



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

# The Mission Gateway

## President's Message



Marilee Wood

**Happy Holidays and  
Best Wishes to each of  
you!**

**Remember: Voting  
is how we make our-  
selves heard!**

**AAUW California  
Public Policy Shares  
Education-Focused,  
Nonpartisan Guidance on Proposition 50**

AAUW California released nonpartisan voter-education information to help Californians understand [Proposition 50](#), a statewide ballot measure on the November 4, 2025, special election. Consistent with the organization's mission and public policy priorities, this resource focuses on how the Proposition would alter the redistricting process for California's congressional districts and provides authoritative, neutral sources for further information.

"Although illegal midterm redistricting efforts outside California may seem like a federal issue, they are now directly relevant to Californians," said Amy Hom, a former engineer and co-chair of AAUW California's Public Policy Committee. "California continues to maintain strong protections for women and girls, marginalized people, free speech, accurate history, sound science, and democratic norms," Hom said. "However, Californians remain subject

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**'TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOYOUS!**

Join us on Monday December 1st at the  
Alhambra First United Methodist Church  
9 N. Almansor Street. Alhambra

Please plan to arrive  
**NO LATER than 6:40 pm**

Enjoy delightful desserts  
prior to the program.

***THE NEW CENTURY SINGERS***

will be jingling bells and tapping toes as we  
wish the world a holly, jolly holiday!

**The performance will begin immediately at  
7:00 pm**



Marilee Wood, President • Liz Tarnove, President-Elect • Betty Morin, Secretary • Cyndy Ramos, Treasurer • Kathleen Doty, Newsletter Editor • Deanna Arthur & Lovey Sherman, Program VPs • Jane Anderson, 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.

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## President's Message...

to the laws, rules, and enforcement actions of a federal government influenced by the directives of Project 2025 rather than the will of the people,” she added.

AAUW California shared that Proposition 50 can preserve the state’s ability to serve all Californians in the face of overwhelming federal encroachment. The approval of Proposition 50 by California voters can help combat illegal efforts to silence opposition voices and advance an executive agenda heavily influenced by [Project 2025](#).

Approval of Proposition 50 can aid in this endeavor by approving redistricting efforts in California for the subsequent election cycles, until maps are redrawn after the next census in 2030, which will only be triggered as a proportional response. AAUW California supports all efforts to preserve and advance democracy, in conjunction with its public policy priorities focused on gender-based equity and social justice.

“While this kind of redistricting response is often framed as an escalation of a partisan conflict, in the current political environment, we should think carefully about what is being labeled as partisan,” said Dr. Melissa (Missy) Maceyko, an expert in effective social change and political action, and co-chair of AAUW California’s Public Policy Committee. “Partisan labeling can be reductive when the choice has become one of supporting authoritarianism or preserving functional democracy and protecting the rights of all people,” she added.

AAUW California seeks to educate voters on Proposition 50. The organization is reminding all Californians that support for Proposition 50 is a non-partisan move to preserve broader democratic norms in California; to oppose the implementation of Project 2025 in California; and to continue advancing gender equity, including through AAUW California’s mission and public policy priorities.

AAUW California offers materials for California voters interested in learning more about the issues. Voters are invited to visit <https://tinyurl.com/AAUWProp50Media> to access resources, including a one-page fact sheet and an informational flyer. AAUW California encourages everyone to vote. Official election details and voter registration information can be found at <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections>.

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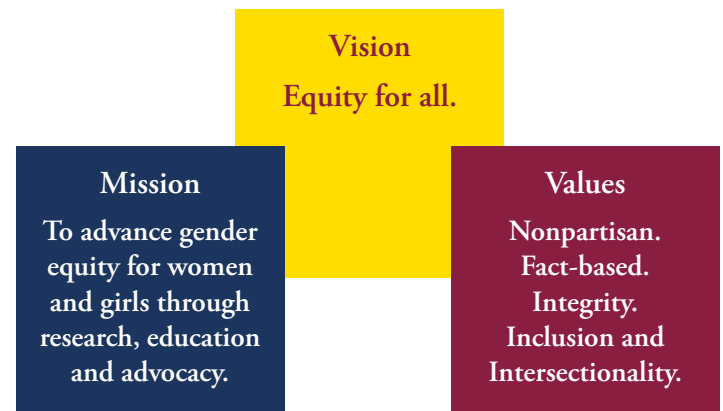
Mark your calendars for our **December Membership Holiday Program** on **Monday, December 1, 2025 at 7 p.m.** This will be held at **Alhambra First United Methodist Church, 9 N. Almansor, Alhambra.** It’s always a

fun event and it will be exciting to see what our Program Chairs and committee have planned for us. There will be holiday camaraderie, entertainment, and refreshments. Creative Crafters will have a booth of hand-made items for sale. The money will be donated to the branch scholarship at ELAC. Be prepared to find wonderful stocking stuffers and special hand-made gifts for the holidays!

We are looking forward to our 2025-2026 Branch Electronic Directory. Thank you, Kathleen, for your persistent, diligent and generous work. Keep in touch with Kathleen if your contact information changes. Please let Kathleen know if you want a paper copy this year.

**2026 Planning – Save the Date: AAUW Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch’s Author’s Luncheon, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Alhambra First United Methodist Church.**

*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

Many thanks to all of you who attended the fabulous presentation from our very own panel of Brave Resilient Women (BRW). It was educational and insightful. A special thank you to Dianne Askew for sharing her story.

We are also pleased to announce that Graciela Mullen has joined our AAUW family. If you remember, Graciela was also our ELAC Scholarship recipient this year and was featured in our September Newsletter. Graciela currently attends Cal State Long Beach. We hope to see a lot more of her at our events and follow her educational progress. We are certain she will accomplish her goals.

We will be having a membership event in January 2026. We will start the New Year with a BANG. We will send information to all of you. Be on the lookout for an invitation.

Cheers to a Healthy and Prosperous 2026.

*Veronica*



Top, left to right: Janet Lee, DEI Chair; Betty Morín, BRW Chair  
Bottom: Diane Askew, Elena Velarde, Jackie Fisher, Kathleen Doty  
Photographer: Veronica Alvarez

## Branch Presents Women Advancing DEI Initiatives.

The Alhambra San Gabriel branch's Brave Resilient Women (BRW) joined in presenting an exciting project with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) committee to present "Women Advancing DEI Initiatives, A Panel Presentation." Janet Lee, DEI Chair, launched the program, held at the first Methodist Church in Alhambra on October 18, by underscoring AAUW's long history of promoting equity and recently adopting a DEI strategic plan for its branches. This includes exploring diversity in health, elder rights (ageism) and education and race.

Janice also explained that "Intersectionality is a framework for understanding how various aspects of a person's social and political identities combine to create unique experiences of discrimination or privilege. It highlights how race, class, gender, sexual orientation, and other social categorizations can overlap and create unique experiences of oppression."

Betty Morín, BRW chair, opened the panel by introducing its three speakers and their DEI themes. Kathleen Doty introduced us to two women who furthered the rights of women in healthcare, Elizabeth Blackwell, and Dr. Helen Rodriguez-Trios. Jackie Fisher described the successes and challenges of Maggie Kuhn, creator of the Gray Panthers and Judy Chu, our representative in Congress, who has fought to expand the rights of elders and protect their Social Security and pensions. Elena Velarde introduced us to two women who, through their research and practice, expanded equitable access, in education, Dr. Lisa D. Delpit, and Dr. Juliet V. Garcia.

DEI Chair, Janet Lee urged members to consider sharing their personal experiences with health issues, elder rights and race in a new column in our branch's newsletter. She introduced Diane Askew, who related her personal struggle against ageism. After taking the licensing exam in her field nine times and failing by only a few points each time, Diane decided to hire a lawyer. Through the courts, records of the exams were opened and revealed subjectivity and bias toward ageism. "Subsequently the licensing board was forced to make the process more objective and not subject to biases of the examiners," Diane said. She took the exam again and passed. Several of her colleagues followed her example and were also successful.

After the presentation, a lively discussion took place. One member brought up the difficulty that the DEI message is experiencing in society today. Others in the group admitted that possibly the name DEI might go away, but that the principles behind it of fairness and justice will prevail. The meeting ended on a high note of hope for diversity and equity for the future.

*Jackie*

# One AAUW. One Mission. One Fund.

Donate Now

The AAUW Fund advances AAUW's mission by sustaining all our programs and activities. Your unrestricted gift to the AAUW Fund helps incubate and disseminate programs that

- above all, advance equity for women and girls
- strengthen AAUW's role in the global community
- respond to and eradicate the persistent challenges facing women and girls
- leverage new opportunities and attract new audiences to our mission.

In short, the programs listed here get results for women and girls. And that's AAUW's top priority, now and in the future.

Gifts to the AAUW Fund are dispersed as needed to impactful projects that advance the mission of AAUW.

*Jane A.*

## 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 9<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 18, 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.





# Public Policy

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

On Tuesday, October 7th, Public Policy Co-chairs Missy Maceyko and Amy Hom presented a webinar titled "Project 2025 Impacts on AAUW Values - One Year Later: How to Stop Ongoing Implementation". The presentation revisited last year's webinar, [Project 2025 and How It Would Impact AAUW Public Policy Priorities](#), providing sobering updates on the rapid pace and extent of the Trump administration's implementation of many of the policy predictions. The session also offered concrete strategies for collective action to slow and resist Project 2025's rollout - beginning with the 2025 Special Election GOTV education on the positive impacts of California Proposition 50. Click [HERE](#) for the YouTube video and [HERE](#) for the slide presentation.

If you haven't already done so, **please check out the resources launched on September 25th and commit yourself or your branch to at least one 'Get Out the Vote (GOTV)' effort** (e.g., phone banking, tabling, etc.). You can find the resources [HERE](#) or on the AAUW California home page ([HERE](#)). You can also share the resources with more people by reposting AAUW California Public Policy's social media messages from Bluesky about important GOTV dates ([HERE](#)) and Prop 50 ([HERE](#)). You can repost through your personal Bluesky account or copy the post-links above to re-post on your personal accounts on other platforms (e.g., Facebook).

LVB

## Calling all Crafters!



The Creative Crafter group invites all crafters to bring items to sell at the December Holiday party. Please bring items 1/2 hour early for placement and pricing. All funds generated by the December 2025 AAUW Alhambra/San Gabriel Craft Table are designated to go to the AAUW/ELAC Foundation.

When paying for items by check OR simply making a donation:

- **Please make checks payable to East Los Angeles College Foundation.**
- **And in the memo line "AAUW/ELAC Scholarship"**



## Tech Trek News November 2025

Thanks to everyone for supporting our Tech Trek Luncheon on September 20th at the First United Methodist Church on 9 North Almansor. It was wonderful listening to the girls sharing their experiences at camp last summer. I could tell by their talks they were so appreciative to the branch, members and friends and the organizations that sent them. Thanks also to those of you who supported the Fundraiser for Tech Trek North on October 7th at the California Pizza Kitchen at the Arcadia Mall.

I'm happy to report that we have 15 active members of our TTAG group. Several new campers from both North and South have joined us. Barbara, Sally and I are planning a Zoom get together for the girls to get to know one another, choose leaders and make plans for this coming year. We will keep you updated as we move forward. Please let Barbara or me know if you are interested in helping with TTAG we would love to have you.

Speaking of Tech Trek I have some wonderful news to share! Keiko Rakin, a 2021 virtual camper a senior at Alhambra High School has been chosen as a princess on the 2026 Rose Parade Court. Congratulations, Keiko, we are so proud and happy for you.

In addition, Isabell Yip 2022 camper from Brightwood has been chosen as a student representative on the Alhambra Unified School District School Board. Congratulations Isabella, we are so proud of you! Keiko Rakin has also been chosen to serve another year as a student representative on the Alhambra School District Board of Education. Wow, such honors for these two young ladies.

Both TT South and TT North are beginning to gear up for the 2026 recruitment process that will begin in early January. If you are interested in making an end of the year donation to either TT South or North - contact Jane Krause or Rozanne Child for details. Remember TT is a 501(c)3 organization and is completely tax deductible.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families,  
Rozanne Child TT North Coordinator

**FROM THE SUNSHINE COMMITTEE**  
**NOVEMBER & DECEMBER**  
**BRANCH BIRTHDAYS**



**Dearest Members,**

**In HONOR of YOUR BIRTHDAYS,**  
The 2025-26 Sunshine Committee  
cheerfully celebrate YOU throughout the year.

**Birthday Greetings!**

Your Birthdays will appear in the Mission Gateway each month, and  
Betty will send you an Exclusive E-card!!!

**NOVEMBER & DECEMBER** are our 2nd & 3rd months of the Branch Program Year.

Therefore, if you were born during these months,  
Please be on the lookout for an E-CARD from your Friends & Well-Wishers Back at the Branch!

Please help us maintain accurate records.  
Please call or text us if you do not see your name or correct date listed during Your Birth Month.  
Our aim is to enhance your Special Day  
To let you know how much We Appreciate YOU!

**HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS:**

**5TH LOVEY SHERMAN**  
**18TH TIFFANY WHITE**  
**19TH ELENA VELARDE**

**HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:**

**4TH VIRGINIA ORENOS**  
**20TH MARILYN JEFFS**  
**28TH SONIA TUMA**

Keeping our records accurate is **Gerry Kreger, Sunshine Committee Chair.**  
Leave a detailed message about *your birth date* or *a colleague's birth date*, or *omission(s)*.  
Text or Leave **Gerry** a Voice Message:

**818-314-9191**

Email Message:

[kregerg@aol.com](mailto:kregerg@aol.com)

# Drama

Drama readers will gather November 10th to read *Night Watch* by Lucille Fletcher and December 8th to read *The Turn Away Play*. Contact Kathleen Doty for more information.



Unable to sleep, Elaine Wheeler paces the living room of her Manhattan townhouse, troubled by unsettling memories and vague fears. Her husband tries to comfort her, but when he steps away for a moment Elaine screams as she sees (or believes she sees) the body of a dead man in the window across the way. The police are called, but find nothing except an empty chair. Elaine's terror grows as shortly thereafter she sees still another body—this time a woman's—but by now the police are skeptical and pay no heed to her frantic pleas. Her husband, claiming that Elaine may be on the verge of a breakdown, calls in a lady psychiatrist, who agrees with his suggestion that Elaine should commit herself to a sanitarium for treatment. From this point on, the plot moves quickly and grippingly as those involved—Elaine's old friend and house guest Blanche; the inquisitive and rather sinister man who lives next door; and the nosy German maid Helga—all contribute to the deepening suspense and mystery of the play as it draws towards its riveting and chilling climax. A drama for a cast of 5 men and 4 women.

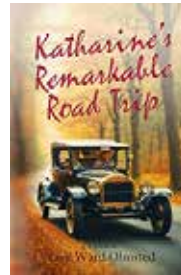
*The Turnaway Play* is about what really happens when people are denied access to abortion. An urgent issue comes to life onstage through humor, drama, and audience participation.

The play is inspired and informed by the groundbreaking Turnaway Study, conducted by Dr. Diana Greene Foster, a 2023 MacArthur Fellow and researcher at the University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Foster followed 1,000 women from across the country for five years and obtained the first scientific results on the consequences people face when either having or being denied an abortion. The main finding of the Turnaway Study is that receiving an abortion does not harm the health and wellbeing of women, but in fact, being denied an abortion results in worse financial, health and family outcomes.

Characters in the play are based on Turnaway Study subjects and members of the research team. The play uses the words and experiences of these real people to bust myths and reduce abortion stigma. Drama, humor, and audience participation make it an engaging and thought-provoking theatrical event.

# BOOKS

**Day Books** will meet November 17th to review *Katharine's Remarkable Road Trip* by Gail Ward Olmstead and December 15th to review *The Last One at the Wedding* by Jason Rekulac. Time is 4:30 p.m. and location is Kathleen Doty's home. Contact Kathleen Doty for more information.



In the fall of 1907, Katharine decides to drive from Newport, Rhode Island to her new home in Jackson, New Hampshire. Despite the concerns of her family and friends that at the age of 77 she lacks the stamina for the nearly 300-mile journey, Katharine sets out alone. Over the next six days, she receives a marriage proposal, pulls an all-nighter, saves a life or two, crashes a high-society event, meets a kindred spirit, faces a former rival, makes a new friend, takes a stroll with a future movie mogul, advises a troubled newlywed, and reflects upon a life well her own!



Frank Szatowski is shocked when his daughter, Maggie, calls him for the first time in three years. He was convinced that their estrangement would become permanent. He's even more surprised when she invites him to her upcoming wedding in New Hampshire. Frank is ecstatic, and determined to finally make things right.

He arrives to find that the wedding is at a private estate—very secluded, very luxurious, very much out of his league. It seems that Maggie failed to mention that she's marrying Aidan Gardner, the son of a famous tech billionaire. Feeling desperately out of place, Frank focuses on reconnecting with Maggie and getting to know her new family. But it's difficult: Aidan is withdrawn and evasive; Maggie doesn't seem to have time for him; and he finds that the locals are disturbingly hostile to the Gardners. Frank needs to know more about this family his daughter is marrying into, but if he pushes too hard, he could lose Maggie forever.

**Evening Books** are merging with day books and will meet with them on November 17th and December 15th at 4:30 pm, reading the same books. Contact Deanna Arthur for more information.

# ACTIVITIES

Tap into the Fun!

New faces, and used ones, are always welcomed.

Join Us!

**Board Meeting** Monday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 PM on Zoom. Socialize at 6:45 PM. Open to all members.

**Meetup** - Contact Veronica or Deanna for details on Meetups this year.



**Day Books** will meet Mondays, November 17<sup>th</sup> and December 15<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 PM at Kathleen Doty's home. Book information on page 7.

**Evening Books** will meet on Mondays: November 17<sup>th</sup> and December 15<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 PM with Day Books. Contact Deanna Arthur for more information.



**Every Member Event:** Hope to see you at the branch meeting on December 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:40 pm. 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 second and fourth Thursdays of each month. Silly, serious, intellectually challenging. Contact Kathleen Doty for access code.



**Drama:** Join us on November 19<sup>th</sup> and December 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. for cold readings of the play for the month. Play information 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** - Contact Sandra Jelinek for information.

**Restaurant Gourmets** Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, 6:00 PM at Foothill Restaurant, 2835 E. Foothill Blvd., Pasadena and Saturday December 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 PM at Mama Lu's, 910 E. Main St., Alhambra. Contact Deanna Arthur for breaking information and to RSVP.



**Creative Crafters** will gather via Zoom on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month at 3:00 pm. Upcoming dates are: November 5<sup>th</sup>, December 3<sup>rd</sup> and January 7<sup>th</sup>. 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](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

## 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