



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

The Mission Gateway

President's Push



Joe DesBarres

As I contemplated the first column of the 2022-23 Program year, I was struck by how tumultuous these past few years have been. Who could have predicted what we have seen: A presidential election that some have never accepted and are still seeking to overturn; a rise in white supremacists, and

their new rendition, Christian Nationalists; an assault on the U.S. Capitol in an attempt to prevent a congressional certification of the aforementioned presidential election; a nation starkly divided; and, finally, in this abridged listing of threats to democracy, a defined threat to the health and welfare of women's reproductive rights owing to the Supreme Court's overturn of Roe v Wade.

With the foregoing as backdrop, our work to advocate for women and girls could not be more needed and important. Now is the time for "all hands on deck." It will take a united effort to preserve our current rights and responsibilities while continuing the fight to guarantee that each woman, not the government, determines decisions affecting her body.

This year will see an election whose outcome may presage further erosion of human rights such as those accorded to

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JOIN US!!!

Our First **In-Person** Regular Meeting in 2 ½ Years!

Come meet new members, reconnect with old friends and make new friends. Bring a dinner with you if you want to sit down and break bread with your friends or just share a cookie and some punch if you are so inclined.

The evening will be jam packed with information. There will be interest group chairs/representatives to tell us all about what their groups do, when they meet, and more. In addition, there will be a short business meeting **and** a presentation about the ballot propositions.

I know that you will all have questions about what our branch members do in their interest groups. You will also want to be prepared to vote – it is almost time! Be prepared to have your curiosity satisfied. I am sure there will be a lot of interest as we proceed gently into the future.

See you at

The First United Methodist Church of San Gabriel
201 N. San Gabriel Blvd., San Gabriel
Fellowship Hall
September 12, 2022
Meeting at 7:00 PM

Joe Des Barres, President • Marilee Wood, Secretary • Cheryl Plotkin, Treasurer • Kathleen Doty, Newsletter Editor
Deanna Arthur, Program VP • Leticia Peralta, AAUW Fund VP • Veronica Alvarez, Membership VP

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...

LGBTQ individuals, same-sex couples, immigrants, and perhaps, even interracial marriages.

Our own Branch works to protect, preserve and defend (we call it *advocacy for women and girls*), human rights; calls on each of us to have “skin in the game”. There are opportunities galore to speak our individual and collective voices. Many of our members have already been engaged in letter/postcard writing, donating funds to advocacy groups, and actively involved in events to make their voices heard.

In this coming year, I see our involvement with our Tech Trek girls expanding beyond sending them to camp. Research tells us that young women think about and decide on their career path during middle and high school. We have a fantastic Tech Trek program to engage their career-thinking following 7th grade. **Now we need to continue our involvement beginning with 8th grade through high school.** Offering our Trekkers our continued contact and interest in their educational journey/career choice is but one way to continue our vision of advocacy. Some AAUW branches use a mentor/mentee model. Others continue contact with a committee approach. Yet others offer educational programs or help fund such programs with a participating sponsor. I'm sure there are other models or ways to achieve the development of a sustainable Tech Trek legacy. Please join me in a dialog about how we might augment the work of our North and South Tech Trek Committees. I welcome your ideas, suggestions and comments at joedesbarres@gmail.com and will create a Zoom Focus Group for interested members to discuss.

Please read this Mission Gateway to find all that our Branch is working on and working toward. It will be a busy and consequential year. Achieving our Mission and Vision simply needs all of us to be Bold, Brave and Brilliant!

We can act and achieve—YES, WE CAN!

Joe

Membership Corner

Hello Members,

I just want to send out a quick note to introduce myself. My name is Veronica L. Alvarez. I am new to the Board of Directors and am the 2022-2023 Membership Vice-President. I am an attorney (over 25 years, time does fly) and have a generalized practice area. I am always aspiring to learn new avenues in the legal profession and strive to inspire women and girls to realize the value of education. This is my first year with AAUW and I am ready to jump into my new position and help develop new and creative ways to support our membership. Please do bear with me while I learn more about AAUW, membership responsibilities and how I can better serve you all. I look forward to speaking and meeting all of you in person. Please be on the lookout for our monthly Meet-Up which will take place on the second Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. and our Orientation meeting for new members so they can get a firsthand look at all the wonderful events, programs, and clubs that our branch offers.

It was a pleasure meeting some of you at our wine tasting event that occurred on August 27, 2022. A shout out and heartfelt thank you to Kathleen Doty for opening her home to us.

For those unable to attend, looking forward to seeing all of you at our September meeting.

Our first meet-up will be on September 8, 2022, at Limericks Tavern located at 300 W. Main Street, Alhambra at 6:00 p.m.

Cheers to a promising 2022-2023 year, inspiring a new generation of women and men.

Veronica

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

The Gourmet Gala with Kathleen and Her Sister 2022-2023, benefitting the Fund, is off to a great start. I am happy to report that 4 individuals grouped together to pay \$500, guaranteeing a dinner! Chances in the drawing for another dinner will be available until the April meeting. Get yours now - you may be a winner!

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 13th (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 17, 2023**. 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.



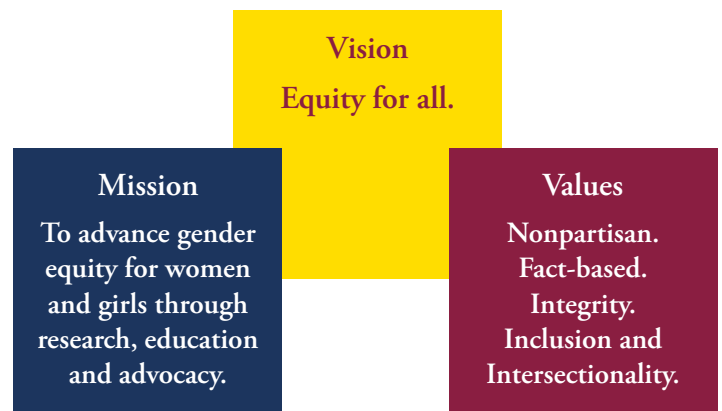
Brave, Resilient Women Promotional Clip

WOW, it's been a while since the March Readers Theater performance, but it is "gone but not forgotten". I have finally received the 3-minute promotional clip that offers just a hint of what was offered at the 1- hour performance before a live audience. Here is the link to that clip. Please feel free to share it with any group or organization (school, library, women's club, etc.) that might be interested in purchasing the "video" at a nominal fee of \$10.00 and slightly more if a script is enclosed.

Thank you,

Betty

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M-hYLn8Mpms>





Update from Tech Trek

The good news: We were able to participate in Tech Trek (TT) programs this past summer.

Between TT South and TT North, we sent 18 7th grade girls [going into 8th grade] to either the residential or virtual camps during. We had 11 girls attend Whittier College for a week and 7 girls attend one of two virtual camps. Both camps had exciting activities to keep the girls engaged and learning about future job opportunities in the STEM fields.

The new CA Tech Trek program director has been appointed – Mary Issac, better known as “Dr. Mimi” – I have worked with her on the virtual camps these past two years and she has incredible energy and enthusiasm. 2023 should be a great year for Tech Trek. She stated recently that 639 campers from 94 branches participated in the 2022 Tech Trek program.

The October AAUW membership luncheon meeting will be high lighting the girls experiences at the Tech Trek camps. The date is Saturday, October 15th. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us. [see below to register]

Both TT South and TT North will begin in the fall with fundraising activities. Then the recruitment and selection process will follow for the 2023 Tech Trek program.

A parent sent me a ‘thank you’ card – it says it all: “Our daughter had a wonderful experience at camp. She had the biggest smile when asked how she like it. It was priceless”

Hope to see many of you at the October 15th membership meeting.

Jane Krause
Tech Trek South Program Coordinator

Jane

AAUW Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch
Registration for October 15th

Tech Trek Campers to tell us about their experiences

Place: Church of the Good Shepherd
400 W. Duarte Road
Arcadia, CA

11:30 am – doors open at 11:15 am

Masks will be required

Deadline to register: October 4th

Name: _____

Cost: \$10.00 [Subway box lunch will be provided]

Check enclosed

Will pay at the door

Send to: Cheryl Plotkin

Email: caplotkin62@gmail.com

Address: 201 S Golden West Ave
Arcadia, CA 91007

In California, Abortion Could Become a Constitutional Right. So Could Birth Control.

(Excerpted)--By Rachel Bluth (Courtesy of Kaiser Health News)

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Californians will decide in November whether to lock the right to abortion into the state constitution.

If they vote “yes” on [Proposition 1](#), they will also lock in a right that has gotten less attention: the right to birth control. Should the measure succeed, California would become one of the first states — if not the first — to create explicit constitutional rights to both abortion and contraception.

The lawmakers and activists behind the constitutional amendment said they hope to score a one-two punch: protect abortion in California after the U.S. Supreme Court ended the federal constitutional right to abortion under *Roe v. Wade*, and get ahead of what they see as the next front in the reproductive rights fight: birth control.

“The United States Supreme Court said that the privacy and liberty protections in the United States Constitution did not extend to abortion,” said UCLA law professor Cary Franklin, an expert in constitutional law and reproductive rights who has testified before the California legislature in support of the amendment. “If they said ‘no’ on abortion, they’re probably going to say ‘no’ on birth control because that has a similar history.”

In June, the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* ended the federal right to abortion and left states to regulate the service. [In his concurring opinion](#), Justice Clarence Thomas said the court should revisit other cases that have created protections for Americans based on an implicit right to privacy in the U.S. Constitution, such as [the 1965 case](#) *Griswold v. Connecticut*, which established a federal right to contraception for married people — which was later extended to unmarried people.

In California, Proposition 1 would prevent the state from denying or interfering with “an individual’s reproductive freedom in their most intimate decisions, which includes their fundamental right to choose to have an abortion and their fundamental right to choose or refuse contraceptives.”

The proposed constitutional amendment doesn’t go into detail about what enshrining the right to contraception in the state constitution would mean.

California already has some of the strongest contraceptive-access laws in the country — and lawmakers are considering more proposals this year. For instance, state-regulated health plans must cover all FDA-approved contraception; pharmacists [must dispense emergency contraception](#) to anyone with a prescription, regardless of age; and pharmacists can [prescribe birth control](#) pills on the spot. State courts have also interpreted California’s constitution to include a right to privacy that covers reproductive health decisions.

The amendment, if adopted, could provide a new legal pathway for people to sue when they’re denied contraceptives, said Michele Goodwin, chancellor’s professor of law at the University of California-Irvine. If a pharmacist refused to fill a birth control prescription or a cashier declined to ring up condoms, she said, customers could make a case that their rights had been violated.

Making the rights to abortion and contraception explicit in the state constitution — instead of relying on a right to privacy — would also protect against shifting political winds, said state Senate leader Toni Atkins (D-San Diego), who was the director of a women’s health clinic in the 1980s.

This story was produced by [KHN](#), which publishes [California Healthline](#), an editorially independent service of the [California Health Care Foundation](#). [KHN](#) (Kaiser Health News) is a national newsroom that produces in-depth programs at [KFF](#) (Kaiser Family Foundation). [KFF](#) is an endowed nonprofit organization providing information on journalism about health issues. Together with Policy Analysis and Polling, [KHN](#) is one of the three major operating health issues to the nation.

Elena

When Women Vote, We Change the Conversation!

Courtesy of Ginny Hatfield, AAUW Public Policy Committee

Since 1881, AAUW has been a leading voice promoting education and equity for women and girls. AAUW encourages women voters to get involved in the political process and gain a better understanding of the impact legislative action can have on our lives.

The recent US Supreme Court *Dobbs* decision on abortion has stimulated action in many states across the nation, including California. Our legislature passed and Governor Newsom signed AB1666 which will enable a woman coming into California to receive an abortion to be protected from lawsuits originating in her home state. This bill was co-sponsored by AAUW CA! A further step protecting a woman's right to make personal medical decisions is a Constitutional Amendment, Proposition 1, which will be on the November 8 ballot. It would amend the California Constitution to prohibit the state from denying or interfering with an individual's reproductive freedom in her most intimate decisions, which includes the fundamental right to choose to have an abortion and the fundamental right to choose or refuse contraceptives. AAUW CA supports this Constitutional Amendment.

Congressional races are particularly important this November. Redistricting after the 2020 Census has changed the boundaries of many Congressional districts. In the current partisan climate, we need to be aware of what is at stake in both our national and state upcoming elections. Your current member of Congress may no longer represent you – be sure to become informed soon on the candidates for Congress in your district. As you sort through all this, please reflect on priority issues affecting us, our daughters, and granddaughters, and evaluate candidates' positions on these issues.

If you are a leader in your branch, make your October program a focus on the election. You may want to consider a Candidates Night. Before a partisan election, AAUW branches may host candidate forums to which **all** major-party candidates in that election are invited. AAUW branches with 501(c)(4) status must make a thorough and good faith effort to ensure the participation of at least two candidates for a specific office but may proceed with a forum if only one candidate accepts. AAUW branches with 501(c)(3) status may only proceed with a candidate forum event if at least two candidates have accepted the invitation.

Here are resources to get helpful, non-partisan information:

- AAUW CA website: aauw-ca.org Public Policy section will soon have more detail on priority issues and questions to ask of candidates.
- AAUW website: aauw.org/policy/advocacy/tool-kit Ideas for branch activities, C/U partners, and specifics for 501 c 3 and 501 c 4 branches.
- CA Secretary of State website: www.sos.ca.gov voter info, Ballot Initiatives.
- State and County Voter guides – mailed to all registered voters in October.
- www.wedrawthelinesca.org – maps of newly re-drawn congressional districts

Register to vote, if you haven't already! And if you have recently moved you need to update your information with your County Registrar of Voters! Voting is a powerful tool to bring about change!

Elena

AAUW Alhambra-San Gabriel / East L A College
Scholarship

Surama Yajaira Peña Reyes

At ELAC's recent Scholarship awards gathering, branch president Joe DesBarres presented our Spring 2022, \$500 scholarship to an Alhambra High School graduate, **Surama Yajaira Peña Reyes**. She ran cross-country in high school and always encouraged herself and her teammates to "finish strong". She continued this same attitude as a 3.23 GPA Mathematics major at ELAC and will graduate this Spring in order to continue on her academic path towards being a Neurosurgeon. Surama is a first-generation immigrant who appreciates what her family did to support her throughout her life, especially with helping when they could, to help with her and her brother's education. She intends to return with her degree and do the same for her community. She says of herself, *I am a fighter when it comes to my education, [and] no matter what obstacles come my way, I will always overcome them.*

Information on how you can support other students such as Surama to enter into STEM fields will appear in a subsequent *Mission Gateway* article. When asked, please consider donating any amount with which you feel comfortable as a way to continue helping deserving entry level college students achieve their academic goals and to continue our AAUW presence in the communities that our Alhambra-San Gabriel branch serves.

Betty Morin



BOOKS

Day Books will meet Wednesday, September 21, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. to review our summer reading and select books for the coming months.

Evening Books has not set a date for September. Contact Deanna Arthur for more information.

Drama

Drama gatherings will be on the 2nd Monday of each month. Information about plays to be read and whether there will be 8 or 10 plays this year is not known at press time. Contact Kathleen Doty for more information.

I Need Input!

In selecting the author for this year's luncheon. I would love to hear from YOU.

I have several suggestions but in the spirit of branch cohesiveness, I would love to hear your suggestions (those that are reasonable). Don't think Michelle Obama or Hillary Clinton are in our budget.

If you don't know by now, you can reach me at 626-818-6536 or deannaaauw@gmail.com.

Deanna

ACTIVITIES

Tap into the Fun!

New faces, and used ones, are always welcomed.

Join Us!

Board Meeting Tuesday, September 6th via Zoom at 7:00 PM. (Note *change of day* due to Labor Day Holiday.) 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 Thursday September 8th at Limericks Tavern, 300 W. Main St., Alhambra. Details can be found on Meetup, or call Veronica or Deanna closer to the date.



Day Books will meet Wednesday, September 21st at 2:00 PM. Contact Kathleen Doty for access code.

Evening Books has not set a date for September yet. Contact Deanna Arthur for more information.



Every Member Event: Hope to see you at the branch meeting on September 12th at 7 PM. 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 on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. for cold readings of the play for the month. At press time it is unknown whether there will be a play in September. 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 not gather in September. October gathering is in planning stages.

Restaurant Gourmets will gather September 24th at 6 p.m., at Luciano's, 117 W. California Blvd., Pasadena. RSVP to Deanna Arthur. Seating is limited and they do not take reservations.



Creative Crafters will gather via Zoom on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 3:00 pm. Upcoming dates are: September 7th, October 5th, and November 2nd. 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](#)