



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

The Mission Gateway

PRESIDENT’S PUSH

AAUW Branch Members,

Although there is **NO** general membership meeting in February, AAUW National would like to bring your attention to two upcoming webinars hosted by AAUW committee leaders. Both webinars are open to all members!



Joe DesBarres

“By helping others, we help ourselves.” Reading this now—in the world we inhabit—illuminates AAUW’s continuing relevance over its 142-year history.

AAUW’s female founders determined to take a stand for equity and equality in the extreme patriarchal society of their time. Their

unwavering commitment to ad-

vocate for and educate women and girls remains steadfast in our fractured and divided world.

Here at home (THINK Globally, ACT Locally) we can continue the AAUW Commitment through our AAUW Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch Scholarship at East Los Angeles College (ELAC). It offers a financial stimulus to women pursuing STEM careers who will transfer to a 4-year institution.

Thank you to our members who have contributed, some multiple times. It continues our long-standing STEM commitment through Tech Trek, an emblematic program our Branch has embraced for 25 years and counting.

Start your tradition to support STEM EDUCATION!
Donate to our Branch Scholarship at ELAC
Open only to Local High School Grads!

Inclusion in Practice: How AAUW’s Policies and Practices Promote Inclusion

Jan. 31, 2024 07:00 PM Eastern

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Ih-HjiqZARNmRqdXSR9KxFQ

Please join us Wednesday, January 31, at 7:00 pm ET for the AAUW National Inclusion & Equity Committee webinar on inclusion policies and practices. The webinar is designed to aid local branches and states as they explore various national policies and bylaws of AAUW national, featuring the resources available in AAUW’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Toolkit. The webinar provides an informative look at several national policies and practices, including the soon-to-be-announced member civility policy. Please join us!

School Boards: The Battleground for the Education Culture Wars

Feb. 7, 2024 07:00 PM Eastern

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Y2RuiP5PSNuey04jKNymAA

Across the country, we have seen school boards, and candidates for school boards, taking up controversial policies that have led to banning books from school libraries; the censorship of curriculum in school classrooms due to individuals finding content “objectionable”; and policies leading to

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Joe Des Barres, President • Marilee Wood, Secretary • Tiffany White, Treasurer • Kathleen Doty, Newsletter Editor
 Jackie Fisher and Lavonne Sherman, Co-Program VP • Deanna Arthur, 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...

You Can Donate Online or By US Mail:

1. Type: elacfoundation.com in your Browser (click return)
2. click on *Donate (at top of your screen)*
3. click on *Scholarship Donations* (to your right, a drop-down menu will list scholarships)
4. click on *AAUW Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch Scholarship*
5. *Follow the prompts to complete your scholarship donation.*

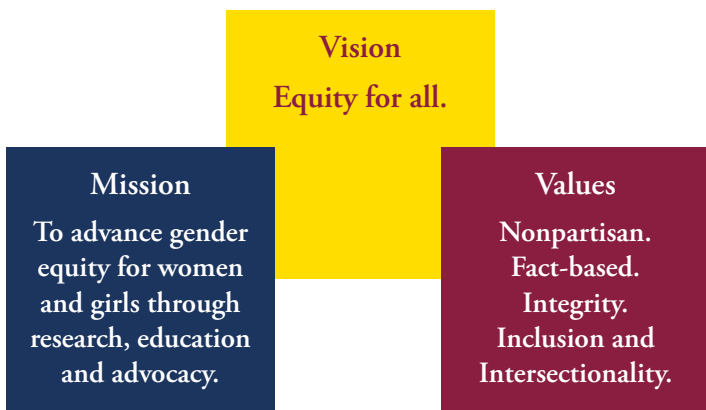
OR—

1. Write your Check Payable to: *East Los Angeles College Foundation*
2. Write on memo line: *Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch Scholarship*
3. US Mail to: *1301 Avenida Cesar Chavez, Monterey Park, CA 91754*

Thank you for helping launch the Next Generation of Women **S**cientists, **T**echnologists, **E**ngineers, and **M**athematicians

Our commitment continues from our founding in 1881.

Joe



Webinars continued from Page 1

the prevention of safe school climates for students of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Please join us Wednesday, February 7 at 7:00 pm ET for an AAUW National Public Policy Committee webinar to learn how one AAUW state board is fighting back and what you can do locally.

Thank you for all you do to advance gender equity.

Robin J. Lucas (she/her)

Grassroots Advocacy Manager

American Association of University Women (AAUW)

1310 L St. NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20005

202.785.7720 | www.aauw.org



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.

Membership Corner

Members:

We all have busy lives and many of us have multiple commitments. My challenge to each of you newer members for 2024 is to push yourselves to offer your skills and talents to our branch.

At AAUW, we believe in the power of collective effort and the ability of individuals, like yourself, to drive positive change. Your involvement strengthens our ability to fulfill our mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

As a member of AAUW, you are part of a community of like-minded individuals who share a common vision. We encourage open communication, collaboration and innovation as we work together towards our shared goals.

We are always looking for fresh eyes and new ideas to bring energy and inspiration to our branch.

Our next meet up will be on February 15, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at Chonitos located at 2505 W. Valley Blvd., Alhambra. Please join us and bring a friend, who like you, believe in the empowerment and advancement of women and girls, and to learn more about AAUW.

Membership matters. Please join us.

Veronica

AAUW Fund

Lots of news on the Fund front!

The Fund meeting will be March 16th, 2024 at the First United Methodist Church – Reminding you early so you don't give the date away.

We are heading into nomination season for Fund recognition. Is there anyone that has been overlooked? Is there a new face in the crowd that we want to encourage?

If there is someone exceptional (I know this is all our members), please share their name with me.

What is a Branch Named Gift Honoree? A Named Gift is a special way to pay tribute to an individual, group, or an organization giving extraordinary service to an AAUW branch. There are so many names that come to my mind.

The State also honors 1 member each year as a State Named Gift Honoree. If anyone wants help with a nomination form, please let me know. It works better if we work together.

Thanks for being there for the Fund. It makes me smile to think that AAUW will be giving Fellowships long after I have left the earthly plane. It is a gift that keeps on giving.

Looking forward to seeing you for fun and fellowship in March.

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 11th (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 27, 2024. 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.



Is There a Hidden Agenda Behind the “Parents’ Rights” Movement?

Kathi Harper, chair AAUW California Public Policy School Board Project Committee

We members of the AAUW California Public Policy School Board Project sub-committee frequently come across materials from groups advocating for book-banning, curriculum censorship, and policies which negatively impact the lives of LGBTQ+ students, in the name of “Parent’s Rights.” For example, the House of Representatives recently passed H.R. 5, the “Parents Bill of Rights Act.” Eight governors have signed legislation with similar titles.

H.R. 5 establishes the rights of parents to, among other things: review curriculum; inspect the books and other reading materials in the school library; be advised of policies that permit transgender girls to compete on female athletic teams or use bathrooms or lockers designated for females; and provide consent before a school may use their child’s chosen name or pronouns on forms, or change the child’s sex-based accommodations. Many of the state laws noted above require the removal of “inappropriate” materials upon the objection of a single person.

AAUW California recognizes that not all our members will find these policies objectionable. And to be sure, most of our members would agree with this statement from PEN America, a human rights and free expression organization: “There is no question that parents deserve a say in shaping their children’s educations; that they have a moral and legal responsibility for their children, and the freedom to make fundamental decisions for their families.” (Suzanne Nossel, PEN America CEO, [Time Sept. 20, 2022](#).)

However, legitimate questions are raised when one parent’s “right” to control what *their* child reads and learns collides with another parent’s right to ensure their child has access to a broad and diverse range of educational materials. Or when a parent’s “right” to know if their child confides to a teacher regarding a sexual identity unknown to the parent collides with the student’s right to privacy. Or when one parent’s “right” to ensure her daughter doesn’t play on the same team as a transgender girl collides with that girl’s right to partake in all the same activities as other girls, or to feel safe in the campus environment.

AAUW California advocates for a diverse curriculum in our schools, as well as the protection of all forms of gender identity and expression. It is a cause of concern when the rallying cry of “parents’ rights” is, as stated by PEN America, “wielded to do far more than give parents their rightful voice; it is turning public schools into political battle grounds, fracturing communities, and diverting time and energy away from teaching and learning.” Additionally, according to the National Education Association (NEA), H.R. 5 “ignores the breadth of parental engagement” that already exists, “disregards educator experience and expertise” and “inserts the government into local decisions.”

PEN America worries that the current emphasis on working with schools for the betterment of the child has been replaced with a parental focus on wanting to impose their personal beliefs – moral, religious, and/or political – on the entire education system. As an organization founded on the principal of expanding educational opportunities, we might all heed Suzanne Nossel’s final words in her *Time* article: “The phrase ‘parents’ rights’ may have a nice ring to it, but the agenda now afoot in its name should sound alarms for all those who care about the future of public education.”

Read more at: [Pen.org](#), [Nea.org](#)

Elena

Tech Trek Campers Present to Women's Club

Two poised and confident eighth grade girls from Brightwood School in Monterey Park highlighted their once-in-a-lifetime experiences at Tech Trek Stem camp this past summer. Members of Monterey Park Women's Club were delighted to hear their presentations. during their general meeting at the Monterey Park Service Club on Jan 10, 2024.

Alina Ramos shared about the residential camp at Whittier College and explained that her area of focus was aerospace. She recalled wearing an astronaut suit and how heavy the helmet was. Virtual camper, Nina Ramos Branicio, attributed her growing interest in STEM to the women presenters in the on-line program. Jane Krause, Tech Trek South coordinator, guided the girls in structuring their shares.

Stanford University housed the first Tech Trek camp in 1998. Today, California Tech Trek has fourteen camps at colleges and universities throughout California and offers the Virtual Tech Trek program, begun in 2020. Our branch extends both these opportunities to seventh grade girls from Alhambra, San Gabriel, Monterey Park, Montebello and Bell Gardens schools.

The Tech Trek committees will choose fifteen girls this year to attend the residential camp at Whittier College which costs \$1200 and the Virtual camp which cost \$500. The Monterey Park Women's Club has again graciously donated \$1800 for camp scholarships.

Media contact: Jackie Fisher, 626-808-3528, jackiestories@gmail.com



Left to Right: Oriana Chan, 1st Vice Pres., Alina Ramos, Jane Krause, Nina Ramos Branicio, Katherine Torres, Pres.



TECH TREK NEWS

Tech Trek South and Tech Trek North have been in the "fundraising mode" getting ready for the 2024 summer camps.

We are hoping by the end of January we will be able to contact all our schools with the process for nominating the girls for this year. CampDocs [the digital program that we will be using for the second year is not quite ready with updated information].

Tech Trek South: Jane was invited once again to give a presentation at the Monterey Park Women's Club. She invited two campers from Brightwood School. One attended the residential program at Whittier College and the other was a virtual camper.

Tech Trek North: The TT North See's Fundraiser raised over \$800.00 for camperships for 2024. Thanks to everyone who supported our fundraiser. Rozanne has contacted Pasadena Showcase House of Design to help TT North raise money to send girls to camp. We will be paid \$50.00 for each shift. AAUW Alhambra-San Gabriel used to work for Showcase. Rozanne should find out soon if we will be part of the volunteers at Showcase. In addition, Barbara Shannon planned an all day fundraiser at Rubio's Coastal Grill on January 17th in the Paseo Pasadena. 30% of the money raised will go to TT North to send girls to camp. Thanks to everyone who supported the fundraiser.

Tech Trek announced that there will be no camp at University of California [UCSB], we are hoping this does not reduce the campers that we will be allowed to have in our program this year.

Happy New Year to you and your families.

Jane Krause
TT South Coordinator

Rozanne Child
TT North Coordinator

SAVE THE DATE...

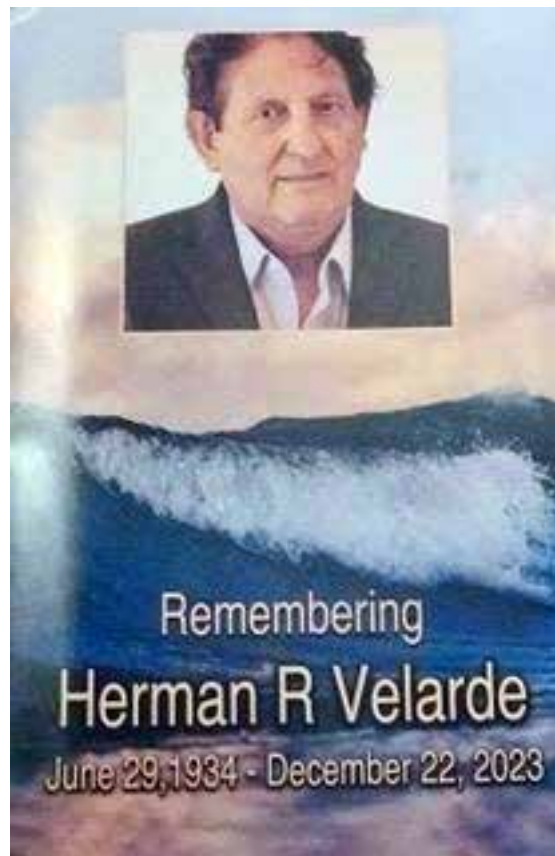
The Los Angeles County Inter-Branch Council (LACIC) will be meeting in person in March to advocate for the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). You'll learn about the history and attempts by legislators to pass the proposed amendment and get it ratified. There's lots of legal controversy surrounding its passage and the current attempts to get it enrolled in the Constitution as the 28th amendment. Zoe Nicholson, a one-women history about all things ERA, will be on hand to walk us through. Mark your calendars for **Sunday, March 10th, 2:00 pm**, social hall, **Alhambra First United Methodist Church**. Stay tuned next month for more details.

Deanna

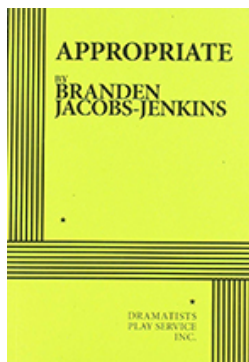
Remembering Herman R Velarde **Alhambra-San Gabriel AAUW Branch Member since 2018**

Our Best Friend passed away on December 22, 2023. He was surrounded by his beloved Family and Friends. Herm was into his 90th year. He was Father to Son Steve and Daughter Valerie. He was an extraordinary and well-loved Elementary School Teacher and Secondary Counselor. He worked hard and loved helping others. He loved America. He always strove to do the right thing. He was generous and caring and loved us unconditionally. He loved the Arts. His mind and heart were expansive. He volunteered generously whenever there was a need. We will forever carry him within us. He was very proud of being an AAUW member and faithfully wore his badge to all the meetings we attended together. We will always remember Herman.
His legacy is great. He walked in the Light.

Elena Velarde & Joe Des Barres



DRAMA

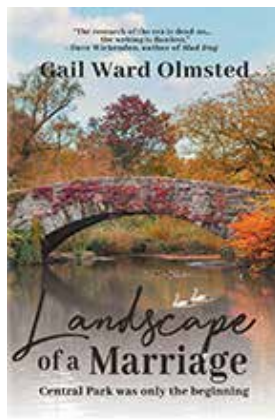


Drama group will gather February 12th at 7:00 p.m. to read Appropriate by Brandon Jacobs-Jenkins.

Every estranged member of the Lafayette clan has descended upon the crumbling Arkansas homestead to settle the accounts of the newly-dead patriarch. As his three adult children sort through a lifetime of hoarded mementos and junk, they collide over clutter, debt, and a contentious family history. But after a disturbing discovery surfaces among their father's possessions, the reunion takes a turn for the explosive, unleashing a series of crackling surprises and confrontations. Winner of the 2014–2015 Obie Award for Best New American Play.

BOOKS

Day Books will meet Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. The book to be reviewed is Landscape of a Marriage by Gail Ward Olmsted.



A marriage of convenience leads to a life of passion and purpose. A shared vision transforms the American landscape forever.

New York, 1858: Mary, a young widow with three children, agrees to marry her brother-in-law Frederick Law Olmsted, who is acting on his late brother's deathbed plea to "not let Mary suffer". But she craves more than a marriage of convenience and sets out to win her husband's love. Beginning with Central Park in New York City, Mary joins Fred on his quest to create a 'beating green heart' in the center of every urban space.

Over the next 40 years, Fred is inspired to create dozens of city parks, private estates and public spaces with Mary at his side. Based upon real people and true events, this is the story of Mary's journey and personal growth and the challenges inherent in loving a brilliant and ambitious man.

Evening Books will meet February 26, 2024 at 7:00 pm.. The book for review has not been selected as of press time.

ACTIVITIES

Tap into the Fun!

New faces, and used ones, are always welcomed.
Join Us!

Board Meeting - Next Board meeting March 2, 2024, 10:00-11:30 AM, in person. Open to all members. Contact Joe DesBarres for more information.

Meetup - February 15, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at Chonitos located at 2505 W. Valley Blvd., Alhambra. Details can be found on Meetup, or call Veronica or Deanna for more information.



Day Books will meet Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 1:00 PM. Book info on page 7. Contact Kathleen Doty for more information.

Evening Books will meet Monday, February 26th at 7:00 PM. Book has not yet been selected. Contact Deanna Arthur for more information.



Every Member Event: None in February. Consider joining one of the webinars described 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 Monday, February 12th at 7:00 p.m. for a cold reading of the play of the month. Play info on page 7. For more information, contact Kathleen Doty.



Professional Women Gourmets will gather February 3, 2024. Hostess is Lyda Chee.

Restaurant Gourmets will meet Saturday, February 17th at Shinano's, 1106 S. Atlantic Blvd., Monterey Park. Contact Deanna Arthur for reservations, please.



Creative Crafters will gather via Zoom on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 3:00 pm. Upcoming dates are: February 7th and March 6th. 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)

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.

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](#)