



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

As I write this month's President's PUSH, I'm reminded of the famous line from the movie *Cool Hand Luke*, "What we've got here... is a failure to communicate."

The Branch published its first *Digital Membership Directory* on September 2021 following the substantial work of a number of members, but mostly due to the

creative and determined work of Leticia Peralta, Membership Vice-President. Hats off to Leticia!!!

The idea behind my push for a *Digital Membership Directory* was 4-fold: (1) Save limited Branch funds (\$150-\$250) by eliminating printing expenses; (2) Enable timely, on demand edits, additions and deletions owing to the e-format; (3) Provide "live" links to national and state AAUW, LACIC, our own website, Meet-Up and FaceBook pages, and our Branch Activity Groups; and, (4) Lessen the demand for paper with its deleterious effects on our environment. By design, membership listings do not have live contact links. But I'm thinking they ought to, making member-to-member communication extremely simple and direct.

There's a secondary reason for the subject of this President's PUSH. At the end of January 2022, a member e-mailed

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Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg convenes a gathering of remarkable women in: **Brave, Resilient Women and Their Contributions** to

The Fabric of America

Presented by AAUW Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch Church of Our Savior, Cleaver Hall, 535 W Roses Rd, San Gabriel, CA 91775

March 19, 2022, 10:15 a.m.

(Doors open, 9:45 a.m.)

Produced and directed by Betty Morin

Writers:

Joe DesBarres, Kathleen Doty, Jackie Fisher, Marian Hallin Betty Morin, Donna Tucker, and Elena Velarde

REMINDER

Member Pre-Registration: Required and Due by March 8, 2022

First. RSVP by emailing Cheryl Plotkin, caplotkin62@gmail.com and include names of all the people in your party.

Then write one check to cover the cost of all of your guests, Adults \$10, students free. Make it out to **AAUW Alhambra-San Gabriel** and in the Memo line, **Readers Theater**. Mail to Cheryl Plotkin, 201 S Golden West Ave. Arcadia, CA 91007.

Limited Seating

Must show proof of vaccination and booster. Masks required.

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...

me stating difficulty with the electronic format, and suggesting a printed edition for 2022-23. This was the first communication I received about challenges with the *Digital Membership Directory*. A short time later, this was followed up by other members supporting the initial e-mailer. This culminated in a board discussion on February 7th wherein the board voted to produce a small-batch printed version of the directory for only those members needing it, due to lack of a computer, a printer, or other challenges. Printed copies, sourced from the *Digital Membership Directory*, will be available as long as they are needed. The 2022-23 small-batch printed edition will be funded by a generous donation from Lilia Hall. Hats off to Lilia!!!

The *Digital Membership Directory* will continue as our operational Branch membership directory.

So why did I recount this linear history? Why indeed? To articulate the absolute necessity for any member to communicate concerns or issues in a timely manner. I apologize. I have apparently not made this fundamental element of successful Branch communication abundantly clear to every member.

So, to reiterate, my contact information is joedesbarres@gmail.com, cell: (310) 363-3457. If you have a concern, problem, compliment or anything else you want to communicate regarding our Branch, please do so at the time the question or situation comes up. Healthy, immediate action, practiced by everyone, keeps our organization alive, vibrant and moving forward.

Let us avoid "failure to communicate." ***We are all on the Same Team.***

Advancing our vision,

Joe

AAUW Fund

It's hard to believe we are heading into spring.

We moved the Fund meeting to April so we could accommodate "Brave, Resilient Women". Don't despair the committee is planning a special event (details to follow) for you in April in conjunction with the Annual Meeting.

We will be preparing dinner boxes with sandwiches, ambrosia salad, chips, a yummy treat and more for only \$20.00. The entire amount will go to the AAUW FUND. Ordering and/or donation forms will be available in next month's newsletter. For an additional \$5.00 we will deliver it to your home.

AAUW-CA donated just under \$500,000.00 in 2021. The number is probably understated as the donations for our branch were not correct and may not be correct for other branches as well. We are working on that getting that number updated/corrected shortly.

If you want to help raise money for the amazing causes that AAUW National supports, please volunteer to help the Fund Committee for the spring event and next year.

Thanks for all your donations and support. Each one of you is part of the reason we can continue to move forward to equity.

Deanna

Mission Gateway

Articles relating to AAUW's mission or Branch activities are gladly accepted. Material for the *Mission Gateway* must be received no later than the 15th of the month prior to the intended month of publication.

Vision
Equity for all.

Mission

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

Values

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

March Public Policy Update

What are You Doing this Year to Mark Equal Pay Day (EPD)?

Ginny Hatfield and Shelley Mitchell, AAUW CA Public Policy Committee

Have you been wondering when EPD falls this year? Well, the announcement was a bit later than usual, but the good news is that women on average are faring better than they did last year! Equal Pay Day in 2022 is March 15 aka the Ides of March.

AAUW believes that pay equity and equal employment opportunity are matters of simple fairness. We know that on the average, women earn about 80 cents for every dollar men earn. Started by the National Committee on Pay Equity (NCPE) in 1996, the goal of Equal Pay Day was to raise awareness about the gender wage gap.

Each year this date symbolizes how far into the year women must work to earn what men earned in the previous year. The date normally moves earlier each year as the wage gap closes, as women's average wages rise faster than men's. Equal Pay Day was traditionally a Tuesday in April, but happily, in 2021, the date was March 24, meaning that things had improved. And this year the news is even better – all women in the aggregate will reach parity with all white men on March 15, 2022. Better, but we're still not there.

On June 10, 2021, the Paycheck Fairness Act, which had passed the House of Representatives and amends the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 by providing more effective remedies to victims of wage discrimination based on sex, was filibustered in the Senate on a 49-50 vote. Now is the time to let your elected officials know how you feel about this failure to codify pay equity.

AAUW Branches throughout the country have marked this day with activities that highlight the wage gap. Here are some suggestions for things your branch can do.

- Write your representatives in Congress to encourage them to support the Paycheck Fairness Act.
- Encourage your local city council or county board of supervisors to issue a proclamation in support of pay equity.
- Wear Red to symbolize that women's paychecks are "in the red" when compared to men.
- Write a letter to the editor of your local paper or offer to submit an op-ed.
- Share a timely post on social media to spread awareness.
- Hold an event on [your home] or local campus and offer cookies to women that are proportionately smaller than the ones you offer to men. Also invite participants to become student affiliate members of AAUW.
- Invite community members to an "unhappy hour."

Whatever you decide to do, start planning now. We can't wait for equal pay!

You can get more information and samples of proclamations and letters from the [National Committee on Pay Equity](#). You can also find out more on AAUW National's website on Pay Equity at <https://www.aauw.org/resources/article/pay-gap-faqs/>.

Elena

Membership Corner

Meet Dennisse Santana:

I am a retired 3rd Grade Teacher of 22 years from Alhambra Unified School District. I spent 13 years in Early Childhood Education as a Teacher & a Director of two Preschools before I earned my BA in Child Development & CA Multiple Subject Credential at CSULA.

I love spending time with my family; my husband of 40 years, 3 married children with college degrees, their spouses, 2 wonderful grandsons & 1 adorable granddaughter. I am fortunate to provide childcare for two of the youngest grandchildren in the comfort of my home.

My other interests include camping, walking, biking, crafting, and when time permits, I will once again be quilting.

I joined this group because I feel strongly that Girls' and Women's self-worth needs to continually be promoted, and I want to be able to help improve their access to an education that may enhance their decision-making at all levels. I will also support efforts that can eliminate inequalities; establish equal participation at all levels of Girls' & Women's public life. I strive to assist in closing the gender gap in Girls' & Women's earnings when compared to men's once and for all (hopefully in my lifetime).

I look forward to making a difference in our community's future Women leaders.



Letty

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.





LATEST NEWS-Karen Manelis from Washington State is California's New Tech Trek Program Director. Karen comes with a lot of experience as she was the TT Program Director for Washington State. She was also very involved in AAUW California in positions of leadership. Karen will be a capable Director for Tech Trek California and we look forward to working with her.

Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch is planning to send our Tech Trek campers to Whittier College for an in-person camp June 19-June 25th depending on the status of the pandemic. If an in-person camp is not possible, a virtual camp will be offered to the selected girls.

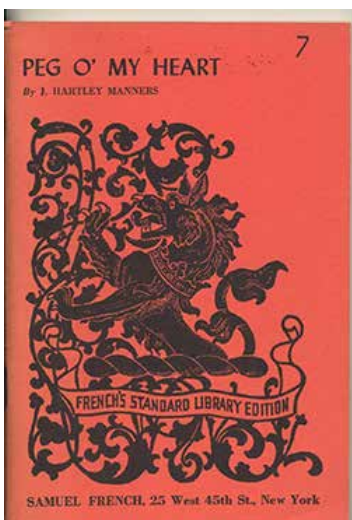
The nomination, application, selection and registration process will once again be online. It will be a hybrid of the program used last year (for Memorandum of Understanding, nomination and application processes) and new software for camp registration (once campers are selected). Sponsorship fees for in-person camp will be \$950 per girl and \$500 per girl should the camp be virtual. The names of selected campers are due April 15th. Both Tech Trek North and Tech Trek South will be contacting schools soon.

Due to health concerns, both Tech Trek North and South committees have decided not to participate in Pasadena Showcase House this year. It is one of our biggest fundraising events for both groups. We would encourage our members to support this event April 24-May 22. The house is in South Pasadena after 40 years. You can go to their website for more information at pasadenashowcase.org.

Thanks to all Tech Trek committee members for the hard work they do to make the Tech Trek Program a success for our Branch. Committee members look forward to selecting the most deserving girls to attend the 2022 camp.

Lilia and Rozanne

Drama



Drama will meet March 14, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. over Zoom to read Peg O' My Heart by J. Hartley Manners (comedy 5m/4f)

Peg, a poor Irish girl living in New York, becomes an heiress by the death of her uncle, and is called to England to be reared by an aristocratic aunt. She is like a duck out of water in these surroundings, but she wins her way and also a worthy Englishman named Jerry. An early 20th-century long-running Broadway hit that featured Laurette Taylor (the author's wife) in a star-making performance as 'Peg'.

BOOKS

Day Books will meet Wednesday, March 16, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom to review The Lions of Fifth Avenue by Fiona Davis.



It's 1913, and on the surface, Laura Lyons couldn't ask for more out of life--her husband is the superintendent of the New York Public Library, allowing their family to live in an apartment within the grand building, and they are blessed with two children. But headstrong, passionate Laura wants more, and when she takes a leap of faith and applies to the Columbia Journalism School, her world is cracked

wide open. As her studies take her all over the city, she finds herself drawn to Greenwich Village's new bohemia, where she discovers the Heterodoxy Club--a radical, all-female group in which women are encouraged to loudly share their opinions on suffrage, birth control, and women's rights. Soon, Laura finds herself questioning her traditional role as wife and mother. But when valuable books are stolen back at the library, threatening the home and institution she loves, she's forced to confront her shifting priorities head on . . . and may just lose everything in the process.

Eighty years later, in 1993, Sadie Donovan struggles with the legacy of her grandmother, the famous essayist Laura Lyons, especially after she's wrangled her dream job as a curator at the New York Public Library. But the job quickly becomes a nightmare when rare manuscripts, notes, and books for the exhibit Sadie's running begin disappearing from the library's famous Berg Collection. Determined to save both the exhibit and her career, the typically risk-adverse Sadie teams up with a private security expert to uncover the culprit. However, things unexpectedly become personal when the investigation leads Sadie to some unwelcome truths about her own family heritage--truths that shed new light on the biggest tragedy in the library's history.

Evening Books will meet Monday, March 28, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. The book to be reviewed has not been selected at press time.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

Elaine Johnson, Director and *Janice Lee*, DEI Committee Co-Chairs diversity@aauw-ca.org

Submitted by **Lenore Gallin**, DEI committee member
DO UNCONSCIOUS BIASES AFFECT YOUR LIFE?

While it is well known that people do not always speak their minds, exploring implicit or unconscious bias helps us realize that people do not always know their own minds. Implicit bias refers to the attribution of certain qualities to members of a particular group. Because these biases operate almost entirely on an [unconscious level](#), they are different from prejudices that are intentional and controllable. It is not uncommon for someone to express support for a certain group, behavior, or belief while maintaining the opposite biases on a more unconscious level. Furthermore, implicit biases may not align with the personal identity an individual presents to the public. People can hold positive or negative associations toward their own group and oppose or align themselves with their oppressors or the oppressors of other groups.

The phenomenon of *colorism* or *skin tone bias* helps us understand how an implicit/unconscious bias for lighter skin affects equity and inclusion in a racially and culturally diverse society. In the aftermath of Black Lives Matter protests, for example, we continue to face the widespread phenomenon of *colorism*. Unlike racial bias, where individuals of one race oppose members of another race, *colorism* can be observed among members of the same ethnic or racial group.

CNN has weighed in on this issue with a new series called "White Lies," which investigates skin whitening practices and the industry that profits from *colorism*. As often happens with *implicit/unconscious bias*, people fail to recognize the contradictory messages that occur when companies virtue-signaling their commitment to Black and Brown lives are manufacturing and marketing products associating lighter skin with privilege, prosperity, and desirability.

Understanding the nature of implicit bias and self-realization promotes meaningful interactions with people of diverse backgrounds and physical characteristics. Opportunities to see others as individuals, not stereotypes, helps to reveal affinities in the differences between people and to build tolerance and understanding through familiarity. The rewards come in new acquaintances, fresh ideas, more successful problem solving, and the prospect of a more inclusive and equitable world view.

We urge everyone to take the Harvard Implicit Association Test by clicking [HERE](#). It is a great first step in recognizing we all have implicit biases.

The State DEI Committee means what it says about the importance of "inclusion!" The appointment of a Diversity point person in each branch ensures that we hear your voices and enlists your support in AAUW's bold move to build a more diverse, inclusive, and equitable organization in California.

ACTIVITIES

Tap into the Fun!

New faces, and used ones, are always welcomed.

Join Us!

Board Meeting Monday, March 7th 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 March 9th at Limericks Tavern, 300 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, March 16th at 2:00 PM on Zoom. See page 6 for the book. Contact Kathleen Doty for access code.

Evening Books will meet Monday, March 28th at 7 PM on Zoom. The book has not yet been chosen. Contact Deanna Arthur for access code.



Every Member Event: Hope to see you at Brave, Resilient Women on March 19th at 10:15 AM, Church of Our Savior, Cleaver Hall, 535 W. Roses Rd., San Gabriel, CA 91775. Details on page 1.

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, March 14th for cold readings of the play described on page 5. 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, March 5th, 11:00 AM, at Kathleen's Restaurant, 595 N. Lake Ave., Pasadena. RSVP to Lilia Hall by March 2nd.

Restaurant Gourmets will gather March 19th 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 March 2nd (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) (https://my.lwv.org/california/pasadena/article/zoom-tips#.XzMUWd-Vc6bo.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](#)