



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

The Mission Gateway

PRESIDENT'S PUSH



Joe DesBarres

Dear Partner Advocates for Women and Girls,

As the year ends, I thank each one of you, our Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch Members, for all you have done to engage with our Local Communities. It is through Community Involvement that we will attract new advocates. This past

year attests to this as we have

welcomed several new members aspiring to join our activism efforts.

Please plan to attend our Author's Luncheon on Saturday, January 27th at 11:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall of the First United Methodist Church of San Gabriel. Find specifics in this issue of the Mission Gateway!

CHEERS! for being on this journey **TOGETHER** towards our ongoing VISION of EQUITY FOR ALL.

HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR!!!

Joe

Reservation form for Author's Luncheon is on page 2.

TIME FOR A CELEBRATION!

Join us for the Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch AAUW

AUTHOR'S LUNCHEON

Saturday, January 27, 2024

First United Methodist Church of San Gabriel
201 N. San Gabriel Blvd., San Gabriel 91775

The Program Committee is pleased to announce that the speaker is: **Dr. Gary Scott!** Dr. Scott is currently serving his fifth term on the Governing Board for the San Gabriel Unified School District. The multi-talented Dr. Scott has recently published The Universe Speaks: The Monumental Sacred Arts of Isabel and Edith Piczek.



The Universe Speaks: The Monumental Sacred Arts of Isabel and Edith Piczek celebrates the remarkable achievements and artistic brilliance of Isabel Piczek. Because of Isabel's advanced research in Physics as well as her status as an internationally renowned liturgical artist, the Vatican gave her unprecedented access to study the Shroud of Turin. Isabel graduated at the age of 13½ with degrees in Physics and Fine Arts from the Institute of Science and The Academy of Fine Arts in Budapest. Her lifetime achievements are an incredible story you won't want to miss. Be sure to attend the Author's Luncheon to learn more about this amazing Artist and Theoretical Physicist.

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.

Membership Corner

Let us welcome Elizabeth Tarnove to our AAUW family.

Elizabeth, who likes to be called Liz, had heard favorable things about AAUW over the years. Liz recently retired from her job as a librarian in San Diego and moved back into her family home in Monterey Park. She volunteers at the Bruggemeyer Memorial Library and met fellow branch member Dolores Seidman. Liz attended BRAWA and enjoyed it so much, she joined the next day. Liz loves dancing, counted cross stitch and cats.

Liz comes to us with:

a BA in Journalism, Cal State Long Beach,
an MSJ in Journalism, Northwestern University,
a PhD in Education, Claremont Graduate University,
and,
an MLIS (Masters in Library and Information Science),
San Jose State

See you at our next event.

Veronica

Yes, I want to attend the Author's Luncheon on January 27th!

Please reserve ____ lunches for me and my guests.

Lunch includes:

Meatballs in sauce
Baked ziti with ricotta in marinara sauce
Classic tossed green salad
Rolls/butter
Assorted cookies

My name: _____

My guests' names: _____

Enclosed is \$_____ (\$19.50 x # lunches)

Make checks payable to Alhambra-San Gabriel AAUW. Due by January 22nd.

Send to: Deanna Arthur
1608 S. Atlantic Blvd.
Alhambra, CA 91803

Questions? Want to pay at the door?
Call Deanna @ 626-818-6536

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.

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

Can't believe that another year is in the books. Just wanted to let you know where the branch and the state stand in donations.

Fund donations have reached \$231,804 for the state of California. The branch donations are \$1,355.00. If you have made online donations this year, please let me know.

Donations may be made by the member directly or by a branch leader on the member's behalf.

- Donation by member (Preferred): The simplest way for a member to donate directly is online through the Community Hub. This is the easiest and most efficient way to contribute.
- Donation via branch leader. There are two possible ways:
 - The branch leader accesses the Renewals and Donations function in the Community Hub and uses the member's credit card to make an online donation to the AAUW Fund requested by the member.
 - The branch leader submits the Contribution Report Form with accompanying check(s) from the member(s) or the branch.

A branch member called me yesterday and wanted to assure that the branch would get credit for her online donation. I am still waiting to hear from National so there will be something to look forward to next month.

If anyone has suggestions after listening to the speakers online, please share them with me. I would like to do something a little different for our Fund meeting in March and would love some new ideas to generate some excitement.

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.



PUBLIC POLICY

Amy Hom and Melissa Maceyko, Directors, Public Policy Committee Co-chairs, publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org

SAVE THE DATE!

LOBBY DAYS 2024 WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2nd AND 3rd

We encourage all AAUW California members to participate in this act of advocacy that is essential for achievement of our legislative priorities. In addition to our members, we plan to invite college students to join the event. Their participation will enable us to reach more legislative offices, and we hope that this introduction to our organization will inspire these advocacy-minded young people who share our values to join AAUW.

We are planning a hybrid event with meetings scheduled virtually over Zoom as well as in person at the Capitol. Members who live in and around Sacramento will have the option to participate in person. Legislative offices are willing to meet virtually or in person, and the virtual option makes it easier for AAUW members around the state to participate.

Training materials on the bills and the event will be posted on the state website in mid-March, and a mandatory training webinar will be held on March 25th.

Lobby Days provide a wonderful opportunity to meet with your legislators and advocate for legislation to promote gender equity and improve the lives of women and girls. We hope that you will join us in this important activity to advance our values.

An interest survey including a registration form will arrive in your inbox mid-January. Be sure to complete and return the form to be added to the communications list for the event.

B2B Bonus: Quick Tips for Things to Try

In the new year, the Public Policy Committee will be launching a social media education program. Sign up for Legislative Action Alerts [HERE!](#) Share the sign-up link with anyone you think may be interested. AAUW members and non-members are welcome. Just copy and paste the link above.

Elena

La Casa Pre School Celebrates Book Donations and Performs Holiday Program

Preschoolers of La Casa Community Center Preschool, directed by teachers Erica Fonseca and Sarah Esquibel, performed their Christmas program on December twelfth to celebrate receiving over seventy-five books for their library from our branch. Enjoying the children's lively singing were Joe Des Barres, branch president, Denisse Santana, La Casa librarian and branch liaison, and Elena Velarde and Jackie Fisher, branch members, as well as Martha Sanchez, La Casa office administrator, and parents, Alissa and Isaac Acosta, and their grandmother.

Following the program, members gave the children and staff stockings filled with healthy treats and homemade scarves for the teachers. Betty Morin and Jane Krause, branch member elves, made and filled them. Students and teachers were very appreciative and gave hearty thanks.

Spearheading the "Books for La Casa Library" project is Denisse Santana. For book donations, she chose the theme Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM), which interconnects with our branch's mission to "advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy." Denisse also collected one hundred gently used books and bundled them in groups of five and ten for parents to take at the Food Pantry on December fifteenth set up by La Casa CEO Julietta Perez.

The fourteen La Casa preschoolers come to this reading library every day, where teachers read to them, and they choose books to read to themselves and each other. Denisse volunteers at the library, creating science-based, hands-on centers and rotating seasonal literature. She inserted bookplates, donated by Kathleen Doty, to identify the books gifted by the branch. Want to join Denisse in this worthwhile project? Please give her a call at (323) 679-4010.



Caption: Teacher Erica Fonseca, La Casa Preschoolers, Teacher Sarah Esquibel



Preschoolers with their Stockings

Caption Left to right, top: Sara Esquibel, Denisse Santana, Elena Velarde, Joe Des Barres, Erica Fonseca, Jackie Fisher; bottom: La Casa Preschoolers happy to receive their stockings. Books donated by our Branch.



Caption: Teacher Erica Fonsica, Teacher Sarah Esquibel, Office Administrator Martha Sanchez accepting their stockings

Branch Members Celebrate the Season

Our branch held a charming event to ring in the holidays at the First United Methodist Church in San Gabriel on December 4. Much appreciation goes to Delora Brown for setting up the hall with festive tablecloths and preparing the hot beverages. Special thanks to the bakers among us who prepared delicious treats. Cheers to Kathleen Doty for helping us sing Christmas carols “with Mitch.” Gratitude to Jane Anderson for warming us up with “The Night Before Christmas” game. Kudos to our readers for their exciting presentation of “The Polar Express,” and also to our sound effects crew. Hooray to all of us for creating a delightful time!

Hygiene Kit Project

Hello, everyone, and happy holidays!

The Hygiene Kit Project Committee would like to invite you to participate in our new project: creating hygiene kits for teen girls transitioning into foster care.

The transition to foster care is a tumultuous and stressful time for any child. To make them feel loved and cared for, we are collecting items to create **hygiene kits** that include brand-new toiletries. Even something as simple as a new hairbrush, toothpaste, and toothbrush can show a girl that she is special and loved!

Please click on the following link to see a [slideshow presentation](#) that provides specific information about how you can get involved with this project!

We will be collecting donations from 1/8/24 until 2/29/24!

We are very excited about this project and hope you will be too! If you have questions, please reach out to Tiffany White, the chair of the Hygiene Kit Project Committee, at twhite918820@gmail.com! Thank you!

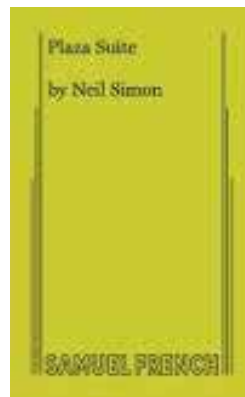
Sincerely,

Tiffany White
Dennisse Santana
Elena Velarde
Jackie Fisher
Rozanne Child

*Lovey & Jackie,
Co-Chairs*

Drama

Drama group will gather January 8th at 7:00 p.m. to read Plaza Suite by Neil Simon.



Plaza Suite portrays three couples who each occupy Suite 719 at the Plaza Hotel at different stages throughout the year. First up, is a suburban couple who have come to the hotel to celebrate their 24th wedding anniversary...or is it their 23rd? Or is it actually their anniversary at all? They are succeeded by a Hollywood hotshot who has returned to New York to seek out his (now married) high school girlfriend. After three doomed marriages, he is eager to remind himself of the sweet innocence of a suburban woman...with a little sexual diversion along the way. However, her obsession with Hollywood and overindulgence in the vodka stingers gives him more than he bargained for. Finally, the suite is occupied by a couple who are about to celebrate the wedding of their daughter...if they can get her out of the bathroom. Tension rises and tempers flare as all their attempts to get her to unlock the door fail. Neil Simon's witty and piercing observation of love, marriage, and contentment offers a unique challenge for two talented actors to play three very different couples.

BOOKS

Day Books will meet Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. The book to be reviewed is Lady Tan's Circle of Women by Lisa See.



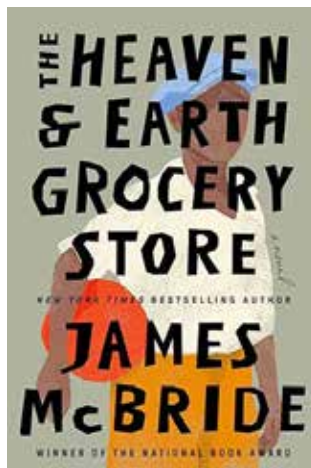
According to Confucius, "an educated woman is a worthless woman," but Tan Yunxian—born into an elite family, yet haunted by death, separations, and loneliness—is being raised by her grandparents to be of use. Her grandmother is one of only a handful of female doctors in China, and she teaches Yunxian the pillars of Chinese medicine, the Four Examinations—looking, listening, touching, and asking—something a man can never do with a female patient.

From a young age, Yunxian learns about women's illnesses, many of which relate to childbearing, alongside a young midwife-in-training, Meiling. The two girls find fast friendship and a mutual purpose—despite the prohibition that a doctor should never touch blood while a midwife comes in frequent contact with it—and they vow to be forever friends, sharing in each other's joys and struggles. No mud, no lotus, they tell themselves: from adversity beauty can bloom.

But when Yunxian is sent into an arranged marriage, her mother-in-law forbids her from seeing Meiling and from helping the women and girls in the household. Yunxian is to act like a proper wife—embroider bound-foot slippers, pluck instruments, recite poetry, give birth to sons, and stay forever within the walls of the family compound, the Garden of Fragrant Delights.

How might a woman like Yunxian break free of these traditions, go on to treat women and girls from every level of society, and lead a life of such importance that many of her remedies are still used five centuries later? How might the power of friendship support or complicate these efforts? *Lady Tan's Circle of Women* is a captivating story of women helping other women. It is also a triumphant reimagining of the life of a woman who was remarkable in the Ming dynasty and would be considered remarkable today.

Evening Books will meet January 22, 2024 at 7:00 pm.. The book for review is The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride.



In 1972, when workers in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, were digging the foundations for a new development, the last thing they expected to find was a skeleton at the bottom of a well. Who the skeleton was and how it got there were two of the long-held secrets kept by the residents of Chicken Hill, the dilapidated neighbourhood where immigrant Jews and African Americans lived side by side and shared ambitions

and sorrows.

As these characters' stories overlap and deepen, it becomes clear how much the people who live on the margins struggle and what they must do to survive. When the truth is finally revealed about what happened on Chicken Hill and the part the town's white establishment played in it, McBride shows us that even in dark times, it is love and community—heaven and earth—that sustain us.

ACTIVITIES

Tap into the Fun!

New faces, and used ones, are always welcomed.

Join Us!

Board Meeting - Next Board meeting January 8, 2024, 7:00 PM, via Zoom. The host will open Zoom at 6:45 PM. Open to all members. Contact Joe DesBarres for access code.

Meetup - Details can be found on Meetup, or call Veronica or Deanna for more information.



Day Books will meet Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 1:00 PM. Book info on page 7. Contact Kathleen Doty for more information.

Evening Books will meet Monday, January 29th at 7:00 PM. Book info on page 7. Contact Deanna Arthur for more information.



Every Member Event: Hope to see you at the Author's Luncheon on January 27th, at 11:30 AM. Details on page 1. Reservation Form on page 2.

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, January 8th at 7:00 p.m. for a cold reading of the play of the month. Play info on page 6. For more information, contact Kathleen Doty.



Professional Women Gourmets will not gather in January.

Restaurant Gourmets will meet Saturday, January 13th at Corfu, 48 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre. 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: January 3rd, and February 7th. 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](#)