compelling journey with Susan Stamberg, Linda Wertheimer, Nina Totenberg, and Cokie Roberts. Learn firsthand about these women's enduring friendships, obstacles, successes and lasting impacts while becoming national icons.

Ms. Napoli's book recounts the struggles women faced not only in journalism but in our lifetime, when women were truly "second class citizens." Ms. Napoli's prose offers us an inside look at the founding of National Public Radio via these 4 trailblazers. These women advanced gender equity for women and girls in the previously gender-biased workplace of print/broadcast journalism. This account will make you feel you were right there since "*All Things Considered*" hit the airwaves 50 years ago.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 22nd 11 AM via Zoom. To receive the Zoom Invitation, submit your email address & full name to Joe Des Barres, Branch President:

mailto:joedesbarres@gmail.com

Registrations accepted **NOW**, and **until Monday**, January 17, 2022.

(Attendees must register to receive a Zoom Invitation.)

MEET Author Lisa Napoli and SALUTE contemporary She/roes: susan, linda, nina & cokie.

*That date marked the first broadcast of NPR's "All Things Considered" on fledgling public radio.

Call Joe for Questions: 310-363-3457

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.

AAUW Fund

As we start the New Year, I would like to thank all our members who gave to the Fund in 2021. I will let you know the percentage of our members that supported the Fund later in the year as there is always a big influx in the 4^{th} quarter.

That being said, I want to let you know that the James Doty Honorarium has been completed. Thanks to all of you who made this possible. I know how important he was to the branch and many of its members, especially Kathleen. That is the 2nd honorarium completed from our branch the other was for Kathleen Doty in honor of her service as AAUW California State President.

When you are making donations to the Fund, you get to decide where you want your Funds to be spent, you may choose the greatest needs fund (letting National decide where to spend the money depending on their greatest need) or you may choose to give it to unfinished fellowships. These are just two (2) of the options available, contact me for additional options.

In addition to Gourmet Gala with Kathleen and her sister, we will be doing a branch fundraiser before the year is over. Stay tuned for more information.

Deanna

Vision Equity for all.

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

Women's Reproductive Rights -Where Are We Now?

by Claire Noonan, AAUW CA Public Policy

By January 22, 2022, the 49th anniversary of the Roe v Wade decision, SCOTUS (the Supreme Court of the United States) will have heard arguments on Texas SB 8 legislation banning pregnancy termination after six (6) weeks and Mississippi's legislation (Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health Organization) to ban abortion after fifteen (15) weeks.

What are the issues? For Texas, it isn't about the constitutionality of the legislation, i.e. the fundamental right decided by Roe v Wade. Instead, a decision will be made on the tactics used by the Texas legislature - delegating their enforcement duties to citizens - to preclude lawsuits against the State.

The decision on the Mississippi legislation will be straightforward. One, SCOTUS could overturn Roe v Wade. Two, the court could limit legal standing to challenges on state law, e.g. doctors wouldn't be able to challenge on behalf of patients. Three, new legal standards for the evaluation of abortion regulations may be created so states aren't required to show that the benefits of an abortion ban outweigh the undue burden to patients – reversing Planned Parenthood v Casey. (*Women's Health Policy*, 11/21/2021)

One hundred six (106) state laws have been passed to restrict abortion in 2021. Activists, like AAUW, are bringing lawsuits before the Supreme Court. AAUW has submitted an amicus brief for Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health Organization as to the constitutionality of the Mississippi law.

In addition, the ACLU and others have brought lawsuits against other Mississippi abortion-related legislation like regulations for informed consent, a waiting period before the procedure, and ban on telemedicine visits.

Surveys show that 60-70% of Americans approve of abortion in all or most circumstances. Only 20% think abortion should be illegal in all circumstances. (*New York Times, Upshot* (5/19/2021). AAUW and AAUW California stand with the majority, and the time to act is now. We must pressure the Senate to pass the Women's Health Protection Act. The legislation must become law in this session. Unfair changes in representation have occurred with redistricting. Votes in the 2022 mid-term elections that would elect representatives who would vote for this bill could be suppressed.

Detailed information on the current position for women's reproductive health is available from the Guttmacher Institute.

Elena

Membership Corner

Are you a new member to the branch or a long-time member who just hasn't met your fellow AAUW members yet??? Are you a member and know a friend who likes to eat, talk and laugh???

Calling all new members, long-time members, any member in between and potential members: Join us for a fun branch activity group, **Meet Up.**

Wednesday, January 8th at 6:00 PM. Chonitos Mexican Restaurant 2505 W. Valley Blvd, Alhambra 91803.

Members and potential members "Meet Up" for dinner and drinks at a local yummy restaurant to share stories, catch up and discuss any topics you are interested in.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to do fun stuff with fun people and get to know each other better, especially since we haven't been able to meet in person in such a long time.

Any questions, contact Deanna Arthur <u>dean-</u><u>naaauw@gmail.com</u> or Leticia Peralta <u>letty530i@gmail.</u> <u>com</u>. There will be a link on <u>www.meetup.com</u> - Am. Assoc. Univ. Women – Alhambra, San Gabriel, Monterey Pk

Thanks,

Letty

Member Spotlight



Kiem Tjong has been a member of our branch for over a decade, contributing her talents as a Tech Trek interviewer and videotaping interviews with campers to use for promoting Tech Trek. She is dedicated to helping women and girls seek careers in STEM fields. She mentors

students in entrepreneurial skills at Cal Poly Pomona and has taught classes at UCI to support women reentering the business world. Kiem is a member of the Pasadena Angels where she reviews presentations and funding proposals of young startup companies who are developing products that contribute to a better life. She has also reviewed funding proposals for other organizations including the National Science Foundation.

Kiem earned a Bachelor of Science in Electrical

Engineering at California State U, Fullerton and a Master of Science in Science and Technology Commercialization at U. of Texas at Austin. She began her career as an electronics design engineer in aerospace at Rockwell International and continued as a project manager at 3M Corporation, developing products used in open heart surgery. In the late '90's she founded her own company, Clickshot. Her team of programmers and artists created ground-breaking, interactive software. The burst of the dotcom bubble caused her to downsize, but a few years later, she and her husband formed a new company that provided information technology services for the Department of Education and other large agencies and companies. From the vantage point of a business owner, Kiem sees the need for women to join the computer engineering field.

Born in Suriname, formerly Dutch Guyana, the smallest democratic country in South America, and a melting pot of many nations and indigenous peoples, Kiem learned about tribal people and came to value their culture. She also witnessed the destructive fallout of a military coup and the violent aftermath in which some of the tortured and murdered victims were close to her family including two brothers whom her mother had taught in elementary school. She grew up shuttling back and forth between Suriname and the Netherlands. Her native language, and the language she speaks with her family, is Dutch. After much thought, and living here in the U.S. for five years, Kiem became a U.S. citizen.

As a late bloomer in sports, Kiem ranked in the top 20 nationally in table tennis in the over 30 and over 40 age category. Currently, she is racing a Formula Continental race car and Mazda Miata race cars at regional racetracks and is a national level instructor for the Porsche Club of America. If you know any woman who is interested in learning how to drive a car faster, or who even would like to try driving a car on a racetrack, just for fun, please contact Kiem at <u>ritatemp@yahoo.com</u>. She would love to get more women involved with motor sports and can make personal referrals for track days and driving schools. "As I get older, I have a deep appreciation for, and am very grateful that, I am able to enjoy successes in heavily male dominated professional and sports fields."

Kiem's letter to our Tech Trek campers after their science project presentation in September (following, page 5) gave us members a rich appreciation and understanding of Tech Trek and the benefits of STEM in our lives. It is a pleasure and a privilege to work with such a talented, multi-faceted woman. "To me, my fellow Tech Trek group members form the backbone of a caring and forwardlooking community."

Jackie

From Kiem to the Tech Trek girls:

Gourmet Gala with Kathleen and her sister

You now know what programming is about and you have a better understanding of the intelligent technology inside your phone, the TV, your family car, in computers, robots and smart devices in schools, hospitals, airplanes, rockets. You also learned that as a group you have more smart minds working together and you can find the solution to a problem faster.

You now belong to a small and special group of girls across the country who have this knowledge. Congratulations on that! You fully deserve to feel proud about this accomplishment!

Should you decide to go and get a deeper understanding of science and technology you may someday belong to an even smaller and more exclusive group of young women. You would be one of just a few who can design and build products that make life safer and easier for thousands of other people, maybe even more, and make a difference in your own way in the world we live in.

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@sbc-global.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 semiformal 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.



susan, linda, nina & cokie

NOTE FROM LISA NAPOLI

Our January author has this for our members - "For those who would like to read my book *"susan, linda, nina and cokie"*, prior to our meeting at the Authors Event, you may order online and receive a signed copy at: <u>livetalksla.org/store</u> "

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

La Casa de San Gabriel Community Center

Jane Vasquez, La Casa de San Gabriel Community Center Board Chair, and Velma de la Rosa, Executive Director, graciously accepted numerous donations from the Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch on Friday, December 17, 2021 at their Holiday Program highlighted by Christmas Carols sung by the Center's young students.

Theresa Jolley, representing the Creative Crafters Branch Interest Group, presented 24 handmade blankets to

the preschool children completing a comthe past 6 months. Joe DesBarres, Branch and personal care items along with a check of by Branch members.

Jane Anderson and Kathleen Doty Alhambra Unified School District on behalf during a previous Giving Event.

There are numerous individuals to resa Jolley and Jane Krause and members Diane Askew, Kathleen Doty, Jackie Fisher, Other Branch Members who made or do-Rozanne Child, Joe Des Barres, Kacy Do, nos. To Kacy Do and her student volunteers Athena Ngo, Mia Torres, Addison Basallo, Troop 181 as well as Tyler Lin and Sabrina To Cheryl Prentice who coordinated the



mitment made by the Crafters over President, presented seven parcels of food \$1100.00, all of which were contributed

presented 25 handmade blankets to the of our Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch

thank. For the handmade blankets: Theof the Creative Crafters Jane Anderson, Betty Morín and Imelda Valencia. nated blankets: Lyda Chee and Family, Lilia Hall, Janice Lee and Virginia Ore-Madison Ly, Megan Ly, Morgan Ly, Rocio Castro, and Cellyne Wong of GS Wang, additional community volunteers. collection of personal care items as well

as making a generous financial contribution. To **Mary Smeritschnig**, and to several **Anonymous Donors** for their generous financial donations. For their gifts of non-perishable food items and school supplies for the Center's Food Bank, thank you to **Lyda Chee** and her daughters **Patricia Huang** and **Pamela Wong**, and to **Virginia Orenos**.

Our Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch makes yet another visible contribution to benefit our neighbors. This builds on our Branch Legacy of 77 years in AAUW!

(Photo credits to Jane Anderson, Theresa Jolley, Joe Des Barres and Center's Staff Photographer.)



Above: Jane Anderson and Kathleen Doty presenting blankets to AUSD.

Above: A happy blanket recipient at La Casa de San Gabriel.

Below: Velma de la Rosa, Jane Vasquez and Theresa Jolley at La Casa de San Gabriel with some of the children.





Above: Velma de la Rosa, Jane Vasquez and Joe Des Barres at La Casa de San Gabriel.



Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg convenes a gathering of remarkable women in...

Brave, Resilient Women and Their Contributions to The Fabric of America



bat

An original Readers' Theater Production

Presented by AAUW Alhambra-San Gabriel Church of Our Savior hall, San Gabriel California March 19, 2022

> Produced and directed by Betty Morín

Writers: Joe DesBarres, Kathleen Doty, Jackie Fisher, Marian Hallin Betty Morín, Donna Tucker, and Elena Velarde

Physician

Astronaut

Writer and Environmentalist

Who Are They?

Civil Rights Activist

Teacher Rights Advocate

Farmworker Activist: Advocate for Women and Working Poor

Renaissance Woman

Physicist

Founder, Girls Scouts



Drama

Drama will meet January 10, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom to read Isn't It Romantic byWendy Wasserstein.

The Tech Trek Committee announced on Monday, December 13, 2021 the University of California Davis, and the University of California Santa Barbara plan to move forward with in person Tech Trek Camps barring any unforeseen circumstances regarding COVID 19 in the summer of 2022. Whittier College, University of California San Diego, Stanford, and University of Sonoma should know more in January. Some branches are moving forward to contact schools with the understanding that things could change.

Tech Trek North is happy to have San Gabriel 7th grade girls participating this year fromJefferson Middle School. Due to COVID and being overwhelmed with teaching on-line they did not participate last year. We are so glad to have them back.

As we start the New Year, did you know that you can reduce your taxable income by making a Qualified Charitable Donation (QCD) from your retirement funds (including your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) if you designate retirement funds to go directly to a charitable organization such as Tech Trek through the Special Project Fund(SPF) of AAUW-CA? Here are the steps to take:

- 1. Notify your financial planner or the administrator of your retirement funds that you want to make a QCD distribution.
- 2. Provide the administrator with the following information. Full name and addressof the charity/ charities you wish to donate to (include their tax ID number if available.) Check with Lilia Hall for further details.

Lilia Hall Tech Trek North Coordinator



Comedy (4M, 4F) The play deals with the post-college careers (and dilemmas) of two former classmates, a short, slightly plump would-be writer named Janie Blumberg, and her tall, thin gorgeous WASP friend, Harriet Cornwall. Both are struggling to escape from lingering parental domination and to establish their own lives and identities. In Janie's case this leads to an inconclusive

involvement with a young Jewish doctor who calls her "Monkey"; while Harriet assails the world of big business and has an affair with her hard-driving (and married) boss. Told in a fast-moving series of inventive, alternately hilarious and touchingly revealing scenes, the play explores their parallel stories with uncommon wit and wisdom-resulting, ultimately, in a heightened awareness which, while not providing all the answers, goes a long way toward achieving the maturity and self-assuredness that both protagonists so desperately desire.

BOOKS

Day Books will meet Wednesday, January 19, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom to review <u>susan</u>, <u>linda</u>, <u>nina</u>, <u>&</u> <u>cokie The Extraordinary Story of the Founding Mothers</u> <u>of NPR</u> by Lisa Napoli.



In the years after the Civil Rights Act of 1964, women in the workplace still found themselves relegated to secretarial positions or locked out of jobs entirely. This was especially true in the news business, a backwater of male chauvinism where a woman might be lucky to get a foothold on the "women's pages." But when a pioneering nonprofit called National Public Radio came along in the 1970s, and the

door to serious journalism opened a crack, four remarkable women came along and blew it off the hinges.

susan, linda, nina, and cokie is journalist Lisa Napoli's captivating account of these four women, their deep and enduring friendships, and the trail they blazed to becoming icons. They had radically different stories. Cokie Roberts was born into a political dynasty, roamed the halls of Congress as a child, and felt a tug toward public service. Susan Stamberg, who had lived in India with her husband who worked for the State Department, was the first woman to anchor a nightly news program and pressed for accommodations to balance work and home life. Linda Wertheimer, the daughter of shopkeepers in New Mexico, fought her way to a scholarship and a spot on-air. And Nina Totenberg, the network's legal affairs correspondent, invented a new way to cover the Supreme Court.

Based on extensive interviews and calling on the author's deep connections in news and public radio, Susan, Linda, Nina, and Cokie will be as beguiling and sharp as its formidable subjects.

See page 5 for a link to the author's website to acquire a signed copy of this book.

Evening Books will meet Monday, January 24, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom to review <u>Lightning Strike</u> by William Kent Krueger.



Aurora is a small town nestled in the ancient forest alongside the shores of Minnesota's Iron Lake. In the summer of 1963, it is the whole world to 12-yearold Cork O'Connor, its rhythms as familiar as his own heartbeat. But when Cork stumbles upon the body of a man he revered hanging from a tree in an abandoned logging camp, it is the first in a series of events that will cause him to question

everything he took for granted about his hometown, his family, and himself.

Cork's father, Liam O'Connor, is Aurora's sheriff, and it is his job to confirm that the man's death was the result of suicide, as all the evidence suggests. In the shadow of his father's official investigation, Cork begins to look for answers on his own. Together, father and son face the ultimate test of choosing between what their heads tell them is true and what their hearts know is right.

In this masterful story of a young man and a town on the cusp of change, beloved novelist William Kent Krueger shows that some mysteries can be solved even as others surpass our understanding.



Tap into the Fun! New faces, and used ones, are always welcomed. Join Us!

Board Meeting Monday, January 3rd 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 January 8th at Chonito's, 2505 W. Valley Blvd., Alhambra. There will be a link on Meetup, or call Leticia or Deanna closer to the date.



Day Books will meet Wednesday, January 19th at 2:00 PM on Zoom. See page 9 for the book. Contact Kathleen Doty for access code.

Evening Books will

meet Monday, January 24th at 7 PM on Zoom. See page 9 for the book. Contact Deanna Arthur for access code.



Every Member Event: Hope to see you at the Annual Author Event on January 22nd via Zoom at 11:00 AM. Details on page 1. Connection information will be distributed to all branch members via email and posted on our branch calendar on our website on or about January 17th.

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, January 10th for cold readings



of the play 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, January 8th at Twohey's. Contact Jane Anderson for more information.

Restaurant Gourmets will

gather January 22nd at 6 p.m., place TBD. 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 January 5th (1st Wednes-



day) 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.



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#.XzMUWd-Vc6bo.gmail)

