



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 and Healthy
New Year to you and
your family!**

As the new year begins, I thank each and every one of you, our Alhambra-San Gabriel Members, for your diligent efforts on this journey of ongoing VISION and EQUITY FOR ALL.

This past year, in November, AAUW National recognized Yie-Shin Hung, an executive-level global finance and business leader who has been recognized as one of *Forbes' 100 Most Powerful Women in the World*.

AAUW supported Yie-Hsin as a Selected Professions Fellow, and her career stands as a powerful example of the impact of investing in women's potential. This fellowship has supported 526 women pursuing master's or professional degrees in fields where they have been historically underrepresented.

Please plan to attend our **Author's Luncheon on Saturday, January 24th, 2026 at Alhambra First United Methodist Church at 9 N. Almansor St., Alhambra from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

Looking way ahead, save the date! We will be voting on raising our branch dues from \$21 to \$25 per year. Your

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DO I HEAR PAGES TURNING?

It's time for the Author's Luncheon!

PLEASE JOIN US on **Saturday, January 24th, 2026**
at the

First United Methodist Church of Alhambra,
9 N. Almansor Street, Alhambra

Lunch will be served at **Noon**.

Enjoy a warm Italian repast prepared by Claro's, including Stuffed Shells, Meatballs, Salad, bread and butter.



Our speaker will be our own **Jackie Fisher**. She will introduce her middle school novel, Courage Found. Jackie began her writing journey after retiring from Montebello Unified School District in 2003. She has self-published Adventures on Tuesdays, a beginning chapter book for children. After reading Courage Found in classrooms, holding book talks, and traveling to upstate New York to attend education conferences and book fairs to promote Courage Found, Jackie began working on her new novel, Courage in Love.

Please bring your friends & family. It would be wonderful to have standing room only.

Please use the reservation form on page 7.

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...

vote counts! Be sure to attend the **April Annual meeting, Monday, April 13th, 2026 at Alhambra First United Methodist Church from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

Details are forthcoming on our Fund Meeting in March in the Mission Gateway Newsletter.

Be sure to look for the DEI Stories of our Membership in the upcoming issues of our Mission Gateway Newsletter. Our brave, resilient women, and a few men, are fighting the “isms” (ageism, sexism, racism, etc.) and coming out on top! Please join in this dialogue and let us know if you have a story to share. Contact Janice Lee to contribute to this worthy conversation.

Marilee

Membership Corner

2026 wouldn't have been the same without each and every one of you. We are grateful for our friendship and unbelievably excited to see what 2026 has planned for us.

Here is to 2026, may it bring joy, prosperity and MEMBERSHIP to our AAUW family.

We are planning a membership event, so be on the lookout for more information.

Veronica

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.

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.

AAUW Fund

Did you know that between FY20 and FY25, Fellowships and Grants totaling **\$29,600,000** were awarded to **1,538 women and community projects**? It is a mighty sum, but more needs to be done to achieve equity for women and girls. AAUW research has found that the money women lose to the *gender wage gap just one year out of college* could get you from New York City to San Diego and back **five times**. You can contribute to the efforts of the Fund by purchasing a ticket for a chance to win a Gourmet Gala with Kathleen and Her Sister and attending the Fund meeting in March.

Jane A.

Public Policy

Last month, the Trump administration took a major step toward dismantling the U.S. Department of Education (ED). **AAUW released a statement** underscoring what's at stake and rejecting the idea that education should be reduced to workforce development alone. AAUW National and AAUW California have been taking action in response – and we have pathways for you to act, so please join us! Collective action is important, and moments of coming together are particularly useful for combating isolation, disempowerment, and division, *and*(bonus!) they help create change.

For more on what you can do, individually or together, to push back against the dismantling of Higher Education, see the December issue of **Public Policy News**.

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

Liz

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 9th (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.





Tech Trek Update January, 2026

Tech Trek has begun the recruitment process for the 2026 summer camp. Tech Trek South has worked on conducting our annual fundraiser and writing a grant proposal to the Friends of the Montebello Unified School District Foundation. The Eastside Optimist Club has finalized the closure of their organization, and the remaining money was divided between TT South and TT North. We graciously thank them for thinking of our girls. All eleven schools in the TT South area have been contacted and have agreed to work in recruiting 7th grade girls to the program. Schools will receive further information in January on the process. Tech North has also contacted nine Tech Trek North schools and Jefferson Middle School in San Gabriel about Tech Trek summer camps for 2026. The TT North schools will receive further information in January.

I have some wonderful news about the TTAG Tech Trek Alumnae group. We had a holiday party on Saturday, December 6th. Thirteen girls, parents plus Marilee Wood and Jane Krause were in attendance. We played Bingo, Pin the Nose on the Snowman, built Gingerbread Houses, enjoyed a Cocoa Bar, and had a gift exchange. The girls bonded and had such fun. We discussed our upcoming activities which include the girls volunteering once a month to present a hands-on science activity at the Saturday School at Cal-State Los Angeles.

In addition, I attended the Royal Tea at the Women's Room in Pasadena to honor the queen and her court. Keiko, a 2020 Tech Trekker and high school senior was chosen to be a princess representing Alhambra. Alhambra is not usually chosen to participate in the Rose Court as it does not border Pasadena. Keiko wrote a letter to the committee telling them why it should be considered along with the other cities. She then competed against all the other



girls and was chosen as a Princess! Keiko, our branch and our city are so proud of you.

Jane Krause and Rozanne Child
AAUW Tech Trek Branch Coordinators

Future BRW Program Opportunities??

Activate or keep your creative juices flowing!



If you would like to see a future presentation, now is the time to present your ideas, no matter how serious or "goofy", because all suggestions are welcome. Please consider the following: **Do you wish to...**

- **Be a program participant,**
- **Be a script writer,**
- **Assist with audio/visual, OR**
- **Do you have an idea for a program?** Here are a few to get you thinking but this is just a start:
 - A fun holiday program
 - Influential women and the men who supported them?
 - interactions between pairs of American females i.e., Eleanor Roosevelt & Mamie Eisenhower, Phillis Wheatley & Angela Davis, Hedy Lamar & Lucille Ball, Amelia Earhart & Ellen Ochoa, etc.
 - Or a round table panel of historic women, "*Meeting of the Minds*".

We invite you to take an active part in a fun, learning experience. Or just share your ideas by contacting me by February 13, 2026 at...

Betty Morin, BRW Chair at meromo44@gmail.com.

(BRW Committee: Veronica Alvarez, Deanna Arthur, Jackie Fisher, Jane Krause, Tiffany White, Elena Velarde)



Share Your Stories: A Monthly Spotlight on Real-Life Experiences

Welcome to *Share Your Stories!*

This monthly column is a space for *you* — our members — to share personal stories and the lessons learned along the way. Inspired by the AAUW's statewide and national mission to champion **diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)**, our goal is to bring those values to life through real experiences and reflections.

While DEI covers many important areas — including race, religion, gender, health, and more — our branch is focusing on three key themes:

- * **Women's health,**
- * **Ageism/disability**
- * **Race**

We believe that by sharing authentic experiences, we not only raise awareness but also deepen our empathy and sense of community. Every story is a step toward building a more inclusive future. Do *you* have something to share? We'd love to hear from you! Please email your story to **JaniceLee88@gmail.com** and include:

- † A brief summary of the experience
- † Any action you took at the time
- † What you might do differently today

Let's learn from one another — one story at a time. **Our first story is shared by our own President Marilee Wood:**

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – Encountering Sexism and Ageism

January 22, 2023, I was elected President of my condo's HOA. Our parking garage was under assault by gang members climbing over our security walls and smashing car windows, looking for valuables. Video cameras taped them damaging 4-5 cars on each occurrence. The damages occurred from 2:30am to 5:30am and residents were concerned for their safety.

As a new president, I recommended that we add height to our security walls and make the parking lot entrance doors difficult to climb over to gain entry. I made an appointment with the Alhambra Planning Commission as this change would require approval from the city. Adding height to the walls would mean going over the allowed height of fencing.

At the planning commission I met with a man of about 50-55 years. I explained our problem to him. The whole time I was speaking, he would not look me in the eyes. He stared at a general contractor who was behind me. When he responded to my request, he looked at the general contractor, as if he was in charge of our job. He assumed that I certainly couldn't be handling this modification.

I looked him straight in the eyes and said, "Hey, I'm talking to you. And you can talk to me, not the man behind me."

He discouraged me from raising the height of our fence. He said it would never get approved and that it would not stop the vandalism. He told me to go door to door of every building surrounding our property and tell parents to keep their children home at night. Insane.

An intern was assigned to our modification plan. She was a young woman, fresh out of college. I shared my experience with her and between the two of us, we determined that we would make this happen. There were many steps to complete this project; planning applications, permits, noticing neighbors, photos of desired fencing, and engineering and architectural drawings (which I completed myself with no experience).

Step by step, with the assistance of my intern, we jumped through many hoops and completed the planning applications. Finally, we were approved. We raised our fence to the added height allowed by the special permit. The finished product was beautiful and added to the appeal of our building. AND, the break-ins stopped. We haven't had any vandalism since our fence was raised.

What I learned: 1) When a man diminishes a woman in conversation, speak right up and call him on it. He may not like it, but you will feel better standing your ground and treating yourself as an equal to his authority. 2) When someone in authority minimizes your request, take notes as accurately as you can. When you have done the job done well, write a letter to the supervisor. Let them know that their representative did not measure up to their responsibility.

FROM THE SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

JANUARY

BRANCH BIRTHDAYS



Dearest Members,

In HONOR of YOUR BIRTHDAYS,

The 2025-26 Sunshine Committee & Our Branch
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!!!

JANUARY is our 5th month of the Branch Program Year.

Therefore, if you were born during this month,
Be on the lookout for an E-CARD from your Friends & Well-Wishers Back at the Branch!

Attend the NEXT General Meeting for another TREAT
To let you know how much We Appreciate YOU!

HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS TO:

Birth Date	MEMBER
1st	LORRAIN MASON
8th	LAURA RIVERA
11th	LYDA CHEE
12th	CYNDY RAMOS
16th	JANE ANDERSON
18th	ANGIE GAMBOA

You can help us maintain accurate records.

Call or text us if you do not see your name or correct date listed during Your Birth Month.

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

Drama

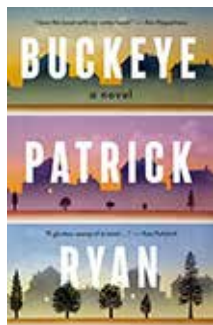
Drama readers will gather January 12th to read Enchanted April by Mathew Barber. Contact Kathleen Doty for more information.



When two frustrated London housewives decide to rent a villa in Italy for a holiday away from their bleak marriages, they recruit two very different English women to share the cost and the experience. There, among the wisteria blossoms and Mediterranean sunshine, all four bloom again rediscovering themselves in ways that they and we could never have expected.

BOOKS

Day Books will meet January 19th to review Buckeye by Patrick Ryan. Time is 4:30 p.m. and location is Janice Lee's home. Contact Kathleen Doty for more information.



In Bonhomie, Ohio, a stolen moment of passion, sparked in the exuberant aftermath of the Allied victory in Europe, binds Cal Jenkins, a man wounded not in war but by his inability to serve in it, to Margaret Salt, a woman trying to obscure her past. Cal's wife, Becky, has a spiritual gift: She is a seer who can conjure the dead, helping families connect with those they've lost. Margaret's husband, Felix, is serving on a Navy cargo ship, out of harm's way—until a telegram suggests that the unthinkable might have happened.

Later, as the country reconstructs in the postwar boom, a secret grows in Bonhomie—but nothing stays buried forever in a small town. Against the backdrop of some of the most transformative decades in modern America, the consequences of that long-ago encounter ripple through the next generation of both families, compelling them to reexamine who they thought they were and what the future might hold.

Evening Books has merged with day books and meets with them on third Mondays at 4:30 pm, reading the same books. Contact Deanna Arthur for more information.

Yes, I want to attend the Author's Luncheon on January 24th!

Please reserve _____ lunches for me and my guests.

Lunch includes:

Meatballs in sauce	Baked ziti with ricotta in marinara sauce
Classic tossed green salad	Rolls/butter
Assorted cookies	

My name: _____, My guests' names: _____

Enclosed is \$_____ (\$19.00 x # lunches)

Send to: Deanna Arthur
1608 S. Atlantic Blvd.
Alhambra, CA 91803

Make checks payable to: American Association of University Women Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch

ACTIVITIES

Tap into the Fun!

New faces, and used ones, are always welcomed.

Join Us!

Board Meeting Monday, January 5th 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.



Books will meet Monday, January 19th at 4:30 PM at Janice Lee's home. Book information on page 7.

Evening Books has merged with **Day Books**, see above for **Books** information. Contact Deanna Arthur for more information.



Every Member Event: Hope to see you at the branch meeting on January 24th at noon. 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 January 12th at 7:00 p.m. at Kathleen Doty's home for cold readings of the play for the month. Play information on page 7. For more information, contact Kathleen Doty.



Professional Women Gourmets - will meet for a DINE LA lunch at the Canoe House, 805 Fair Oaks Ave., South Pasadena. The 3 course Prix Fixe lunch is at 11:30 a.m., Friday, January 23, 2026. Hosted by Bonnie Gonzalez.

Restaurant Gourmets will meet at Dolan's, 742 W. Valley Blvd., Alhambra, on Saturday, January 17th, at 6:00 p.m. Please RSVP to Deanna Arthur by 1/11/26 to assure a reservation.



Creative Crafters will gather via Zoom on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 3:00 pm. Upcoming dates are: January 7th, February 4th and March 4th. 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