



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

# The Mission Gateway

## Join AAUW Friends and Guests at the Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch Annual Meeting

on

**Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>**

Fellowship Hall

First United Methodist Church, San Gabriel

201 N San Gabriel Blvd, San Gabriel 91775

Connect with Friends and our Speaker: **11:30 AM – 12 :00 PM**

Lunch: **12:00 PM**

Meeting: **12:30 - 2:00 PM**

First, we will enjoy sandwiches from Lovebirds Café accompanied by member-provided picnic-style sides. Please call or text Deanna Arthur (626-818-6536), Program VP, 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 elect our Slate of Officers for the upcoming 2025-2026 program year – officers who will lead us in building on our present and creating our future.

We are honored to welcome **USAF Retired Colonel Wayne Scott** who will make a compelling presentation on the state of **Women in the Military** and how women are impacted by the changing tide in the political landscape. Be sure to read the President's Message this month. Colonel Scott will be referencing **Colonel Martha McSally** during his presentation.

We will conclude with a Question-and-Answer period. Colonel Scott welcomes the tough questions.

Please see the RSVP form on page **8** in this issue of the Mission Gateway. Choose a sandwich for yourself and your guest(s) then call, text or email this information to Jane Krause at 818-640-4059 ([jkbigdog517@gmail.com](mailto:jkbigdog517@gmail.com)) - no later than Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. Having made your reservation by April 16<sup>th</sup>, you may pay at the door.



USAF Retired Colonel  
Wayne R. Scott

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

## USAF Jet Fighter Pilot (Retired Colonel) Martha McSally



Marilee Wood

USAF Jet Fighter Pilot (Retired Colonel) Martha McSally earned her USAF pilot's wings in 1991 after completing Undergraduate Pilot Training At William Air Force Base east of Phoenix. Following graduation, she was assigned to Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas, as a First Assignment Instructor Pilot in the T-37 trainer. McSally went on to Lead-in Fighter Training in 1993.

McSally then completed Replacement Training Unit for the **A-10 Thunderbolt II** at **Davis–Monthan Air Force Base** and was assigned to an operational A-10 squadron that deployed to **Kuwait** in January 1995. During this deployment, she flew combat patrol over **Iraq** in support of **Operation Southern Watch**, enforcing the **no-fly zone** over southern Iraq and becoming “the first female U.S. fighter pilot to fly in combat and the first woman to command a fighter squadron.”

In 1999, McSally deployed to Europe in support of **Operation Allied Force**. She was selected as one of seven active-duty Air Force officers for the Legislative Fellowship Program. She lived in Washington, D.C., working as a national security advisor to Senator **Jon Kyl** (R-AZ).

McSally took command of the **354th Fighter Squadron** at **Davis–Monthan Air Force Base** in July 2004. She was subsequently deployed to **Afghanistan** during **Operation Enduring Freedom**. In 2006, McSally's squadron won the David C. Shilling Award, given by the **Air Force Association** “for the most outstanding contribution in the field of flight”.

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### April will see three important events:

1. **Our AAUW Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch Annual Meeting – April 19<sup>th</sup>**  
Information is in this Mission Gateway newsletter, which provides important details on this meeting. This is the time we elect the Board Officers to lead us in the coming program year (July 2025 to June 2026). Your vote is needed in this election of Branch Officers. We will also have guest speaker **Retired Air Force Colonel Wayne Scott**, to speak about **Women in the Military. In these challenging times, this is a critical topic.**
2. **The AAUW CA Annual Meeting – April 26<sup>th</sup> – ZOOM**  
We will find out how our Branch Speech Trek Winner fared in the state competition. Also, there will be special awards and recognitions, which may involve our branch. You will want to attend this meeting.
3. **AAUW National Dues Increase** – The AAUW National Board has approved a modest dues adjustment – \$2 per year over the next two years. Starting April 1, 2025, individual members dues will be \$74. On April 1, 2026, dues will change to \$76.

*“No effort is wasted, even if we do not appreciate its significance in the moment.”*

Robert Hubbell

*Marilee*

## 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 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the intended month of publication.

# Membership Corner

## AAUW Membership Fees

Some Members have inquired about student and college/university membership. In the event that you know of interested students:

Undergraduates or degree-seeking graduates enrolled in full-time or part-time programs can join AAUW at special low rates and enjoy a range of benefits to help them succeed on campus and after graduation. AAUW dues are fully tax deductible.

## College/University Student Membership Fees

AAUW Affiliate College/University Student <b>e-Membership:</b>	<b>FREE</b>
Any College/University Student Membership:	\$18.81/year

## AAUW Membership Fee Increase

Members, please note that the National AAUW Board approved a \$2.00 per year increase over the next two (2) years.

New National dues \$74.00 starting April 1, 2025  
\$76.00 starting April 1, 2026

*Veronica*

# AAUW Fund

Thanks to the many members who helped make the Fund Fun a success! We made \$300+ profit for our branch remittances to The Fund. One attendee said: "I did my Christmas shopping!" Megan Chung, our AAUW fellow from UCLA, gave a wonderful presentation of her Master's thesis on Free Electron Laser imaging.

Don't forget to get your raffle tickets for the Gourmet Gala. The drawing will be held during the Annual Meeting on April 19<sup>th</sup>!

*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 10<sup>th</sup> (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.



# PUBLIC POLICY NEWS

Amy Hom and Melissa Maceyko, *Directors, Public Policy Committee Co-chairs*, [publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org](mailto:publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org)

## IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT 2025

### **Our core values are under attack. Take action now.**

As Co-Directors Amy Hom and Missy Maceyko outlined in a [webinar](#) in October 2024, the objectives of Project 2025 directly counter the Public Policy Priorities of AAUW California. **With federal policy pronouncements and changes continuing to take place at a head-spinning pace**, it is clear that changes are underway to make Project 2025 become reality (track implementation [HERE](#)). To respond to the attack on the people and issues we care about and to fulfill the mission of our organization, “to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research,” we will continue to compile resources to help you take action to fight back. This is a critical moment, as the changes that are being implemented may have long-lasting impacts, locally and globally.

Even as we are asking you to act, **we want to remind you that your well-being is important**. With an uptick in policies and enforcement actions that run counter to our core values, you may be feeling overwhelmed, exhausted, fearful, or anxious. Action is important, but [self-care is also a political act](#). Be gentle with yourself and acknowledge your efforts.

**We also encourage you to [check out this guide](#) on how to read the news more strategically to still be able to follow events while preventing burnout and protecting your mental health.**

You should also consider **staying connected** with AAUW members and with those outside of AAUW who are engaged in efforts to push back. To this end, here are some examples of individuals, groups, and organizations that are pushing back in different ways:

- direct refusal to comply, [via mass resignation](#),
- showing up in person not only to protest but also to [support, including showing love for beleaguered federal workers](#) at USAID,
- initiating and sustaining [legal challenges](#).

AAUW California is building out our own action-items database, which is being released to the California Leadership Team to review in March and which will go live for you in April. **Regardless, we will continue to provide a short list of targeted resources each month.**

**We ask you to take action by choosing one self-focused, one other-focused, and one political-focused item from the list below.** This month the topic area is:

### **TAKE ACTION: SEXUAL ASSAULT VIOLENCE PREVENTION**

#### **Self-Focused: Education**

- learn more about the organizations country-wide that are on the front lines of dealing with sexual assault violence
- read through the resources provided by the [Domestic Violence Awareness Project](#) and the CDC.

#### **Other-Focused: Education & Connection**

- whatever you take away from your homework in self-education--be sure to tell one friend about what you learned. You can do this over lunch.
- work with others to [organize an event](#) to raise awareness and dispel myths around gender-based and sexual assault violence in your community.

#### **Politically-Focused: Outreach to Senators**

- Use [5-calls](#) to reach out to federal legislators to oppose the abolition of the Department of Education, which will impact enforcement of existing sexual and gender-based violence protections under Title IX.

- text SIGN PNNWWO to 50409 to contact legislators, urging them to back efforts to get money flowing to relevant organizations and programs to raise awareness about and prevent sexual assault violence (e.g. [Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women](#)). See the [article](#) “Prepare for Sexual Assault Prevention Month in April” for additional agencies.

### Lobby Days 2025, April 8-9, 2025

We have had overwhelming interest in this year’s Lobby Days event, with 77 people registered to participate in person at the Capitol on April 8th and 107 people registered to participate via Zoom on April 9th! It is incredibly inspiring and humbling to be part of an organization that is so passionate about advocating to make the world better for women and girls. We are grateful.

The Public Policy Committee is now hard at work to form teams and schedule meetings, as well as evaluate bills for our 2025 Legislative Agenda.

From now through March 21st we will be posting information [HERE](#) on the event logistics and the bill details. Please check back for updates.

For any questions about the event, please reach out to [publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org](mailto:publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org).

### Follow


[AAUW California’s Petitions Page on Resistbot](#)

### SHARING IS CARING

#### Share PP News!

A humble request: Please share PP News more broadly! We want everyone inside and outside of AAUW, including anyone not regularly involved in Public Policy, to have important action tools and updates. You can also share the link to our PP News Archive. Thank you in advance!

*Liz*

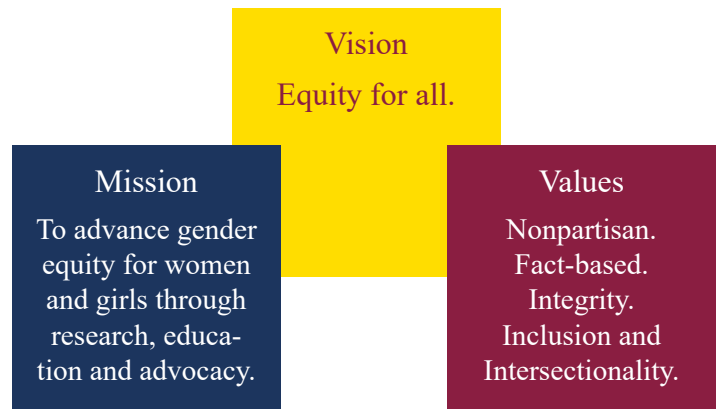


**Please donate to the Alhambra-San Gabriel-ELAC STEM Scholarship Fund.**

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](http://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



# REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Each year the Nominating Committee seeks interested and willing candidates for our upcoming year's Branch elective offices. I am pleased to report that our current 2024-25 officers have all agreed to serve a second term in their respective positions. Nothing could be better for the Branch than to be led again by this seasoned group of leaders.

## The 2025-26 Slate of Officers is as follows:

- |                    |                                 |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| A. President       | Marilee Wood                    |
| B. President-Elect | Liz Tarnove                     |
| C. Treasurer       | Cyndy Ramos                     |
| D. Secretary       | Betty Morín                     |
| E. Membership VP   | Veronica Alvarez                |
| F. AAUW Fund VP    | Jane Anderson                   |
| G. Program Co-VPs  | Deanna Arthur and Lovey Sherman |

## The Election Process will be conducted at our Annual Meeting, Saturday April 19<sup>th</sup>.

(Please refer to page 1 for detailed information.)

At the Annual Meeting, Nominations From the Floor will be requested of all attending members in good standing. Then, Members will be asked to cast their vote for 2025-26 Officers by a Show of Hands & Voice Vote.

Respectfully submitted—

The 2024-25 AAUW Alh-SG Branch Nominating Committee:

Joseph Des Barres, Chair

Marian Hallin

Gerry Kreger

Robin Polito

Elena Velarde

# 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 APRIL 2025

- *Healing Thoughts & Heartfelt Prayers to the **Branch Members, Friends & Families** who have sustained losses in the Eaton Canyon Fires.*
- **Mary Smeritschnig** would love to hear from you: [mrsmary237@yahoo.com](mailto:mrsmary237@yahoo.com) or 626-429-9039. Her new home is at The Oaks in Pasadena.
- **Marilyn Burgeson** should be returning to her home this month!
- **Marian Hallin** is recuperating from a medical procedure and thankful that her daughter was able to spend time with her husband Jack.
- **Lyda Chee** is recovering nicely from her recent hospitalizations. She continues to have her caregiver Cora with her. We hear she has even done some baking!
- **The Sunshine Committee** is gathering **Branch Birthdays** for next program year 2025-26! If you haven't already provided **Gerry Kreger** your Special Month and Day (Year isn't necessary), please text or call to leave her the message at 818-314-9191. Otherwise, she will look out for you at the April Annual Meeting.

**Kudos to Members sharing a Twig-Item! Jane Anderson, Deanna Arthur and Betty Morin.**

## i

**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 Committee Chair Gerry Kreger** by phone, text or email.  
Call or text Gerry at 818-314-9191. Email Gerry at [gerrykreger@gmail.com](mailto:gerrykreger@gmail.com)

or

Contact **Sunshine Committee member Elena Velarde** by phone, text or email.  
Call or text Elena at 213-304-7403. Email Elena at [la.elenalove@gmail.com](mailto:la.elenalove@gmail.com)

Inclusively,  
Gerry & Elena  
The Sunshine Committee



*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 \$16 x \_\_\_\_\_ (# sandwiches for myself & guests) for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

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

US MAIL: Send Check and this Reservation Form to:

Jane Krause, 10021 Amanita Ave., Tujunga, CA 91042

OR

Text or voicemail to Jane: 818-640-4059 or Email: [jkbldog517@gmail.com](mailto:jkbldog517@gmail.com)

**Please make your reservation no later than April 16<sup>th</sup>!**





## Tech Trek Update

Tech Trek is moving forward – We are now in the final stages of selecting the campers for 2025.

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 5 girls from the Alhambra schools [north of the San Bernardino freeway] and San Gabriel schools.

We are busy and looking forward to the 2025 Tech Trek program. You will hear our results next month in Mission Gateway.

Rozanne Child and her committee are working on getting TTAG [Tech Trek Alumni Group] up and active.

**Jane Krause**, TT South coordinator

**Tech Trek North** has a fundraising opportunity with the Showcase House to send TT North girls to camp. This is of course voluntary.

Here's How You Can Make a Difference:

1. By volunteering for a 3 1/2 hour shift you enable our branch to receive a contribution of \$50.00 from Showcase to assist in sending girls to camp.
2. If you volunteer for two 3 1/2 hour shifts you will receive a complimentary ticket to view the house.
3. This is a Win-Win for our girls and for Showcase which supports young aspiring musicians and supports music in the San Gabriel Valley Schools.

If you decide to volunteer, please contact me at [rchild44@gmail.com](mailto:rchild44@gmail.com) or through a text to me at 626-429-0404 and I will register for you. Showcase opens on Sunday, April 20 through May 18th. There are 3 shifts available for all days. The Showcase House of Design is closed on Monday. Please be sure to include your date and time. The Shifts are as follows: Morning Shifts: 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM Afternoon Shifts: 12:15 PM to 3:45 PM Evening Shifts: 3:30 PM to 7:00 PM.

If you decide not to work at the Showcase of Design you can make a donation to Tech Trek. Your donation is 100% tax deductible as Tech Trek is a 501(c)3 entity. Checks should be made payable to AAUW CA SPF. Write TT North in the memo line and mail your check to Joe DesBarres 4315 San Rafael Ave. Los Angeles.

Thank you,

**Rozanne Child**, Tech Trek North Branch Coordinator

## DRAMA

Drama group will gather April 14th at 7:00 p.m. to read Rose's Dilemma by Neil Simon



In her beach house in the Hamptons, celebrated writer Rose Stern stands at a crossroads: she hasn't written anything in years and money is getting short. Her former lover, literary lion Walsh McLaren, offers her-from beyond the grave-an opportunity to regain her celebrity and gross millions. It's not going to be easy and a "ghost" writer is required setting in motion another touching and unpredictable romantic theatrical by America's premier Pulitzer Prize-winning comic playwright. (2m/2f)

# BOOKS

**Day Books** will meet Wednesday, April 16, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. to review both Mother Daughter Traitor Spy by Susan Elia MacNeal and Behind Every Good Man by Sara Goodman Confino. (Held over as February and March were cancelled.)



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.



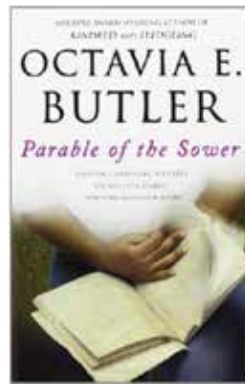
It's a doozy of a bad day for Beverly Diamond when she catches her husband, Larry, in a compromising position with his secretary. What's a DC suburban wife to do with a soon-to-be ex, two young kids, and no degree or financial support in 1962? Beat the louse at his own game, that's what.

Larry runs the Maryland senatorial campaign for the incumbent

candidate projected to win against his younger underdog opponent, Michael Landau. But Beverly has the pluck, political savvy, and sheer drive to push Landau's campaign in a successful new direction, even if he already has a campaign manager who is less than pleased she has inserted herself into the race.

Now it's rival against rival. She and Michael do make a great team...maybe in more ways than one. But with the election heating up, she needs to focus on one thing at a time. If Bev can convince Michael to go modern, pay attention to women's issues, and learn how to dress himself properly, maybe she can show Larry exactly how much he has underestimated her their entire marriage—and make her own dreams come true in the process.

**Evening Books** will meet Monday, April 28, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. to review The Parable of the Sower by Octavia E. Butler.



Lauren Olamina and her family live in one of the only safe neighborhoods remaining on the outskirts of Los Angeles. Behind the walls of their defended enclave, Lauren's father, a preacher, and a handful of other citizens try to salvage what remains of a culture that has been destroyed by drugs, disease, war, and chronic water shortages. While her father tries

to lead people on the righteous path, Lauren struggles with hyper-empathy, a condition that makes her extraordinarily sensitive to the pain of others.

When fire destroys their compound, Lauren's family is killed and she is forced out into a world that is fraught with danger. With a handful of other refugees, Lauren must make her way north to safety, along the way conceiving a revolutionary idea that may mean salvation for all mankind.

# ACTIVITIES

Tap into the Fun!

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

Board Meeting - The next Board meeting will be the "In and Out" meeting, yet to be scheduled.

Meetup - Call Veronica or Deanna for information.



Day Books will meet Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM at Kathleen Doty's home. Book info on page 10. Contact Kathleen Doty for more information.

Evening Books will meet Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM, at Deanna Arthur's home. Book info on page 10. Contact Deanna Arthur for more information.



Every Member Event: Hope to see you at the branch **Annual Meeting** on April 19th. 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, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. for a cold reading of the play of the month. Play info on page 9. For more information, contact Kathleen Doty.



Professional Women Gourmets will gather next in May. Kathleen Doty is hosting.

Restaurant Gourmets are gathering Saturday, April 26, 2025 at 6:00 PM at the newly remodeled Panda Inn, 3488 E. Foothill Blvd., Pasadena. Contact Deanna Arthur for details.



Creative Crafters will gather via Zoom on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month at 3:00 pm. Next meetings: April 2<sup>nd</sup>, May 7<sup>th</sup> and June 4<sup>th</sup> Would you like to join us? For more information contact Jane Krause – [jkbigdog517@gmail.com](mailto:jkbigdog517@gmail.com). Jane will be sending the Zoom link the day before the scheduled meeting.



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](mailto:alhsangab44@gmail.com)

Our branch website is

[alhsangab-ca.aauw.net](http://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)