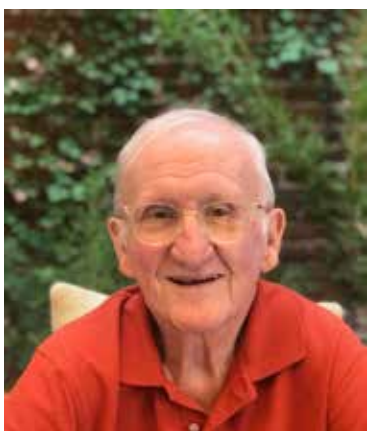




Serving Alhambra, San Gabriel, Monterey Park, Montebello, South Pasadena, Rosemead, Temple City, Arcadia and Surrounding Communities

The Mission Gateway

PRESIDENT’S PUSH



Joe DesBarres

“Beginnings are usually scary, and endings are usually sad, but it’s everything in between that makes it all worth living.”

This quote from Bob Marley so completely sums up my experiences as Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch President. And that “everything in between” that made my tenure so worth

it was all due to each and every one of you, dedicated and committed advocates for women and girls, in the ongoing struggle for equity.

I thank you for all you have done and continue to do to make our branch a leader in equity, Inclusion and diversity. Each of you, in your own inimitable style, furthers the cause in which we believe. But it won’t happen without each of us continuing our commitment, dedication, and energy to bring about **EQUITY FOR ALL**.

Please join me and your AAUW Branch Colleagues for our Branch Annual Meeting Brunch. Festivities begin at 10:30 AM at First United Methodist Church in San Gabriel. We will have Sandwiches from Lovebirds and assorted accompaniments. Please see the sign-up coupon on page 5 in this issue of the Mission Gateway.

continued on Page 2

THE ANNUAL MEETING

Join AAUW Friends and Guests at our **Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 20th**

Fellowship Hall

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

Kinship & Connection: 10:30 AM – 11 AM
Meeting Call to Order: 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM

First, we’ll break bread together with sandwiches from Lovebirds Café accompanied by member-provided picnic-style sides, i.e., fruit, chips, cookies, raw veggies, etc. Please call Jackie Fisher (626-808-3528) to let her know what you would like to add to the buffet.

The Annual Meeting is our traditional yearly gathering to reflect on what we’ve accomplished and to gear-up for where we are going. It is a time to put local, state, and national AAUW priorities in the spotlight. It is the forum at which the Membership votes to approve and elect our Slate of Board Officers for the upcoming 2024-2025 program year—officers who will lead us in building on our present and creating our future.

We are honored to welcome Kathy Harper, former Chair of AAUW CA Public Policy Committee, who will join us via Zoom. Kathy will present a timely state and national issue: *Book Banning and School Curricula Restrictions in California*.

We will conclude with a Branch Awards Ceremony as we pass the torch to Marilee Wood and the incoming Board Officers.

continued on Page 2

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.

continued from Page 1

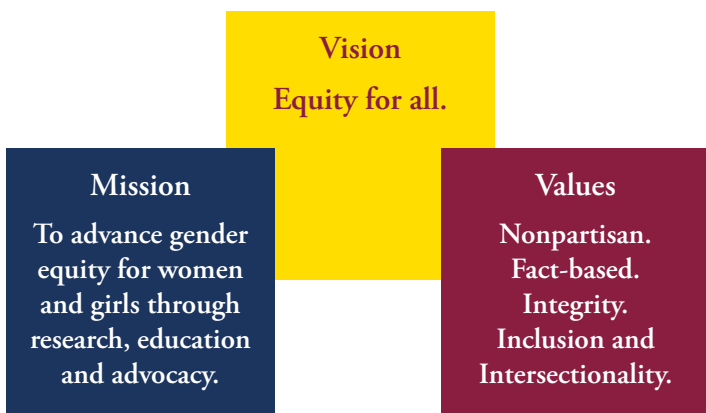
The President's PUSH...

We will elect 2024-2025 Branch Officers, participate in a Branch Members' Awards Ceremony, and welcome a Guest Speaker via Zoom who will inform us of AAUW-CA's initiative on Book Banning & Restricted Access to Information.

Please mark your calendars, make your reservation, and join your Branch Friends and Guests for what promises to be a lively meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you on Saturday, April 20th at 10:30 AM at the Annual Meeting.

Joe



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.

ANNUAL MEETING continued from Page 1

Please see the RSVP form on page 5 in this Mission Gateway issue. Choose a sandwich for yourself and your guest(s) and call or text this information to Elena Velarde at 213-304-7403—no later than Wednesday, April 17th. Having made your reservation by April 17th, you may pay at the door.

Come enjoy, participate, and support your Branch with your in-person attendance.

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@sbc-global.net.

All money and ticket stubs must be returned by the drawing on April 20, 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.



Membership

AAUW has been empowering women as individuals and as a community since 1881. For more than 130 years, AAUW has worked as a national grassroots organization to improve the lives of millions of women and their families. AAUW would not exist without members such as us.

As our 2023-2024 calendar year ends, I am excited about our AAUW commitment as a branch. We are currently 55 members strong. I want to take a moment to thank all of you for your continued support.

In the words of Lau Tzu:

A leader is best when people barely know he exists, when his work is done, his aim fulfilled, they will say: WE DID IT OURSELVES.

We are all leaders. Every meeting or event hosted; we all pull together. Thank you for the countless hours you spend.

Please email me at valvarez@lawyer.com with any ideas you may have. My goal for the incoming 2024/2025 year is to grow our membership to 100. Together we can accomplish anything.

We will be having a membership drive in the summer. Please keep your eyes open for the date.

Veronica



AAUW Fund

Thanks to all of you who attended our March Fund meeting – the Mocktail was delicious (thanks to Randy); the food was great (thanks to Karen Levin, Gerry Kreger, Delora Brown, and Cheryl Plotkin) and the company was amazing. We had door prizes (thank you Kathleen, Veronica and Deanna) for most of the attendees. The gifts for the first people to reserve -will be given out at the first available opportunity. There were beautiful decorations provided by Lovey Sherman and the ever-smiling face of Jackie Fisher brightened out the day. Special thanks to Lyda Chee for her M&M game and the candy prize that came with it (won by Veronica and her mother). Many questions were raised, some were answered and some will be answered in time.

Nearly all of the committee were involved. Thanks to all the members who came to support the Fund.

Just a reminder about some options for our available Fund donations:

Do you want them to go toward finishing a Fellowship? It can take years to finish a Fellowship. Remember, only the interest from each Fellowship is used to fund the over 6 million dollars in grants and fellowships AAUW awarded this year and the interest is not available until a Fellowship is complete. (There is a list available of unfinished fellowships in California to which we can donate.) Let me know if that is where you want your donation to go.

Another option is AAUW Greatest Needs (9110) which allows AAUW the flexibility to respond rapidly to new and emerging challenges facing women and girls and to utilize your gift where it is needed the most. The fund ensures the strength, relevance, and visibility of AAUW into the future.

The Leadership Fund (4452) supports the effort to close the gender gap in leadership opportunities by bolstering the participation of and increasing the number of girls and women in leadership roles particularly in education and nonprofit organizations.

Education and Training (4450) addresses the barriers and implicit biases that hinder the advancement of women by championing equal access to education and ensuring that education at every level is free from sex discrimination.

Economic Security Fund (4449) ensures livelihood for women through achieving pay equity for women providing training in salary negotiation, and deepening women's retirement security and quality of life.

All of this information on options for direction of Fund donations was copied from the AAUW California Website.

Looking forward to many successes for our Branch and the Fund.

Deanna

APRIL 2024 PUBLIC POLICY NEWS

Kathleen Harper, Director, Public Policy Committee Chair

FOR THE STATE PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE, MARCH DEFINITELY ROARED IN LIKE A LION!

This month has certainly kept the Public Policy Committee on our toes! As a result, AAUW California members now have 30 bills that are being advocated for in the state legislature. Members visited 57 legislative offices to advocate for the top three of those bills during Lobby Days. We will also have the chance to vote on 11 proposed changes that have been made to the Public Policy Priorities.

Our Bill Tracker chart has been posted on the Public Policy page of the AAUW California website and can be viewed [HERE](#).

Thanks to the 120 members from 56 branches who participated in Lobby Days. If you were a Team Leader, please be sure to get your Report Back form to the Public Policy Committee ASAP if you haven't done so already.

PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

Finally, the committee wants to thank all the members who took the time to weigh in on updates to our Public Policy Priorities for 2023-25. The committee has reviewed all 466 comments and agreed on 11 modifications based on members' input. Not all suggestions were incorporated for a variety of reasons. Our three main criteria for edits were:

1. Is it within our mission?
2. Does it address a new issue germane to current circumstances?
3. Would adding it inform the public as to an important AAUW California position, provide guidance for the Public Policy Committee on forming our Legislative Agenda, and/or provide guidance to our membership in shaping their branches' public policy positions and programs?

Many suggestions did not meet one or more of these criteria and were therefore not incorporated. The Board of Directors has approved the suggested changes, and it is now up to members to vote yes or no. Click [HERE](#) to view the proposed changes.

Elena

TECH TREK NEWS



The application process is complete for Tech Trek South and Tech Trek North. We are both in the interviewing and selecting process. We are interviewing for both residential, at Whittier College and virtual, at home on the computer.

The CampDoc is now fully implemented for the second year. Jane and Rozanne are both beginning to feel much more comfortable with the program. I know I have more to learn but it surely is easier this year. TT South has had great cooperation with the school liaisons in helping get the students to complete their applications.

It is never too late to contribute to the Tech Trek program – this year the cost is \$1200 per residential student and \$500 for the virtual student. Contact Jane or Rozanne if you want to make a donation.

Jane Krause
Tech Trek South Coordinator



Serving Alhambra, San Gabriel, Monterey Park, Montebello, So Pasadena, Rosemead, Temple City & Surrounding Communities

Branch Annual Meeting Brunch

Reservation Form

Count me in! I will attend Our Annual Meeting!!

My Name: _____

My Guest's Names: _____

Indicate the Number of Sandwiches for You and your Guest(s):

- Chicken Salad Sandwich _____
- Red/Green Combo Vegetarian Sandwich _____
- Meatball Sub _____

Enclosed is \$15 x _____ (# sandwiches for myself & guests) for a total of \$ _____.

Please make checks payable to: **AAUW Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch.**

Include on the memo line "Annual Meeting Brunch."

US MAIL Check and this Reservation Form to:

Elena Velarde, 4315 San Rafael Ave, Los Angeles CA 90042

OR

Text or voicemail: 213-304-7403 or Email: la.elenalove@gmail.com

To inform Lovebirds of our final order DEADLINE for receipt of reservation (by USPS or phone/text) is Wednesday, April 17, 2024.

Branch Nominating Committee Report—April 2024

*The AAUW Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch 2024
Nominating Committee proposes the following 2024-
2025 Slate of Board Officer Candidates:*

President	Marilee Wood
Treasurer	Tiffany White and Cyndy Ramos
Secretary	Betty Morin
Membership VP	Veronica Alvarez
Program Co-VP	Deanna Arthur and Lovey Sherman
Fund VP	Jane Anderson

Additional nominations may be made from the floor.

Voting & Election of Officers to be held at the Annual Meeting

**Saturday, April 20, 2024
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM**

Location: First United Methodist Church, San Gabriel, Fellowship Hall. See page 5 of this issue of Mission Gateway for RSVP Form. Meeting Details are on page 1.

Respectfully Submitted:

The 2024 Branch Nominating Committee:

Deanna Arthur
Rozanne Child
Gerry Kreger
Cyndy Ramos
Elena Velarde

Hygiene Kit Collection Project a Success!

Branch members demonstrated their generosity and compassion in donating thirty-two hygiene kits for teens and tweens in foster care. Toothpaste, a toothbrush, shampoo, conditioner and a sturdy hairbrush, deodorant, hygiene pads, lip gloss and, most important of all, a note of support and humor, filled the colorful toiletry bags that will be packed in new suitcases filled with clothes and shoes. Girls in foster care receive these from Hope in a Suitcase, a volunteer project based in Los Angeles.

Tiffany White, branch Treasurer, presented the Hygiene Kit Collection project at the AAUW Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch, January Board meeting and it was adopted with enthusiasm. Tiffany demonstrated her technical expertise in creating an Amazon Hygiene Kit Registry where donors shopped for articles that the committee suggested and then sent them to her home.

On Saturday morning, February 24, the Hygiene Kit Collection Committee met at Tiffany's, assembled the kits, collaborated on writing supportive, encouraging notes for each girl and slipped them into the hygiene kits. There was plenty of time afterward to mix and mingle. Committee Members include Joe Des Barres, Elena Velarde, Dennisse Santana, Rozanne Child and Jackie Fisher.



Standing: Dennisse Santana, Joe Des Barres, Elena Velarde, Tiffany White, Rozanne Child, Jackie Fisher
On the couch: Fiona White showcasing Hygiene Kits

BOOKS

Day Books will meet Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.

Evening Books will meet Monday, April 22, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

Both groups will review Black Cake by Charmaine Wilkerson.



In present-day California, Eleanor Bennett's death leaves behind a puzzling inheritance for her two children, Byron and Benny: a black cake, made from a family recipe with a long history, and a voice recording. In her message, Eleanor shares a tumultuous story about a headstrong young swimmer who escapes her island home under suspicion of murder. The heartbreaking tale Eleanor unfolds, the secrets she still holds back, and the mystery of a long-lost child challenge everything the siblings thought they knew about their lineage and themselves.

Can Byron and Benny reclaim their once-close relationship, piece together Eleanor's true history, and fulfill her final request to "share the black cake when the time is right"? Will their mother's revelations bring them back together or leave them feeling more lost than ever?

Charmaine Wilkerson's debut novel is a story of how the inheritance of betrayals, secrets, memories, and even names can shape relationships and history. Deeply evocative and beautifully written, *Black Cake* is an extraordinary journey through the life of a family changed forever by the choices of its matriarch.

DRAMA

Drama group will meet Monday, April 8, 2024 at 7:00 PM
We will read *Play On!* by Rick Abbot (comedy, 3m/7f).



Perfect for any theatre group, this is the hilarious story of a theater group trying desperately to put on a play in spite of maddening interference from a haughty authoress who keeps revising the script. Act I is a rehearsal of the dreadful show, Act II is the near disastrous dress rehearsal, and the final act is the actual performance in which anything that can go wrong does. When the authoress decides to give a speech on the state of the modern theatre during the curtain calls, the audience is treated to a madcap climax to a thoroughly hilarious romp. Even the sound effects reap their share of laughter.

ACTIVITIES

Tap into the Fun!

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



Professional Women Gourmets will gather April 6, 2024. Hostess is Sandy Jelinek.

Restaurant Gourmets will meet Saturday, April 27th, 6:30 PM, at The State-Monrovia, 504 S. Myrtle Ave., Monrovia. Please RSVP to Deanna Arthur.



Board Meeting - Next Board meeting date will be determined by the new Board. Possibly June 1, 2024. Open to all members. Contact Marilee Wood for more information.

Meetup - Call Veronica or Deanna for more information.



Day Books will meet Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 1:00 PM at Kathleen Doty's, 1224 S 4th ST, Alhambra. Book info on page 7. Contact Kathleen Doty for more information.

Evening Books will meet Monday, April 22nd at 7:00 PM at Deanna Arthur's, 1608 S Atlantic Blvd., Alhambra. Book info on page 7. Contact Deanna Arthur for more information.



Creative Crafters will gather via Zoom on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 3:00 pm. Upcoming dates are: April 3rd and May 1st. 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.



**Please donate to the
Alhambra-San Gabriel-ELAC STEM
Scholarship Fund.**

East Los Angeles College Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and is dedicated to the philanthropic support of the East Los Angeles College Communities and our student's success.

For more information and to donate online, please visit www.elacfoundation.com and indicate that your donation is earmarked for the AAUW Alhambra/San Gabriel Scholarship. **OR...**

Mail In Donations: Please make checks payable to East Los Angeles College Foundation. Write in the memo line "For AAUW Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch Scholarship" and mail the check to: East Los Angeles College Foundation, 1301 Avenida Cesar Chavez, Monterey Park, CA 91754

All Branch Members Event:

The Annual Meeting, April 20, 2024.

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 for a cold reading of the play of the month April 8, 2024, 7:00 PM, Kathleen Doty's, 1224 S. 4th St., Alhambra. Play info on page 7.

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](https://www.facebook.com/AAUW-Alhambra-San-Gabriel-Branch)