



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

# The Mission Gateway

## THE PRESIDENT'S *PUSH*



Joe DesBarres

Ah, January! The month of looking forward, writing annual resolutions and overall, a time for reflection, hope and gratitude.

January 2022 is a January unlike any other in recent memory. We are still in the grip of COVID 19 and its variants.

Our country's political climate is still clouded by January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021, among other threats to democracy worldwide, and our planet is seemingly no more peaceful than it's ever been.

With all of this as background, our annual Speech Trek topic is particularly cogent: *"Has the US lived up to its pledge With Liberty and Justice for All? Would requiring the study of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in a high school setting help insure, Liberty and Justice for All?"*

Our Branch Speech Trek Competition in February, finds students offering their thoughts and assessments of this American pledge. I hope you will join other Branch Members in experiencing how our students tackle these weighty questions.

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AAUW California  
Speech Trek

*"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."* Declaration of Independence, 1776

In just five years from now, on July 4, 2026, the US will mark the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. As this milestone anniversary

approaches, the conversation around diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) appears to be intensifying throughout society.

**Has the United States lived up to its pledge of "liberty and justice for all"? Would requiring the study of diversity, equity and inclusion in a high school setting help ensure liberty and justice for all?**

On Saturday, **February 19<sup>th</sup>**, we will hear the answers from some very bright, insightful, eloquent high school students in the first phase of AAUW California's Speech Trek. The program will be **via Zoom** and will start at **11:00 AM**.

Speech Trek is an annual speaking contest open to all California high school students, whether from public,

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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...***

But you don't have to simply watch and listen. I invite you to pen your thoughts much like you have in "Letters to the Editor" or that "Op Ed" you have written (or have always wanted to write). In subsequent editions of Mission Gateway, we'll publish your thoughts and assessments of our Speech Trek topic. This will be yet another way to dialog with one another on this topic of vital importance.

COVID 19 has prevented us from gathering together, but we won't let it stifle important and necessary discussions. More than ever, we need a fully functional marketplace of ideas that engages all of us. Our AAUW Mission and Vision within the context of our democratic system require nothing less.

Please send your submissions to Kathleen Doty, Mission Gateway Editor, and me, your President.  
[dotyk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dotyk@sbcglobal.net) [joedesbarres@gmail.com](mailto:joedesbarres@gmail.com)

Advancing our Vision,

*Joe*

### **A QUICK REMINDER**

Last month, a SAVE THE DATE flier for original Readers Theater production of *Brave, Resilient Women and Their Contribution to the Fabric of America* was published in the *Mission Gateway*. You will be receiving more information on how to register along with the Safety Measures in place for the event within the next few weeks. As branch members, you, and your guests, will be given first priority to register, so if you are planning to attend, please do so as soon as soon as possible. Mark your calendars:

Saturday, March 19, 2022, 10:15 a.m.  
Church of our Savior Cleaver Hall,  
535 W Roses Rd., San Gabriel, Ca. 91775

### **Speech Trek continued from Page 1**

private, home or continuation high schools.

Students from our local high schools have a winning record. In the 14 years since the contest began, six finalists have come from one of our local schools. Don't miss this inspiring event!

Each contestant will deliver an original 5- to 6-minute speech via Zoom. Their speeches will be judged for content, organization, and delivery. The first-place winner of the contest conducted by the Alhambra/San Gabriel Branch of AAUW on February 19<sup>th</sup> will receive \$100 and will advance to the state-wide competition. The second-place winner will receive \$50, and the third-place winner will receive \$25.

A video recording the first-place speech will be posted on YouTube for review by a panel of State Speech Trek judges along with branch winners from throughout the state. The State Speech Trek judges will identify five finalists, two of whom will be named as Honorable Mention. The top three speeches will be shown during AAUW California's annual meeting, which will be via Zoom on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>.

The first-place winner of the state contest will receive \$1500. The second-place winner will receive \$1000, and the third-place winner will receive \$500. The finalists who received honorable mention also receive cash prizes: \$250 for 4<sup>th</sup> place and \$150 for 5<sup>th</sup> place.

### ***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.

# AAUW Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch STEM Scholarship Recipient

**Maple Duong** is our first \$500 scholarship recipient and has met the criteria below. She is a graduate of Mark Keppel High School and the first person in her family to go to college. After she matriculates from ELAC in the spring of 2022, she plans to attend a four year-college and major in Business and Accounting with a minor in Mathematics.

## Our Branch Scholarship Criteria:

- Full-time student enrolled in Science, Engineering, Technology, or Math
- Completed 24 or more units with a GPA 2.0 or Higher
- \*500 Word Essay: How will your education enable you to give back to your community?
- Graduate of one of the following high schools only- Alhambra, Gabrielino, Mark Keppel, Ramona Convent Secondary School, Schurr, Montebello, San Gabriel, San Gabriel Mission, Bell Gardens and South Pasadena.

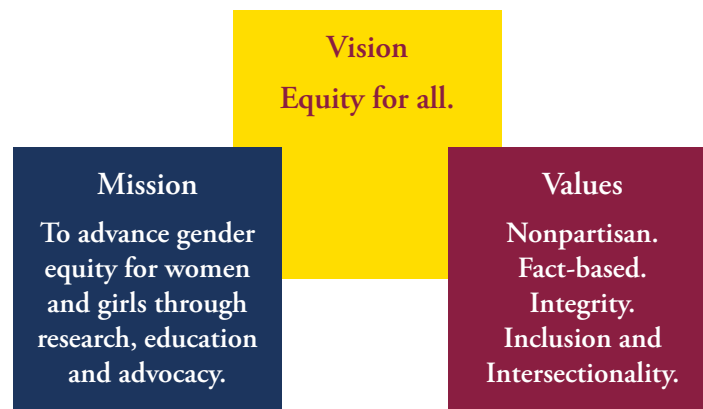
**\*Essay** (edited for clarity and length): My name is Maple Duong, and I am a second year Business and Accounting student. I classify myself as a resilient and innovative learner who strives to be a mentor to my community, which is rooted in my identity as not just a student, but as a first-generation college student and the oldest out of 3 siblings.

With a growth mindset, my passion for analytics, mentorship, and education has only fueled my perception of seeking out amazing opportunities to fulfill my dedication towards advocating for my peers and for equity across the board in all industries. Career-wise, I have always been curious about how data, analytics, and numbers that tell a story and [how they drive] the success of organizations [by] figuring out ways to provide solutions to tech-based and user issues.

The moment I realized my community has been underserved, I knew I would be willing to do whatever it takes to provide the support they need and deserve. With that said, I hope to become a Certified Public Accountant and provide accounting/financial services to low-income and under-resourced communities. I plan to pursue a master's degree in Business to further solidify my education and advance my career to provide extended services to my community. I have made it [my] mission to understand the varying backgrounds that my community fosters and how I can lend a helping hand to the people who raised me to be who I am today. By graduating with a higher-education degree, I open doors by providing opportunities for not just myself, but for students seeking internships and mentorship. In addition to my yearn to aid my community with my experience, I want to help streamline students' smooth transition into higher education. Currently, I am a Guided Pathways Student Ambassador (GPSA) alongside the Business Club President. I serve my peers through advocacy on the local and district level and make meaningful change by working to close equity gaps on the local community college and district level with presentations and webinars as a GPSA and Business Club President. Both positions directly align with my passions for service to the community and fostering a network of strong and confident first generation and students of color.

Had I not attended ELAC, I would not have discovered my interest in service to my community, [or]obtained the real-world experience[s] to become the resilient individual I am today devoted to equity in education and all other industries.

*Betty*



# Membership Corner

# AAUW Fund

## Directory Updates

The following new member has been added to the Branch Directory:

Santana, Dennisse (323) 679-4010  
501 West Arlight Street  
Monterey Park, CA 91754 [teach3ird@gmail.com](mailto:teach3ird@gmail.com)  
AAUW Member since 2022

*Letty*

Looking forward to planning a fun event for our Fund meeting in April. Lots of ideas in the works and you will hear more when they are a little less fluid. Do you have a favorite event? Please share your ideas, input, suggestions, memories.

It's so hard to meet on Zoom but where would we be without it? Our interactions and visits have gotten us through almost 2 years of COVID. Miss seeing everyone but love that we are all safe.

Would love to tell you exactly how many dollars our branch raised for the AAUW Fund last year but I am still waiting to hear. I can tell you that the James Doty Honorarium has been completed. Thank you branch members and all of AAUW CA that made this possible.

*Deanna*

## 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](mailto: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.



# PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

## Childcare: An Overdue and Critical Investment

By Shelley Mitchell and Ginny Hatfield, AAUW CA Public Policy Committee

“It’s past time that we treat childcare as what it is – an element whose contribution to economic growth is as essential as infrastructure or energy...and the single most important thing we can do to build a stronger economy over the next several decades,” says Janet Yellen, the former Chair of the Federal Reserve Bank and now Secretary of the Treasury.

The state of U.S. childcare is deplorable compared with other developed nations, especially with respect to affordability. This fact has been brought home to us ever more vividly during the current pandemic. Women, who still bear the majority of childcaring, have left the workforce in the millions due to the absence of basic childcare services and the cost associated with it.

Here are some sobering statistics:

- 56% of married families with children under 6 consist of households where both parents work
- The employment rate for single mothers raising a young child is 65%; it’s 83% for single fathers who maintain custody
- The average American family with at least one child under 5 uses 13% of their income to pay for childcare
- Less than 20% of children eligible for a low-income federal assistance program are getting the funding
- 50% of Americans live in childcare “deserts” or areas where there are three children per every childcare opening
- In 24 states the average cost for infant full-time daycare exceeds the average cost of rent
- 97% of childcare providers are women, who are disproportionately women of color, making less than a living wage with no guaranteed benefits. In the US, the mean hourly wage for childcare workers is \$12.88, nearly \$3.00 less per hour than parking lot attendants, and \$5.00 less per hour than dog groomers.

This is a textbook example of a broken market, whereby the benefits of providing a service (in this case childcare) are not included in its overall value. Are our children really less important than our cars and dogs?

The consequences of not investing in quality childcare should have most Americans demanding action from their government leaders. Neglecting the care of young children is detrimental to their physical and mental wellbeing; it reduces productivity in the workforce; leads to lost wages and reduced retirement benefits for parents; it adds to the downward pressure on childcare workers, which in turn, impacts the quality and stability of childcare; and restricts future educational opportunities for family members.

There is hope on the horizon! The Build Back Better Act, now awaiting action by the Senate would provide universal preschool with high-quality childcare for 3- and 4-year-olds; increase wages for early childhood educators; upgrade existing childcare facilities, especially in high-need areas; and provide a sliding scale whereby parents would pay a reasonable percentage of their overall income to childcare costs.

Whether the legislation is included in the Reconciliation bill or taken up as a stand-alone bill, it deserves passage and your support. Childcare relief remains the top priority of AAUW California this year. Please be sure to contact your Senator and let them know of your AAUW membership and your commitment to ensuring our Nation’s future. AAUW is calling on the 117th Congress to ensure that a permanent paid leave program, childcare funding and the Child Tax Credit are included in the budget reconciliation process.

To find out more or to contact your senators, [CLICK Here](#)



# Drama

Drama will meet February 14, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom to read Rose's Dilemma by Neil Simon.

## Update from Tech Trek South

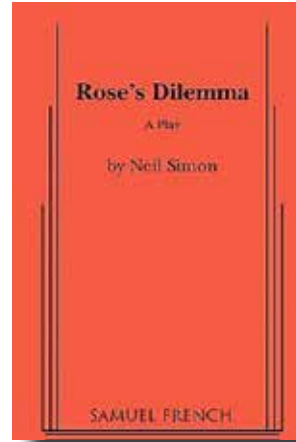
I had hoped we would have some firm information, but due to the pandemic and other issues we still don't know exactly what will be happening Tech Trek 2022.

At the present time nothing is for sure. California TT is still hoping for residential camps. The information to contact our schools has not been released as of mid-January. Tech Trek South has contacted our eleven schools informing them that there will a camp this summer, hopefully in-person.

The TT South committee is "on stand-by" ready to begin the recruitment process.

Jane Krause  
Tech Trek South Program Coordinator

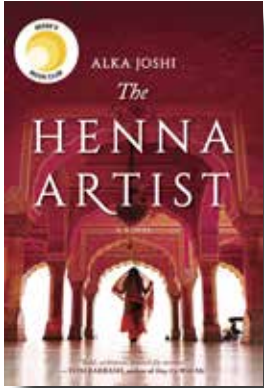
*Jane*



Comedy (2M, 2F) In her beach house in the Hamptons, celebrated writer Rose Stern stands at a crossroads: she hasn't written anything in years and money is getting short. Her former lover, literary lion Walsh McLaren, offers her-from beyond the grave-an opportunity to regain her celebrity and gross millions. It's not going to be easy and a "ghost" writer is required setting in motion another touching and unpredictable romantic theatrical by America's premier Pulitzer Prize-winning comic playwright.

# BOOKS

**Day Books** will meet Wednesday, February 16, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom to review The Henna Artist by Alka Joshi.

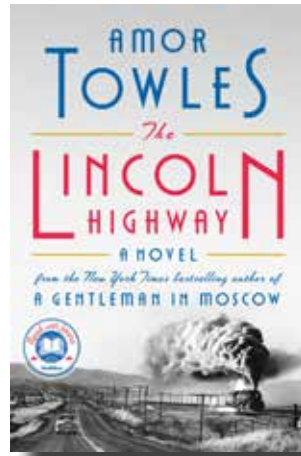


Vivid and compelling in its portrait of one woman's struggle for fulfillment in a society pivoting between the traditional and the modern, *The Henna Artist* opens a door into a world that is at once lush and fascinating, stark and cruel.

Escaping from an abusive marriage, seventeen-year-old Lakshmi makes her way alone to the vibrant 1950s pink city of Jaipur. There she becomes the most highly requested henna artist—and confidante—to the wealthy women of the upper class. But trusted with the secrets of the wealthy, she can never reveal her own...

Known for her original designs and sage advice, Lakshmi must tread carefully to avoid the jealous gossips who could ruin her reputation and her livelihood. As she pursues her dream of an independent life, she is startled one day when she is confronted by her husband, who has tracked her down these many years later with a high-spirited young girl in tow—a sister Lakshmi never knew she had. Suddenly the caution that she has carefully cultivated as protection is threatened. Still she perseveres, applying her talents and lifting up those that surround her as she does.

**Evening Books** will meet Monday, February 21, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom to review The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles.



The bestselling author of *A Gentleman in Moscow* and *Rules of Civility* and master of absorbing, sophisticated fiction returns with a stylish and propulsive novel set in 1950s America

In June, 1954, eighteen-year-old Emmett Watson is driven home to Nebraska by the warden of the work farm where he has just served a year for involuntary manslaughter. His mother long gone, his father recently deceased, and the family farm foreclosed upon by the bank, Emmett's intention is to pick up his eight-year-old brother and head west where they can start their lives anew. But when the warden drives away, Emmett discovers that two friends from the work farm have hidden themselves in the trunk of the warden's car. Together, they have hatched an altogether different plan for Emmett's future.

Spanning just ten days and told from multiple points of view, Towles's third novel will satisfy fans of his multi-layered literary styling while providing them an array of new and richly imagined settings, characters, and themes.

# ACTIVITIES

Tap into the Fun!

New faces, and used ones, are always welcomed.

Join Us!

**Board Meeting** Monday, February 7<sup>th</sup> 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 February 9<sup>th</sup> at Charlie's Trio, 47 W. Main St., Alhambra. There will be a link on Meetup, or call Leticia or Deanna closer to the date.



**Day Books** will meet Wednesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM on Zoom. See page 7 for the book. Contact Kathleen Doty for access code.

**Evening Books** will meet Monday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 7 PM on Zoom. See page 7 for the book. Contact Deanna Arthur for access code.



**Every Member Event:** Hope to see you at Speech Trek on February 19<sup>th</sup> 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 February 12<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, February 14<sup>th</sup> for cold readings of the play described on page 6. 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, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 AM, at Twohey's. Contact Jane Anderson for more information.

**Restaurant Gourmets** will gather February 19<sup>th</sup> 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 February 2<sup>nd</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#.XzMUWd-Vc6bo.gmail) (https://my.lwv.org/california/pasadena/article/zoom-tips#.XzMUWd-Vc6bo.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](#)