



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

The Mission Gateway

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Marilee Wood

We are proud to announce that our very own **Kathleen Doty** has been named **State Named Gift Honoree 2025** for her dedicated work contributing to **The Fund**, which gives our young women opportunities to attend higher education and to pursue careers in the sciences and mathematics!

The 2024-2025 Branch Fiscal Year is coming to a close! In the first year of my presidency, I have gained great appreciation for the work that each of you do to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy.

We are most fortunate that our Branch Officers have remained in their respective roles, enabling consistency and stability as we move forward in our projects and programs. And we welcome our new President-Elect, Liz Tarnove, into the fold. We will see an expansion of Tech Trek through the Tech Trek Alumnae Group (TTAG). We will also continue our conversations regarding the DEI Strategic Plan and follow the programming of JABEID (Justice, Accessibility, Belonging, Equity, Inclusion and Diversity) that began in the spring.

Our Annual Meeting was held on April 19th, with an engaging and provocative presentation by US Air Force Retired Colonel Wayne Scott, addressing Women in the Military.

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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.



INSTALLATION OF BRANCH OFFICERS

Date: Saturday, May 10, 2025

Time: 11:00 AM

**Place: Kathleen Doty's back yard
1224 S. 4th St., Alhambra, 91801**

On April 19, 2025 the following officers were elected:

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

Look to the impending year with this new board of directors as they are installed into office for 2025-2026. Light refreshments will be served. While you are there, re-unite with friends old and new as we divine the future of the branch. Hope to see you all May 10th!!

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

AAUW CA members have sent gift cards from across the state to our branch members in need, due to the Eaton fires. Two members lost their homes and one member had smoke damage. We thank AAUW CA members for their generosity and kindness during this difficult time.

AAUW CA will be seeking approval for a state dues increase from \$20 to \$30 annually. You will receive your ballot when the election opens on April 26th. Look for an email with the subject *2025 AAUW California Election Ballot* or check your spam folder.

Please take good care of yourself! 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. Be gentle with yourself and acknowledge your efforts.

Public Policy offers a guide on how to read the news more strategically to still be able to follow events while preventing burnout and protecting your mental health. It is recommended that you stay connected with AAUW members and with those outside of AAUW who are engaged in efforts to push back. There are examples of individuals, groups, and organizations that are pushing back in different ways.

In building the world we want, *"the challenge for us... is not to grieve over social change, but to guide it."* – Robert Putnam

Events for May:

1. **Installation of the 2025-2026 Elected Officers** – Saturday, May 10th – 11:00am to 12:00pm in Kathleen's backyard. All Branch Members are invited to attend. An email blast will be sent to remind you of this important event.
2. **Board of Directors Planning Meeting for 2025-2026** – Saturday, May 31st – Kathleen's Backyard – 11:00am to 12:30pm

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 15th of the month prior to the intended month of publication.

Membership Corner:

It was great seeing all of you that attended our annual branch meeting on April 19th. I was able to take few photographs of our happy members. Thank you to all board members who brought savory sides to compliment the sandwiches. And, congratulations to our newly elected board members!

Veronica



L-R: Lovey, Gerry and Cyndy



L-R: Jane K. and Rozanne



L-R: Dolores, Gerry and Liz

AAUW Fund

A big THANK YOU! to all of you who supported the Fund this year. And, CONGRATULATIONS to Lorain “Tangee” Mason, the winner of this year’s Gourmet Gala. The Fund continues to provide scholarships to: women pursuing graduate degrees; women entering alternative professions; and community action projects. Did you know that Tech Trek was started with a Community Action Grant? And, did you know that AAUW will be awarding more than \$5,000,000 in fellowships and grants this year? Thank you, Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch, for supporting this tangible outcome of our mission!

Jane

Gourmet Gala with Kathleen and Her Sister

(Opportunities for 25-26 will be available in the fall)



Let us prepare a semi-formal dinner for you and three of your friends at Kathleen’s home in Alhambra 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 **at the Branch Annual Meeting in April, 2026**. 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.



Tech Trek South and Tech Trek North have finished interviewing all the candidates and have chosen the finalists to attend Tech Trek Camp this summer. It was a difficult decision as there were many outstanding candidates. TT South chose ten campers to

attend Whittier College, June 15-21 and five campers to attend Virtual Camp in July.

Tech Trek North chose four campers to attend camp this summer. Two campers will attend the University of California Santa Barbara July 13-19, and two campers will attend Whittier College June 15-21.

Jane and I want to thank AAUW members, friends and others who have joined with us to support Tech Trek. Your donations are making a real difference in the lives of these young girls. Thank you.

Rozanne Child
Tech Trek North Coordinator

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.

APRIL 2025 PUBLIC POLICY NEWS

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

FIND WAYS TO TAKE ACTION (THERE ARE SO MANY WAYS)!

Public Policy Committee Sets AAUW California Legislative Agenda

The Public Policy Committee met over a weekend in mid-March for our most important meeting of the year, to set the Legislative Agenda for 2025. Prior to the meeting, our committee collectively evaluated over 60 bills related to AAUW's mission and Public Policy Priorities. During our two-day marathon session, we carefully considered each bill. We then voted to select and prioritize the top 25 bills, leaving room to add a few more bills that we know will be coming to us in the next few weeks.

Our three "A" priority bills are SB 771 "Social Media Platforms Endangering Californians", AB 579 "Yaeli's Law", and SB 418 "Ensure Equal Access to Care for All". All three of the "A" priority bills this year fall under the Social Justice pillar of our Public Policy Priorities.

The first "A" bill, SB 771 "Social Media Platforms Endangering Californians", is authored by Senator Henry Stern and is sponsored by AAUW California. SB 771 clarifies that a social media platform may be liable for civil penalty under existing law if and when its algorithms or AI aid or abet individual users who are engaging in already unlawful intimidation of others in online spaces. While hateful speech is problematic, it is not illegal. However, it can cross the line into illegal action.

When hate speech is "brought to the doorstep" of marginalized communities, for example, if someone maliciously posts anti-immigrant messages on the virtual Facebook wall of an immigrant family, they are engaging in unlawful intimidation, terrorism, and threats. While social media platforms are not responsible for the speech of individual users, aspects of their platform, such as algorithms or AI, can be complicit in the targeting of marginalized groups, which is unlawful. Social media companies have recently intentionally turned away from providing safeguards that they previously provided for targeted vulnerable communities. They should be held accountable for that decision, in light of the real-world impacts of the proliferation of online hate and their complicity in unlawful intimidation.

The second "A" bill, to which we are taking an opposition position, is AB 579 "Yaeli's Law" authored by Assemblymember Leticia Castillo. This bill rests on the premise that denial of support for youth self-identity, including refusal to use a child's name and pronouns, or refusal to provide or allow their gender-affirming care, is not harmful and therefore should not be considered child abuse under the law, and, accordingly, not be allowed as a basis for custody or removal decisions. This is problematic. Research shows that transgender children are more likely to experience anxiety and depression and are at greater risk of substance abuse and homelessness when they live in households that do not accept their gender identity. We oppose this bill because every child deserves to be protected from emotional and physical abuse, including the right to be removed from a harmful household to a more healthy environment.

The third "A" bill is SB 418 "Ensure Equal Access to Care for All" authored by Senator Caroline Menjivar. This bill would prohibit a health plan or a health insurance provider from denying coverage or denying benefits to a person based upon their race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex - including sex characteristics such as intersex traits, pregnancy, and gender identity. Access to gender-affirming care is a fundamental aspect of health equity and human rights. SB 418 will protect against discrimination on the basis of sex, while also sending a powerful message of support to the LGBTQ+ community, affirming that their needs matter. Creating an environment where all individuals can express their identities without fear is foundational to a strong democracy.

To see the full 2025 Legislative Agenda, please go to the [Bill Tracking Report. This report is a living document that will be updated as the bills move through the legislative process, so you will always be able to see the latest status.](#)

New Resource for Taking Action!

As we 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](#)).

TAKE ACTION: PROTECT VOTING RIGHTS

Self-Focused: Education

- learn more about [the SAVE Act](#) that is moving through Congress
- learn more about [California Assembly Bill \(AB\) 25](#)
- learn more about how voting rights challenges that target small or non-existent populations and issues, like SAVE and AB 25, [serve to disenfranchise many others in the process](#)

Other-Focused: Education & Connection

- tell a few people (2-10) something about the [potential impacts](#) of passage of the SAVE Act and/or AB 25
- tell a few people (2-10) something that **THEY** can do to oppose the SAVE Act, CA AB 25, and/or voting rights challenges more broadly

Politically-Focused: Outreach to Legislators (State/Federal)

- use AAUW National's 2-minute activities platform to [voice your opposition](#) to the SAVE Act
- watch the progress of [California's AB 25](#) and reach out to representatives in CA if/when the bill is being heard to make sure the bill is actively opposed

Take Action to Help Kids Feel Safe at School

Many of our members have expressed concerns about the potential for ICE raids in our local schools. These intrusions on school grounds are already happening in some places and are having a significant detrimental impact on these families, especially for their children. Some of the ramifications have included:

- Parents not showing up at school events, fearing agents might be there
- Students don't want to come to school, fearing their parents will be taken while they're gone
- Children not learning, consumed by fear of agents coming on campus to take them away

Here are some things you should know:

- Current law (*Plyler v Doe* 1982) held that all children, even undocumented, have a constitutional right to free public education
- In 2011, DHS issued the "Sensitive Locations" policy, which prohibited raids from certain places including schools
- Although the President has attempted to revoke the order, Executive Orders and Actions cannot change statutes or regulations
- There are currently four lawsuits challenging the attempted revocation; three from churches have been successful so far, one from a school in Denver has resulted in a denial of a request for a temporary injunction
- Current law also prohibits ICE entry on campuses without a warrant
- Even if they have a warrant to enter, that does not entitle them to have access to private/protected student records

Here are two things you can do:

- Urge your school boards/districts to issue a "Safe Zone" Resolution – template can be found here: [Guidance on Immigration Issues | NEA](#)
- Engage your branch members in a postcard-writing campaign to their school boards with following message:

WE STAND WITH

- Immigrant students
- LGBTQ+ youth

AAUW California Public Policy is on Bluesky

We plan to use this account to send out state-level legislative action alerts, promote Resistbot petitions, and provide real-time updates. We encourage you to create your own account, if you have not yet done so, and follow us! You can find us by clicking this [link](#) or by following us on Bluesky.

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

Liz

MAY/JUNE 2025 TWIG-ITEMS FROM THE SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

AAUW ALHAMBRA-SAN GABRIEL BRANCH

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



- Sad news about our former **AAUW M&M Member Rosalie Miranda Robles** who passed on April 13, 2025. Please contact **Dolores Seidman** for further information regarding chapel visitation and funeral service at Rose Hills.
- It's been a really crazy few months for **Member Tiffany White**. She had her qualifying exams and then found out that she is pregnant!! Tiff is expecting a Baby Boy in September!! She wanted to come to our April Annual Meeting, but just had too much to do for Easter, and was preparing for her doctoral presentation in Denver next week. Happy Spring from Tiff!
- **Branch President Marilee Wood** shares her joyful news with us: During April she submitted to an MRI test and results found that she is cancer-free! YES!!!
- **Former Branch Tech-Trekker & current TTAG Committee member Joyce Ma** will serve as Tech Trek Junior Counselor this summer at University of California San Diego. Congratulations, Joyce!
- **Member Mary Smeritschnig** received our collective AAUW CA Wildfire Relief Gift Cards, etc., and is overjoyed and grateful to our membership and California AAUW's leadership in attending to our members in need after the Eaton Canyon wildfires devastation.
- **Member Lyda Chee** is improving in her mobility and command of daily activities. Fund VP Jane Anderson took Lyda grocery shopping recently! Lyda sends her love to all.
- **Membership VP Veronica Alvarez** and Family will be touring Europe this June. The group will visit Amsterdam, Paris and Italy by trains and planes. We wish you the happiest trip and hope for photos!
- **Tech Trek North Coordinator Rozanne Child** has found her 3 concrete bunnies who magically appeared in time to celebrate Spring!!!
- **In Honor of Member Delora Brown**, this year's **AAUW Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch—East Los Angeles College STEM Scholarship** will be awarded at the Annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony on the evening of May 30, 2025, in the Monterey Park Marriott Hotel. Our scholarship recipient will be announced on May 1, 2025. To date, Delora's & Recipient's plaques are In Progress!

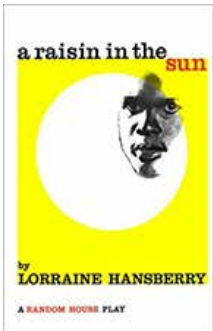
Thank you, Branch Members for volunteering May/June Twig-Items:

Dolores Seidman, Tiffany White, Marilee Wood, Joyce Ma, Jane Anderson, Rozanne Child, Joe Des Barres

Gerry & Elena

DRAMA

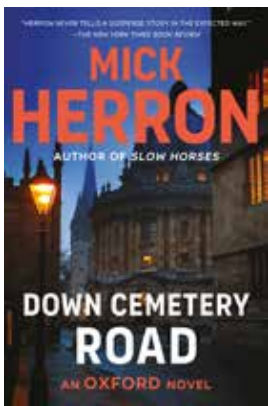
Drama group will gather Mayy 12th at 7:00 p.m. to read A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry.



A Raisin in the Sun debuted on Broadway in 1959. The title comes from the poem "Harlem" (also known as "A Dream Deferred") by Langston Hughes. The story tells of a black family's experiences in south Chicago, as they attempt to improve their financial circumstances with an insurance payout following the death of their father, and deals with matters of housing discrimination, racism, and assimilation. The New York Drama Critics' Circle named it the best play of 1959. (7m/3f/1boy)

BOOKS

Day Books will meet Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. to review Down Cemetery Road by Mick Herron and Wednesday, June 18, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. to review The Measure by Nikki Erlick..



When a house explodes in a quiet Oxford suburb and a girl disappears in the aftermath, Sarah Tucker—a young married woman, bored and unhappy with domestic life—becomes obsessed with finding her. Accustomed to dull chores in a childless household and hosting her husband's wearisome business clients for dinner, Sarah suddenly finds herself questioning everything

she thought she knew as her investigation reveals that people long believed dead are still among the living, while the living are fast joining the dead. What begins in a peaceful neighborhood reaches its climax on a remote, unwelcoming Scottish island as the search puts Sarah in league with a man being hunted down by murderous official forces.



Eight ordinary people. One extraordinary choice.

It seems like any other day. You wake up, drink a cup of coffee, and head out.

But today, when you open your front door, waiting for you is a small wooden box. The contents of this mysterious box tells you the exact number of years you will live.

From suburban doorsteps to desert tents, every person on every continent receives the same box. In an instant, the world is thrust into a collective frenzy. Where did these boxes come from? What do they mean? Is there truth to what they promise?

As society comes together and pulls apart, everyone faces the same shocking choice: Do they wish to know how long they'll live? And, if so, what will they do with that knowledge?

The Measure charts the dawn of this new world through an unforgettable cast of characters whose decisions and fates interweave with one another: best friends whose dreams are forever entwined, pen pals finding refuge in the unknown, a couple who thought they didn't have to rush, a doctor who cannot save himself, and a politician whose box becomes the powder keg that ultimately changes everything.

Enchanting and deeply uplifting, The Measure is an ambitious, invigorating story about family, friendship, hope, and destiny that encourages us to live life to the fullest.

Evening Books will gather Monday, May 26, 2025 and Monday, June 23, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. The books for review had not been chosen at press time.

ACTIVITIES

Tap into the Fun!

New faces, and used ones, are always welcomed.

Join Us!

Board Meeting - Planning session to be held May 31, 2025, in person. Details in the President's Message. Open to all members.

Meetup - Call Veronica or Deanna for information.



Day Books will meet Wednesdays, May 21st and June 18th at 1:00 PM at Kathleen Doty's home. Book info on page 7. Contact Kathleen Doty for more information.

Evening Books will meet Mondays, May 26th and June 23rd at 7:00 PM, locations TBD. Books not chosen at press time. Contact Deanna Arthur for more information.



Every Member Event: Hope to see you at the Installation meeting on May 10th. 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, May 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 on May 3rd at 11:30 AM. Kathleen Doty is the hostess.

Restaurant Gourmets are gathering May ?, 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: May 7th, June 4th, and July 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.



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

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)