



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

The Mission Gateway



Join Us

**Saturday,
February 1, 2025**

2:00 PM

**Monterey Park Bruggemeyer Library
318 S. Ramona Ave., Monterey Park
Friends Room**

to hear local high school students speak to the following topic:

Select one area of impact and explore the effect climate change is having on women in the USA and around the world.

The *last* annual Speech Trek competition promises to be interesting and make us think! Hope to see all of you there!



“Well-behaved women seldom make history” ... In 1976, Laurel Thatcher Ulrich wrote this line in an article, and ultimately, it has become a call to action.

Join us for THE RESCHEDULED informal evening presentation on the AAUW/DEI initiative (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion), a discussion on personal DEI experiences, including Ms. Irma Moyao, a 1994 immigrant from Mexico, and a brainstorming session on how our branch can make an impact in our community.

Let’s make some history feisty pro-active members of Alhambra-San Gabriel! It will be an eye-opening, fun, informative evening in which you will want to participate.

See you there!

Janice Lee, DEI Chairperson

Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2025

Time: 7 pm

Location: Kathleen Doty’s home, 1224 S. Fourth St., Alhambra, CA 91801

RSVP: by February 20, 2025; janicelee88@gmail.com

Marilee Wood, President • Betty Morin, Secretary • Cyndy Ramos, Treasurer • Kathleen Doty, Newsletter Editor
Deanna arthur and Lovey Sherman, Co-Program VP • Jane Anderson, 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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Marilee Wood

Our hearts go out to everyone who has been devastated by the fires in the Los Angeles area. The images we see on the news and on social media are horrific and can only be worse in person. The devastation to our beautiful community is heartbreaking. Some of our AAUW Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch members have lost their homes and the homes of their families and friends. We are so sorry for the anguish and uncertainty they are experiencing right now.

Please let us know if you know of someone who has been impacted by the fires. Please contact me or Deanna Arthur by text or email. I am working with other local Branch Presidents on how to set up a system for donations for these families. I will be sending a notification to the membership as this develops.

“We have always worried about the future and found hope in unexpected places.”

Robert Hubbell

I had the pleasure of speaking with Dianne Owens, National AAUW Advancement Committee Chair. She called me to commend us for becoming a 3-star branch. We earned the stars for Governance, Membership and submitting the FY 24 Survey. Governance – I am deeply moved and grateful for the excellence in our leadership team. Every Board position is filled with hardworking members and our meetings and programs exemplify our commitment to “equity for all”. Membership – Veronica Alvarez is to be congratulated for maintaining and growing our membership. FY 24 Survey – A special thanks to all our membership for following through on completing the survey. Your attentiveness to the request of National and State compliance supports our greater goal in serving our organization’s mission.

On Wednesday, January 8th, the day after the severe winds and fires started, The Monterey Park Woman’s Club held their bimonthly meeting. I had the opportunity to meet the members and speak with the President, Katherine Torres. Although attendance was impacted by the severe weather, I was able to thank the membership for their generous donation that allows our Tech Trek South girls to attend a week-long camp with a focus on STEM. Special thanks go to Betty Morin for her presence and for initiating introductions.

I would like to extend a special thanks to Kyoto Nancy Oda for her moving talk about her family’s resilience through trials and tribulations during the incarceration of Japanese-Americans. In honor of her heritage, I have researched the story of a brilliant Japanese-American Woman Scientist who lived and worked during troubled times.

Developing Potent Vaccines

Ruby Sakae Hirose (1904-1960) was a Japanese-American scientist whose research contributed significantly to our understanding of blood clotting, allergies and cancer. Her research on serums and antitoxins paved the way for the development of effective vaccines for polio and other infectious diseases. In addition, her research on allergic reactions enabled Hirose to improve the pollen extracts used to desensitize hay fever sufferers and reduce their symptoms. Hirose also discovered that thrombin, an enzyme integral to clot formation, exists in an active and inactive form. From her research on cancer, Hirose proved that some chemotherapy drugs can inhibit cancer by stopping cancer cell growth or DNA replication. Although Hirose faced several family tragedies and discrimination, she overcame the odds and became the first second-generation Japanese-American to graduate from her high school and was awarded a fellowship during her PhD studies at the University of Cincinnati.

Yours in kinship. Be safe. Be well.

Marilee

Membership Corner AAUW Fund

Let's give ourselves a round of applause. Thanks to all of you, we are now a 3-star branch. We earned this status, in part, for maintaining our membership and bringing in new members.

We will have our first Meet-Up of the year on February 13, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. at Kue's Chinese Kitchen located at 201 W. Main Street, Alhambra, in the bar area. I understand they have a great happy hour. I cannot think of a better way of celebrating our 3 stars and at the same time work on growing our membership. Please join us and bring a friend!

Veronica

Resale deal has been rescheduled! Donate your unwanted gifts/white elephants to the branch at our **March** meeting, March 15th. You may find something you really WANT that another member doesn't! Purchasing others' unwanted items will benefit the AAUW Fund too! Don't miss out on the **Fun for the Fund!!** In addition to this shopping opportunity, the March meeting will feature one of the AAUW Fund recipients studying in California.

And don't forget to purchase your chance to win a gourmet meal from Kathleen and Her Sister!

Jane

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 10th (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 19, 2025**. 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.



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.

Public Policy News, February, 2025

Why AAUW Public Policy Priorities Matter
by Nancy Major, Member AAUW California Public Policy Committee

Why do AAUW's Public Policy Priorities matter? They shape the actions that we take as an organization, socially and legally.

AAUW's mission is to advance equity for women and girls. Our Public Policy Priorities guide how we encourage active citizenship toward the goal of advancing our mission. There are four branches to our Public Policy Priorities: Economic Security, Equal Access to Quality Public Education, Social and Racial Justice, and Increased representation of Women in Leadership roles. Each of these priorities is further broken down into several action-oriented subcategories, such as enforcement of Title IX and passage of the ERA. Our 2023-25 priorities can be found at <https://www.aauw-ca.org/public-policy-priorities-ppp-revised/>.

As active participants in society we can help shape the laws and society that govern us, such as healthcare, environmental policies, sex education, curriculum and book banning, housing, childcare, voting rights, immigrants' rights, sexual harassment, domestic violence, racial and LGBTQ discrimination, and Title IX enforcement. We "advocate" or promote our mission through research, education and lobbying for legislation on the international, national, state, and local levels.

History has shown that our advocacy has made a big impact on national, state and local laws. In California alone, you can see the laws that AAUW sponsored, authored, and/or promoted, including those that were passed in the most recent session by going to [AAUW California Bill Tracking Report 2024 - Google Sheets](#). AAUW is also doing impactful work internationally, working to curtail human trafficking and promote civil and human rights for all immigrants, including through participation in the UN Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Over the next four years, there will be a lot of opportunities to use this legislative advocacy to push back against attempts to overturn long standing human rights and civil rights protections.

Our Public Policy Priorities also shape our efforts to push forward programs that break through educational and economic barriers for women such as speaker programs, scholarships, oversight of local school boards, leadership and salary training, STEM opportunities for students, and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) programs.

Why do our Public Policy Priorities matter? They make us the most effective advocates for our collective mission to protect and expand gender equity. At the branch and individual levels, we can take advantage of as many opportunities as possible to operationalize our Public Policy Priorities, and through this work to actively promote AAUW's mission. AAUW as an organization relies on the branches to stay informed and to keep track of where our Public Policy Priorities may fall short, to form coalitions with local allies who have similar missions, and to assign branch members to focus where we can have the most impact.

Liz

TWIG-ITEMS FROM THE SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

AAUW ALHAMBRA-SAN GABRIEL BRANCH

ALSO SERVING: MONTEREY PARK, MONTEBELLO, SO PASADENA, ROSEMEAD, TEMPLE CITY & SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES



Twig-Items for February 2025

- *Shout Out & Congratulations to **Tiffany White!***
Tiffany has passed her Qualifying Exams for her doctorate program in education at UCLA and is now a Doctoral Candidate. She will be presenting her research study at the American Educational Research Association's 2025 conference in Denver, CO in April 2025. She is excited to be moving into the dissertation phase of her program!
- *Healing Thoughts & Heartfelt Prayers to the **Branch Members, Friends & Families** who have sustained losses in the Eaton Canyon Fires.*
- ***Gerry Kreger's** health is improving after a severe bout of pneumonia in December. She volunteered from the BOD to serve on the Nominating Committee.*
- ***Marilee Wood** donated to the 2025 AAUW/ELAC Scholarship **In Honor of Delora Brown.***
- ***Joan Mezori** is steadily recovering after her recent surgery.*
- *Our **Mary Smeritschnig** lost her house in the Eaton fire. She would like to hear from you. Here is her current information: Mary Smeritschnig, The Oaks Pasadena, 2945 E. Del Mar Blvd., Apt. 127, Pasadena, CA 91107, Cell: 626-429-9039, mrsmary237@yahoo.com*

The Sunshine Committee is grateful to Branch Members who shared a TWIG-ITEM this month:
Bonnie Gonzalez, Gerry Kreger, Betty Morín, Tiffany White, Joe Des Barres

TWIG-ITEMS refer to events that have to do with *US*—Branch Members of AAUW!

TWIG-ITEMS in *Mission Gateway* inform *US* of *EACH OTHERS' Life Events and Updates.*

TWIG-ITEMS may be forwarded to Chair Gerry Kreger or Committee Member Elena Velarde

It takes One (1) Member—*YOU*—to share a **Life Event/Update with the Sunshine Committee.**

Contact **Sunshine Chair Gerry Kreger** by phone, text or email. Call or text Gerry at 818-314-9191.
Email Gerry at gerrykreger@gmail.com

Gerry & Elena
The Sunshine Committee

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (Nom-Com) REPORT #1

We Have a Nominating Committee!!!

The **2025-26 Nominating Committee** was brought to the attention of our Branch Membership at the January 18th Authors Luncheon Meeting. Fortunately, we now have a complete 5-member Nominating Committee, thanks to members volunteering to serve.

The **Nominating Committee** welcomes aboard: **The requisite two (2) members from the current Board of Directors—Joe Des Barres**, committee chair; and **Gerry Kreger**. **Three (3) volunteers from the General Membership: Marian Hallin; Robin Polito; and Cheryl Prentice**; when combined, create a total of **five (5) Nom-Com participants**.

The charge of the **Nominating Committee** is to deliver a slate of potential candidates who wish to be elected to the 2025-26 Branch Board of Directors. During February and March, when the short-term committee is in session, Branch Members will have the opportunity to volunteer for a board position of their interest.

Please contact Joe at 310-363-3457 if you are interested to serve on next year's Board of Directors or wish further information.

We thank the incoming **Nominating Committee** for stepping up. We wish them all great success in the weeks ahead. Their efforts will set the stage for next year's Leadership Team.

Looking forward to approving the **Election of New Officers** at our **Annual Meeting: Saturday, April 19th at 12 Noon at First United Methodist Church of San Gabriel**.

Mark Your Calendars!

Joe



Tech Trek is moving forward – We are hoping to begin recruiting soon.

TT South is hoping to recruit a total of 11 girls: One each from the 7 Montebello schools and 4 from the Alhambra schools. TT North is hoping to recruit

6 girls from the Alhambra schools north of the San Bernardino freeway and San Gabriel schools.

Due to the winds/fire in January – I was unable to attend the Monterey Park Women's Club presentation that I was invited to. I had two girls from Monterey Highlands school ready to join me. Luckily "the branch teamwork" took over. Betty Morin helped me with the cancellations; however, Marilee did not get the notice and when she showed up, she was asked by the Club President to say a few words about Tech Trek.- She introduced herself as the AAUW Alhambra-San Gabriel President and thanked the Club for its on-going support of Tech Trek, then said just a few words about the importance of showing girls that they can pursue careers in the STEM fields. Thank you, Marilee, for representing AAUW so well.

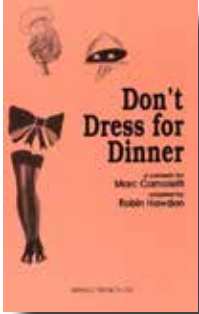
Jane Krause
TT South coordinator



Marilee Wood speaking at the Monterey Park Women's Club.

DRAMA

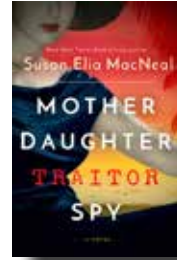
Drama group will gather February 10th at 7:00 p.m. to read Don't Dress for Dinner by Marc Camoletti and Robin Hawdon.



This boulevard comedy was a smash hit in Paris, where it played for over two years, and in London, where critical acclaim greeted the Apollo Theatre production. Bernard is planning a weekend with his chic Parisian mistress in a French farmhouse. He has arranged for a cordon bleu cook to prepare gourmet delights, is packing his wife Jacqueline off to her mother's, and has even invited his best friend to provide the alibi. It's foolproof; what could possibly go wrong? Suppose Robert turns up not knowing why he has been invited? Suppose Robert and Jacqueline are secret lovers? What happens if the cook is mistaken for the mistress and the mistress is unable to cook? An evening of hilarious confusion ensues as Bernard and Robert improvise at breakneck speed. (3m/3f)

BOOKS

Day Books will meet Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. to review Mother Daughter Traitor Spy by Susan Elia MacNeal.



June 1940. France has fallen to the Nazis, and Britain may be next--but to many Americans, the war is something happening "over there." Veronica Grace has just graduated from college; she and her mother, Violet, are looking for a fresh start in sunny Los Angeles. After a blunder cost her a prestigious career opportunity in New York, Veronica is relieved to take a typing job in L.A.--only to realize that she's working for one of the area's most vicious propagandists.

Overnight, Veronica is exposed to the dark underbelly of her new home, where German Nazis are recruiting Americans for their devastating campaign. After the FBI dismisses the Graces' concerns, Veronica and Violet decide to call on an old friend, who introduces them to L.A.'s anti-Nazi spymaster.

At once, the women go undercover to gather enough information about the California Reich to take to the authorities. But as the news of Pearl Harbor ripples through the United States, and President Roosevelt declares war, the Grace women realize that the plots they're investigating are far more sinister than they feared--and even a single misstep could cost them everything.

Inspired by the real mother-daughter spy duo who foiled Nazi plots in Los Angeles during WWII, Mother Daughter Traitor Spy is a powerful portrait of family, duty, and deception that raises timeless questions about America--and what it means to have courage in the face of terror.

Evening Books will gather Monday, February 24, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. The book for review had not been chosen at press time.



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

ACTIVITIES

Tap into the Fun!

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

Board Meeting - March 1, 2025, in person. Details in March Mission Gateway. Open to all members.

Meetup - February 13th, at 5:30 p.m. at Kue's Chinese Kitchen located at 201 W. Main Street, Alhambra, in the bar area.. Call Veronica or Deanna for more information.



Day Books will meet Wednesday, February 19th at 1:00 PM at Kathleen Doty's home. Book info on page 7. Contact Kathleen Doty for more information.

Evening Books will meet Monday, February 24th at 7:00 PM, location TBD. Book not chosen at press time. Contact Deanna Arthur for more information.



Every Member Event: Hope to see you at the branch meetings on February 1st and February 25th. 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 the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. Silly, serious, intellectually challenging. Contact Kathleen Doty for access code.



Drama: Join us on Monday, February 10th 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.

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 on February 1st at 11:30 AM. Contact Jane Anderson for more information.

Restaurant Gourmets are gathering February ?, 2025 at ?. Contact Deanna Arthur for details.



Creative Crafters will gather via Zoom on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 3:00 pm. Next meetings: February 5th, March 5th, and April 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.



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)