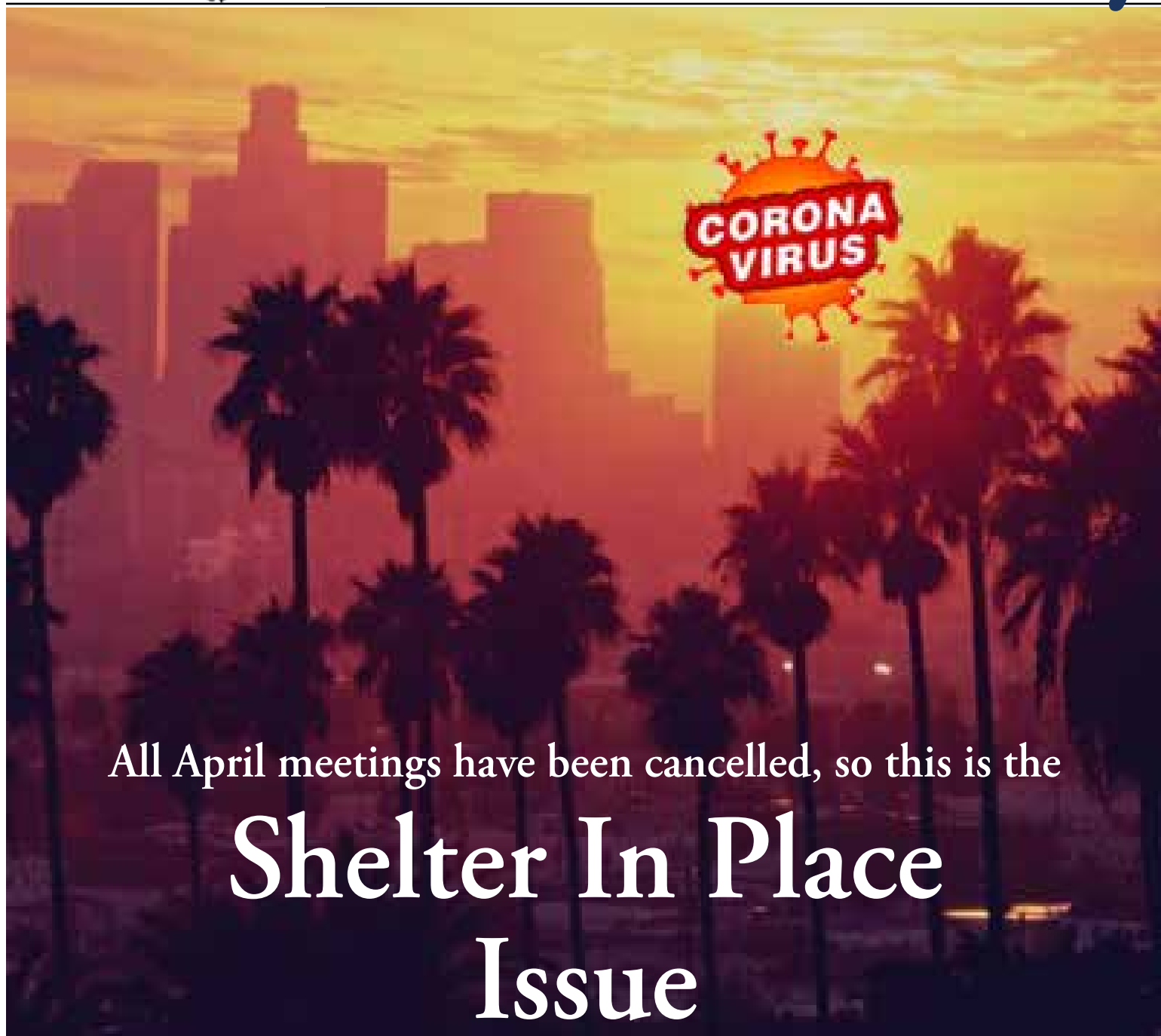




Alhambra-San Gabriel (CA) Branch serving the cities of Alhambra, San Gabriel, Monterey Park and Montebello

The Mission Gateway



All April meetings have been cancelled, so this is the

Shelter In Place Issue

Betty Morin, President • Delora Brown, Secretary • Joe Des Barres, Treasurer • Jim Doty, Newsletter Editor
Kathleen Doty, AAUW Fund VP • Deanna Arthur, Membership VP • Elena Velarde, Program 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



Betty Morin

In these challenging times, I would like us to focus on this year's highlights. The Branch met small goals on its way to achieving the larger goal of promoting equity, education and development of opportunities for women and girls that enable them to realize their full potential. The Summer Social was a

great success resulting in a few new members. Others participated in Interest Groups, which new members are always welcome to join. We embraced Tech Trek, sending a record number of 18 to camp and Speech Trek with a record number of 13 participants. And we also encouraged you to: (1) Be intellectually stimulated by speaker Carol Kravetz on "Caring for the Earth", the Environmental Movement; (2) Usher in the holiday season with a performance from the Gabrielino H.S. Chamber Singers; (3) Be inspired by the work and words of Fr. Gregory Boyle; and (4) Attend the LACIC sponsored "Suffrage Centennial Tea".

However, because all April meetings have been cancelled, I am reminding you that if we had held the April 20, Annual Meeting, you would have been asked to vote on two important issues: (1) raising of branch dues beginning July 2020 and (2) the slate of elected officers for 2020-21.

Betty

Yes, there is fear. Yes, there is isolation. Yes, there is panic buying. Yes, there is sickness. Yes, there is even death. Today, breathe. Listen behind the factory noises of your panic. The birds are singing again. The sky is clearing. Spring is coming.

Fr. Richard Hendrick, OFM

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.

She-oes

Joy Harjo U.S. Poet Laureate



Joy Harjo

In 2019, Joy Harjo was appointed the 23rd U.S. Poet Laureate. She is the first Native American writer to hold that position. She is a member of the Muscogee Creek Nation who has written books such as "Crazy

Brave" along with poetry selections "She Has Some Horses" and "Conflict Resolution for Holy Beings". She is also a singer-song-writer whose latest album is "Red Dreams: A

Trail Beyond Tears". In her position as poet laureate, she has several projects in mind to increase the visibility of Native peoples and their contributions to the story of America.

ACTIVITIES
The usual branch gatherings in April have been cancelled in the interest of health and safety.

Save The Date
Installation of
New Branch Officers
for 2020-2021
Luncheon Meeting
Saturday, May 30, 2020

Membership News

Hope this finds you and your families well. This will not be my usual message. As we live through these trying times, let us focus on telephone and electronic communication.

Most of the branch members are in the highly vulnerable area – many of our members live alone. We need to reach out to them and keep them in our thoughts and on our phones and computers.

In some cases, we have spent decades with these members. They may not all be our friends but have been more than acquaintances for many of those years.

Keep your hands clean, follow instructions, keep your dialing fingers active as well as your computers and most importantly stay safe so we can all return to the new normal sooner rather than later.

We will get through this together. We will come out stronger and more active than ever.

If you are feeling cabin fever, reach out to someone. Hoping we are all calling and being called until this is over.

Deanna

AAUW Fund Raffle

Dining with the Dotys



Let us prepare a semi-formal dinner for you and three of your friends in our home in Alhambra on May 9th (or as arranged). Raffle tickets are \$10 each – 3 for \$25. Please make checks payable to “AAUW Fund”. All tickets and proceeds must be turned in by the branch’s annual meeting to the Dotys (1224 S. 4th St., Alhambra, CA 91801).

The winning ticket will be drawn the branch’s annual meeting. 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. Questions? Call 626-284-0763

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 Dining with the Dotys.

AAUW Fund

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, ...” So goes the famous opening of Dickens’ A Tale of Two Cities. It seems a fitting description of where we are as the program year is winding down with changes to our lives everywhere we look. In light of current events (haven’t used that term since grade school), Jim and I are extending the sales period for Dining with the Dotys raffle tickets up to the Installation, all the time hoping we can hold an installation. If we are able to hold an Installation, we will draw the winner then. SO, get those cards and letters coming in to me with checks for purchase of your chance to win!! I will fill out the stubs, add them to the drawing, then send your winning tickets back to you. Let’s meet our fundraising goal of at least \$1,000 this year!

Kathleen

AAUW Fund Trivia for March: Did you know that at least four AAUW members have been featured on US postage stamps? Can you guess their names?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Answers to AAUW Fund Trivia

1. Jane Addams (stamp in 1940), Addams was the first woman to be awarded a Nobel Peace Prize, which she received for her work in social services and humanitarianism. She founded the Hull House in Chicago and served as the first president of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom. 2. Eleanor Roosevelt (stamps in 1963, 1984, 1998), Roosevelt, who was awarded an AAUW honorary membership in 1929, was so accomplished we named an award after her. Note: by, she implemented New Deal programs, worked with the United Nations, and was also a lifelong advocate for women’s equality. 3. Frances Perkins (stamp in 1980), a longtime AAUW member, Frances Perkins served as secretary of labor under President Franklin D. Roosevelt and was an early champion of women’s issues in the workforce, advocating for shorter hours and higher wages. 4. Rachel Carson (stamp in 1981), biologist and author of Silent Spring, Rachel Carson was a 1956 AAUW Achievement Awardee. Her work sparked the modern environmental movement and paved the way for activists and scientists alike to pick up the torch.

The performance of **The Marriage of Figaro** at Pasadena City College has been **cancelled**.

2020
PASADENA SHOWCASE
HOUSE of DESIGN

APRIL 26 - MAY 11, 2020



Bonnie & Lilia will contact our staffers to reschedule shifts when they receive information from Showcase.



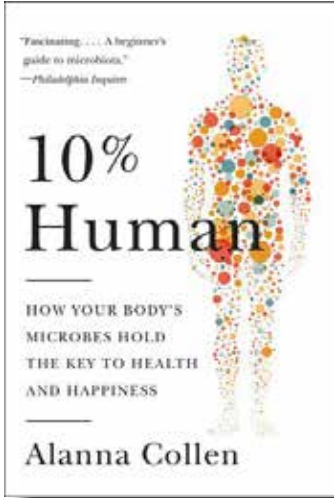
In this troubled time, Tech Trek is really feeling the effects. At the moment [and of course, we all know it could change quickly] – Tech Trek North and South have had to stop interviewing students to participate in the June Tech Trek Whittier College camp. With both Alhambra and Montebello schools closed we are hoping that when students return to school we will be able to interview the applicants and proceed in the selection process. At the present time Alhambra schools will return on April 6th and Montebello schools will return March 30th.

We are still being optimistic that the 2020 camp will not be cancelled for the year. We just don't know. We hope we have good news for the May *Mission Gateway*.

Lilia & Jane

April 15
Books Group¹

MEETING CANCELLED
read it anyway



You are just 10% human. For every one of the cells that make up the vessel that you call your body, there are nine impostor cells hitching a ride. You are not just flesh and blood, muscle and bone, brain and skin, but also bacteria and fungi. Over your lifetime, you will carry the equivalent weight of five African elephants in microbes. You are not an

individual but a colony.

Until recently, we had thought our microbes hardly mattered, but science is revealing a different story, one in which microbes run our bodies; remaining a healthy human is impossible without them.

In this riveting, shocking, and beautifully written book, biologist Alanna Collen draws on the latest scientific research to show how our personal colony of microbes influences our weight, immune system, mental health, and even our choice of partner. She argues that so many of our modern diseases—obesity, autism, mental illness, digestive disorders, allergies, autoimmune afflictions, and even cancer—have their root in our failure to cherish our most fundamental and enduring relationship: that with our individual colony of microbes.

The good news is that unlike our human cells, we can change our microbes for the better. Life—and your body—will never seem the same again.

¹Book Group members can purchase books on the group's reading list at Vroman's Books in Pasadena for a **reduced price**. Go to the "Will Call" window on the second floor and tell them the name of the book and also that you are a member of "Alhambra San Gabriel AAUW."

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)

VOTE, VOTE, VOTE in the Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch election!!

Although we will not be having a physical Annual Meeting, we will be holding elections. There will be two issues on which to vote.

First is: Shall the following slate of officers for 2020-2021 be elected?

President Elena Velarde
 President-Elect Joseph DesBarres
 Fund Vice President Deanna Arthur
 Membership Vice President Leticia Peralta
 Program Co-Vice Presidents Janice Lee &
 Kathleen Doty
 Secretary Betty Morin
 Treasurer Cheryl Plotkin

This question is self-explanatory and deserves a big thank you to all who have stepped up to take an office in the coming year.

Second is: Shall the branch membership dues be changed from \$18.00 annually to \$21.00 annually beginning July 1, 2020?

The rationale for the second question was presented to you last month in the Mission Gateway. In case you missed it here it is again: *The time has come! You may have noticed that, in this historic 75th year of the Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch, the Mission Gateway has had some reflective commentaries observing changes in prices over the years, especially in relation to Branch dues then, \$5 in 1944, and now, \$18 in 2019. Those of us who have been serving you on the Branch Board of Directors have worked diligently to create and stay within budgets based on branch dues which have not changed in 25 years. At the start of this year, trying yet again to formulate a working budget with the current dues, your Board decided to explore raising dues for the 2020-2021 year. We researched Branch history to determine when and how often dues have been raised. We looked at inflation and the value of those dues in 2019 dollars: \$18 dues in 1985, if they kept pace with inflation would be \$42.03 in 2019. All of this study led us to the decision that branch dues should be increased. Ultimately, the board agreed to present a \$3 increase in branch dues*

to you, the members, at our annual meeting. If you approve, and we hope you do, the branch dues for 2020-2021 will be \$21 and the total dues, including Association and State, will be \$100. Your board feels this is not too large an increase and will provide enough additional income to provide some relief for our budget. We have done our best for 25 years, but the time has come for us to pay a little more to continue to pursue education and equity for women and girls.

Now, I know you are asking, how are we going to vote when we are not having a meeting?? And, I have an answer. Those of you with e-mail will receive a "ballot" via Survey Monkey on or about April 10th. Please respond no later than April 20th, the original date of the Annual Meeting. Paper ballots will be sent to those without e-mail with the same deadline. We must have a quorum of respondents to make this a valid vote, so be sure to respond!

Take care, stay healthy, hoping to see you soon!!

Kathleen



One of Virginia Orenos's marvelous cards

Raffle

Virginia Orenos has donated twelve of her beautiful hand-stamped cards for a raffle. Tickets will be sold for \$2.00 for one or three for \$5.00. All proceeds will be donated to the Branch general fund. The cards include Get Well, Thinking of You, Sympathy, Birthday, and General. Hope you will participate in this Fundraiser to support the Branch.

AAUW California Convention Cancelled

Because of our concern for your health and our respect for the recommendations issued by the county, state and federal government to limit large gatherings, the AAUW California Board of Directors has regretfully made the decision to cancel the April 17-19 AAUW California Convention.

All registration fees will be automatically refunded. You do not have to contact the office in order to initiate the process.

The AAUW California Board of Directors is working with the hotel and reviewing options for rescheduling the convention for the fall. Additional details will be communicated in the coming days.

We regret this difficult decision, but these are unprecedented times and we must keep our members' welfare and peace of mind uppermost in our plans. We know you will continue to deliver on the AAUW mission in your branches and we thank you for all your efforts. Let's keep each other in our thoughts and remain resilient during this trying time. Please stay safe and well.

Reproductive Health for All in 2020

by Claire Noonan

AAUW California Public Policy Committee

As American women consider action to ensure reproductive health rights in 2020, it is useful to recall that in the 17th and 18th centuries pregnancy termination was legal under common law before 'quickening' (fetal movement) that occurs approximately 16 weeks after conception.

After 1850, the crusade in the U.S. against voluntary pregnancy termination stepped up. According to Lauren McIver Thompson (author of "Battle for Birth Control ...") physicians, known for irregular practice and lack of training, in order to "establish their place as respected members of society" argued about the 'rights of the unborn' – sound familiar? *New York Times*, December

15, 2019.

By 1900 in accord with the Comstock Act of 1873, most states had passed laws restricting termination and contraception. As a consequence, by the 1930s one report estimated that 681,000 abortions led to 8,000 to 10,000 thousand maternal deaths.

It took a decision by the Supreme Court in 1973 to change the numbers, but the struggle continues. On Friday, January 24, 2020, at the March for Life rally, the President threatened to take away California's federal funding in accord with the Weldon Amendment because of the California law that ensures that private insurers provide abortion and contraception coverage. The HHS department gave the state 30 days to lift the regulation, saying that the state is not compliant with the amendment. Note that four years ago federal opinion confirmed California's compliance to not discriminate against a health care facility. Yet, Kevin McCarthy (R-Bakersfield) on February 21, 2020, emailed support for health care entities that don't want to supply equal legal health services to all.

After the February 4 President's State of the Union speech, there is no doubt women must continue to advocate for reproductive health rights – especially for black and Native American women who have far higher pregnancy-related mortality rates than white women. Of 15 policies suggested by the National Partnership for Women the most important: access to all forms of abortion care and contraception regardless of where you live.

Last, keep track of the U.S. Senate vote on two bills at the end of February: (1) to institute a 20-week abortion ban and (2) to require medical care be delivered to infants that survive abortions, a misleading bill given that infanticide is already a crime.

