



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

The Mission Gateway

President's Message



Marilee Wood

AAUW's female founders determined to take a stand for equity and equality in the extreme patriarchal society of their time. Their unwavering commitment to advocate for and educate women and girls remains steadfast in our fractured and divided world. February 14th, Valentine's Day, brings to mind the LOVE and COMMITMENT we continue through our AAUW Alhambra-San

briel Branch Scholarship at East Los Angeles College (ELAC). It financially sponsors young students pursuing STEM careers who will transfer to a 4-year institution.

Thank you to our members who have already contributed. This continues our long-standing STEM commitment through Tech Trek, a program our Branch has embraced for 27 years and continuing.

Send your LOVE and COMMITMENT to support STEM education! Donate to our Branch Scholarship at ELAC. This is open only to Local High School Grads.

**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.

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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



Oh! The FUN you will have!!

Plan to attend the AAUW Fund Tea.

When: March 7, 2026

Where: Kathleen Doty's Garden

There will be tea, scones, raffle opportunities, and an AAUW Fellow to enlighten us. Watch for full details coming in the **March Mission Gateway**.

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...

For more information and to donate, please see the detailed instructions in the box on page 8.

AAUW CA ELECTIONS

Our AAUW California President, Charmen Goehring, only has six months left as President. She states that this rewarding time has gone quickly. She is reaching out to you to consider running for the State Board, because we need passionate, energetic people with ideas to help our branches fulfill AAUW's mission and vision. There are six openings on the State Board for the 2026 election: 1 Board Secretary, 4 two-year Directors, and 1 one-year Director. The nomination deadline is March 14th, and the election will be from April 18th to May 8th. Candidates for the 2026 election are now listed in order of receipt of their nomination forms. This is also the order they will be listed on the ballot. Check NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS in the January 2026 Board to Board newsletter.

“What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead.”
Nelson Mandela

GOVERNANCE – A vote will be held at our April Annual Meeting, Monday April 13, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. to raise our Branch Dues from \$21 to \$25. You must be present to vote.

Marilee

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.

Membership Corner

Members,

The Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch AAUW Board of Directors voted to propose to our members a **\$4 increase** in branch dues (from \$21 to \$25) to go into effect for the 2026-2027 year. As program venue and honorarium costs have increased, branch dues haven't kept pace. It has been over 5 years since the branch dues were last raised. The membership vote on this proposal will be held at the April Annual Meeting along with the election of new officers. Only those present will be able to vote, so make sure to mark your calendars now for April 13th!

Veronica

IN YOUR BACKYARD: DID YOU KNOW?



Locally, you can find concerts you might like to attend. The Alhambra Performing Arts Center is located at 1850 W. Hellman Ave, 91803, adjacent to the Sage Granada Park United Methodist Church and hosts a variety of monthly concerts in an informal setting. Free admission with RSVP...or \$25 donation for hot appetizers and beverages served by ACF Chefs during intermission. To see what events are coming up, such as “Scott Joplin Piano Rags” in March, use the link ahambra.eventbrite.com.

Enjoy! Betty

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

AAUW Fund Trivia for February: Did you know that AAUW awarded Geneticist Barbara McClintock the AAUW Achievement Award in 1947? She went on to win a Nobel Prize in 1983. The Fund has a great history. You, too, can contribute to that history by buying tickets for the next Gourmet Gala drawing. The cost is minimal - \$10 for one ticket, \$25 for three. Tickets are available at all branch activities as well as by contacting Kathleen Doty directly. Get yours before the drawing at our branch annual meeting on April 13th and know you are supporting future greatness!

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 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.

Liz



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.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE TWIG ITEMS

Our Friend and Member **Delora Brown** had a fall on slippery, icy pavement at her new home in Reno, Nevada and suffered a fractured pelvis. She is recovering at home with consistent in-home healthcare visits. Thank you to Deanna Arthur for informing us of this upsetting accident.

You may contact Delora at:
delorabrown@att.net
525 Court St., Unit C102
Reno, NV 89501
Cell (626) 688-1880

Our Friend and Member **Marian Hallin** is planning the *Celebration of Life* for her Beloved Husband **Jack Hallin** with whom she shared 70 blessed years of marriage. Thank you to Jane Krause for delivering this message.

Saturday, February 28th, 2 PM
Church of the Good Shepherd
400 W Duarte Road, Arcadia 91007
(on the southwest corner of Duarte & Holly)

Marian will send us a forthcoming announcement in February.
You may contact Marian at:
marianlea@aol.com
Cell (818) 216-8710



Tech Trek Update

February, 2026

Tech Trek is moving forward – We have sent the recruitment information to our schools. The deadline for schools to submit two names is mid-February and then our committees will begin the interview process.

Thought you might like to see what the writing prompts are this year:

In 400-500 words, respond to one of the following two prompts below. There are no right or wrong answers. We want to hear your unique voice to understand what inspires you and how you see STEM connecting to your future.

Tips:

- Be sure your essay meets the length requirement of 400-500 words.
- The people reviewing your essay expect to read work produced by YOU, not by artificial intelligence.

PROMPT OPTIONS

Prompt 1:

Think about a problem you notice in your school, neighborhood, family, or the world. Write an essay describing:

- **What the problem is and where you see it in everyday life.**
- **Why it matters to you personally—a moment or experience that made you care.**
- **How you imagine science, technology, engineering, or math being part of a solution.**
- **How Tech Trek could help you learn more about the skills or fields connected to solving this problem.**

Prompt 2:

Tell the story of your interest in STEM by including:

- **A moment, activity, class, or person that sparked your curiosity.**
- **What you discovered, enjoyed, or found challenging as you explored STEM.**
- **How you engage with STEM now—through school, hobbies, clubs, making, building, music/technology, sports science, or everyday problem-solving.**
- **What you hope to learn or do at Tech Trek and how attending camp might support your goals or build your confidence.**

They will then select their prompt and paste or write in their response.

The application process is all completed on CampDocs. The writing prompts are from TT California.

Both TT South and North have received an additional donation and we are so excited that we will be able to send more girls this year. This is a generous donation from the Eastside Optimist Club. They have closed their organization and divided the remaining money between TT South and TT North.

TT South is hoping to recruit a total of 15 girls: One each from the 7 Montebello schools and 4 from the Alhambra schools. TT North is hoping to recruit 6 girls, 3 to UC San Diego and 3 to UC Santa Barbara. TT North recruits girls from the Alhambra schools north of the San Bernardino freeway and San Gabriel schools.

Jane Krause, TT South Coordinator

Rozanne Child, TT North Coordinator

TTAG

Alhambra-San Gabriel TTAG (Tech Trek Alumnae Group) was awarded a \$500 Micro funding Grant from TTAP AAUW in January. We are so excited about the grant. It will help us implement the activities we have planned. More information to come in the next issue of Mission Gateway.

Rozanne Child, TTAG Coordinator

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, and 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.

Have something to share? We'd love to hear from you!

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.

The First Time by Janice Lee

It was my first day of kindergarten. When I walked into the classroom, my teacher asked me to choose any seat in the circle. I spotted a little red-headed boy with freckles and sat down beside him. Almost immediately, he stood up and moved away.

At the time, I only knew I felt rejected. I didn't understand why—until later that day on the playground. Surrounded by older kids, I heard a chant: "*chink, chink, Chinaman*," followed by exaggerated faces and slanted eyes. I was the only Chinese girl in the school, and there was no question who it was meant for..I was embarrassed and I just wanted to hide.

I was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where there were only a handful of Asian families in the 1950s. That night, I tearfully told my parents about my first day of school. They listened, then reminded me of something that would stay with me forever: *Be proud of who you are. Hold your head high. People learn both kindness and cruelty—often from home,*

Even now, after living in places like New York and California where diversity is far more visible, I remain self-conscious about being singled out. Some early wounds don't fully disappear. But what *has* changed is my response. My head stays high. And will stand up—verbally and physically—against anyone who diminishes any minority individual or group.

Lesson learned:

The first time teaches you who the world can be—but it also teaches you who *you* choose to become.

FROM THE SUNSHINE COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY
ALHAMBRA-SAN GABRIEL BRANCH BIRTHDAYS



Dearest Members,



**In HONOR of YOU--
Birthday Greetings!**

Birthdays will be published in the Mission Gateway this month, and
You will receive an Exclusive E-card!!!

FEBRUARY is our 6th month of the Branch Program Year.

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

Attend the AUTHORS LUNCHEON for **another TREAT**
To let you know how much you are APPRECIATED!

HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY TO:

Birth Date	MEMBER
1st	ROBIN DU RANT
3rd	IMELDA VALENCIA
10th	MARILEE WOOD

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:

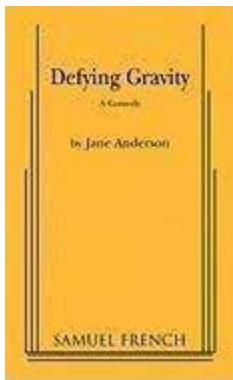
818-314-9191

Email Message:

kregerg@aol.com

Drama

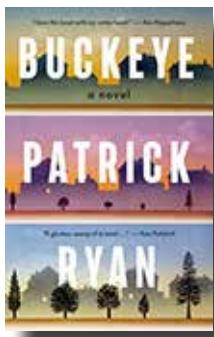
Drama readers will gather February 9th to read Defying Gravity by Jane Anderson (3m/4f). Contact Kathleen Doty for more information.



This free structured look at the 1986 Challenger disaster places the teacher who died with six others as they hurtled into space at the center of an exploration of our need to reach beyond ourselves and dare the universe. *Defying Gravity* artfully interweaves the past with the present and the lives of participants and bystanders, drawing parallels among painter Claude Monet's artistic quest, the zest of the teacher selected to be the first civilian astronaut, the perspectives of her grieving daughter, the aspirations of elderly tourists who drive their Winnebago to Florida to watch the space shot and dream of hotels in space, the guilt felt by a NASA mechanic and his girlfriend's fear of heights.

BOOKS

Day Books will meet February 16th to review Buckeye by Patrick Ryan and A Different Kind of Power by Jacinda Ardern. 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.



From the former prime minister of New Zealand, then the world's youngest female head of government and just the second to give birth in office, comes a deeply personal memoir chronicling her extraordinary rise and offering inspiration to a new generation of leaders.

What if we could redefine leadership? What if kindness came first?

Jacinda Ardern grew up the daughter of a police officer in small-town New Zealand, but as the 40th Prime Minister of her country, she commanded global respect for her empathetic leadership that put people first. This is the remarkable story of how a Mormon girl plagued by self-doubt made political history and changed our assumptions of what a global leader can be.

When Jacinda Ardern became Prime Minister at age thirty-seven, the world took notice. But it was her compassionate yet powerful response to the 2019 Christchurch mosque attacks, resulting in swift and sweeping gun control laws, that demonstrated her remarkable leadership. She guided her country through unprecedented challenges—a volcanic eruption, a major biosecurity breach, and a global pandemic—while advancing visionary new policies to address climate change, reduce child poverty, and secure historic international trade deals. She did all this while juggling first-time motherhood in the public eye.

Ardern exemplifies a new kind of leadership—proving that leaders can be caring, empathetic, and effective. She has become a global icon, and now she is ready to share her story, from the struggles to the surprises, including for the first time the full details of her decision to step down during her sixth year as Prime Minister.

Through her personal experiences and reflections, Jacinda is a model for anyone who has ever doubted themselves, or has aspired to lead with compassion, conviction, and courage. *A Different Kind of Power* is more than a political memoir; it's an insight into how it feels to lead, ultimately asking: What if you, too, are capable of more than you ever imagined?

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.

ACTIVITIES

Tap into the Fun!

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

Board Meeting Saturday, February 28th at 10:00 AM in person at Marilee Wood's Community Room. Open to all members.

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



Books will meet Monday, February 16th 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: The next branch meeting will be March 7th at noon. Details coming in the March Mission Gateway..

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 February 9th 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.

Any branch member may bring a proposal in writing [including email] to the board for discussion and action at its regular meeting by requesting the president to include the proposal as an agenda item at least seven days before agenda is published or may request to speak to the proposal at board meeting.



Professional Women Gourmets - will meet for a DINE LA lunch at the Canoe Housse, 805 Fair Oaks Ave., South Pasadena. The 3 course Prix Fixe lunch is at 11:30 a.m., Friday, February 6, 2026. Hosted by Bonnie Gonzalez.

Restaurant Gourmets will meet at The Diplomat Eatery and Tavern, 109 E. Lemon Ave., Monrovia, on Saturday, February 21st, at 5:30 p.m. Contact Deanna Arthur for more information.



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

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