



Alhambra-San Gabriel (CA) Branch Serving Alhambra, San Gabriel and Surrounding Communities

The Mission Gateway



Author's Luncheon 2021

We're Zooming To Paris, France

To Visit

Craig Carlson & Julien Chameroy

Saturday, January 30th at 11:00 AM (PST)

Our two-time AAUW Branch Author of the Year **Craig Carlson** has debuted his second memoir *Let Them Eat Pancakes*. In this volume, Craig serves up a scrumptious treat with a more personal perspective. Along with the ongoing adventures of his two celebrated *Breakfast in America* diners, we become aware first-hand of how it is to be a neighbor in the Marais section of Paris, meet truly amazing new characters and learn more about Craig's transformative path to Paris. As one reviewer puts it:

"Eat. Love. Paris. Craig Carlson shares his passion for food and France in this charming, thought-provoking collection. With heart and humor, he shows us the best of America and France, and how we can learn from one another. Craig

is the perfect guide. Let Them Eat Pancakes is a delicious, satisfying dish about following your dreams." Janet Charles, author of *The Paris Library*.

This is a perfect event to invite friends and family to attend. Share this live opportunity to reunite with Craig Carlson & Julien Chameroy in Paris as they warmly engage us with their favorite anecdotes and narratives; discuss life during the French lockdown, and guide us through the storied venues that have kept us enthralled since the original *Pancakes in Paris*. We'll have time to ask them questions.

How to Zoom to Paris With Friends & Family for our Authors Luncheon

Our Member Notification Chair, Kacy Do, will send out the Zoom link information on Friday, January 29th, the day before the January 30th event. If you want your friends, family, neighbors, etc., to be included, carefully send their correct email addresses to Kacy at kacy@hsiehlaw.com by Friday, January 22nd. Kacy will add their email addresses to our Branch Members' Email Blast.



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Elena Velarde, President • Joe Des Barres, President Elect • Betty Morin, Secretary • Cheryl Plotkin, Treasurer • Jim Doty, Newsletter Editor • Deanna Arthur, AAUW Fund VP • Leticia Peralta, Membership VP • Janice Lee & Kathleen Doty, Program VPs

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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Signed Copies of *Let Them Eat Pancakes*



Autographed copies of *Let Them Eat Pancake* are available at Vroman's Bookstore

Vroman's Bookstore received a limited number of *Let Them Eat Pancakes* auto-graphed by Craig. Get your copy while supplies last. Call ahead and reserve your copy: (626) 449-5320 or order **ONLINE** (<https://www.vromansbookstore.com/book/9781643134406>). In-store pickup at Vroman's Bookstore in

Pasadena (695 E Colorado Blvd)

- Open: Monday thru Sunday 9 AM to 9 PM
- Mask required
- Free parking behind the store
- Curbside Pickup available—Arrange with store representative
- Enter store through the rear door (parking lot adjacent)

If your book is NOT autographed, Craig will sign bookplates for us that we can insert into our personal copies! Please let Elena know if your copy is unsigned.

For any questions or assistance, please contact Elena Velarde at la.elenalove@gmail.com

Freedom makes a huge requirement of every human being. With freedom comes responsibility. For the person who is unwilling to grow up, the person who does not want to carry his own weight, this is a frightening prospect.

Eleanor Roosevelt

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.

President's Message

MADAME VICE PRESIDENT (MVP)



Elena Velarde

Happy New Year! 2021 will be the first year ever that we shall use the term "*Madame Vice President*."

What an achievement for women and girls, and we're living it! One way to start out our new year is to be mindful of the herstory of **Kamala Devi Harris:**

Birthday: October 20, 1964. She's currently 56 years old.

Birthplace: Oakland, California. She was raised on the top floor of a yellow duplex in Berkeley.

Parents: American Immigrants Donald Harris (b. Jamaica) & Shyamala Gopalan Harris (b. India)

Ethnicity: African American, Indian/South Asian American

Husband: Doug Emhoff (m. 2014); Corporate Lawyer

Step Children: Ella Emhoff (Daughter) · Cole Emhoff (Son)

Education: UC Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco (1989); Howard University in Washington, D.C. (1986); Attended middle school and high school in Montreal, Canada.

Namesakes: Kamala means "lotus" and is another name for the Hindu goddess Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth, luck, love, and beauty. And now "Kamala" stands for the empowerment of women.

In 1990, after passing the California Bar Exam, Harris joined the Alameda County Prosecutor's Office in Oakland as an assistant district attorney, focusing on sex crimes.

In 1995, Kamala was recruited to the San Francisco District Attorney's Office where she cracked down on teenage prostitution in the city, reorienting law enforcement's approach to focus on the girls as victims rather than as criminals selling sex.

In 2003, she ran for State District Attorney and won in a runoff becoming the first black woman in California to be elected district attorney.

In 2010, Harris ran for California Attorney General against Steve Cooley, L.A.'s DA. It was a tight race and took 3 weeks to count all the ballots.

Harris was declared the winner by 0.8 percentage points.

As Attorney General of California, Harris secured a \$20 billion settlement for California homeowners faced with predatory lending. She created the Open Justice database which made criminal-justice data accessible and transparent to the public.

In 2016, Harris won her U.S. Senate race defeating fellow Democrat Loretta Sanchez.

In 2017, Senator Harris went viral for her sharp questioning of then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions on the Russia investigation.

In 2018, Senator Harris grilled Brett Kavanaugh at his Supreme Court confirmation hearings.

In 2018-19, Senator Harris campaigned to be the 2020 democratic presidential nominee.

In December 2019, Senator Harris ended her presidential campaign efforts.

On August 12, 2020, President Elect Joe Biden announced Harris as his choice for Vice President.

On January 20, 2021, Kamala Harris will be sworn into office as the first woman, African American/South Asian Vice President of the United States of America.

Elena



Kamala Harris

photo by Gage Skidmore

“I am thinking about . . . the generations of women, Black women, Asian, White, Latina, Native American women, who throughout our nation’s history have paved the way for this moment tonight. Women who fought and sacrificed so much for equality and liberty and justice for all—including the Black women who are often, too often, overlooked, but so often prove they are the backbone of our democracy.”

Vice President-elect Kamala Harris



Martin Luther King Jr.

Image by Tumisu from Pixabay

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Born in Atlanta, Georgia on January 15, 1929, Martin Luther King Jr. grew up in an era of racial prejudices and legalized segregation that would influence his life’s work. As a religious minister and activist, he rose to become a national leader in the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 60s. Dr. King sought to maintain an “abiding faith in America and an audacious faith in the future of mankind.” Although most widely known for his leading role in the African American civil rights movement, Dr. King was a tireless advocate for the nation’s working class and the oppressed around the world. His life tragically ended when he was assassinated on April 4, 1968, but his legacy continues to inspire Americans today.

Martin Luther King Holiday, January 18, 2021 is when we recognize him and his contributions to social justice.

Janice Lee Joins State's Major Visibility and Outreach Project

In October 2020, the AAUW California Board of Directors approved a contract with Santa Barbara-based Dowitcher DESIGNS marketing firm. This short-term engagement will focus on the development of a marketing strategy to propel AAUW California forward to become the premier advocacy organization in California. Dowitcher DESIGNS will assist in creating a plan:

- To raise the visibility of AAUW California throughout the state
- To encourage younger members to join AAUW and support AAUW’s mission
- To use social media to the greatest advantage

- To build coalitions with like-minded organizations
- Branch participation is critical to the plan's success. A call for candidates was extended to branch presidents to select a qualified member to join a focus group hosted by Dowitcher DESIGNS. Our own Janice Lee was selected in light of her adept marketing, publicity and financial credentials. The 5-7-member virtual focus groups held virtual meetins facilitated by Dowitcher DESIGNS in November and December. Congratulations, Janice! Thank you for accepting the challenge, and for your critical expertise in guiding AAUW California into the next decade as the state's major advocacy organization!

Jane Anderson



Jane Anderson

Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch's own Jane Anderson, 50-year Honorary Life Member of AAUW, left the Alhambra Unified School District (AUSD) School Board on November 17th after 14 years of service. She was given a wonderful, though socially distanced, sendoff.

Jane began teaching in 1967 at Monterey Highlands School, where she partnered with Lyda Chee. To this day, she still volunteers her time in classrooms there. She remembers decades back, getting on a bus with her students for the ride to Repetto in order to avoid double sessions at Highlands. That's when she met the bus driver who later became her husband.

Jane knows the many sides of education. She participated on Alhambra Teachers Association (ATA) bargaining teams, and in 1978 she served as ATA President; she has always been, and remains to this day, a teacher advocate. Jane retired from the classroom in 2002.

She became a school board member in 2006 and served with four superintendents. Donna Perez, former AUSD superintendent, remarked that during her superintendency, she saw Jane "as a powerful individual member of the Board, but also, a true team player. ... She puts kids first, takes herself out of decisions and chooses "the right" for students. Never could you ask for someone who is more giving to others – students, teachers, staff members and community."

Shortly after beginning her teaching career, she joined AAUW. While still teaching, Jane served 3 different terms as Alhambra-San Gabriel's Branch President (1975-76, 1997-98 and 2006-07). In addition, she has held various other elected and appointed positions in the branch. She is active in the Professional Women's Gourmets interest group, our two book groups, and the ad hoc Colorful Stories Committee, formed this year to foster interracial understanding by providing books featuring protagonists of color to AUSD classrooms.

This is not a farewell. We just wanted to recognize the achievement of another milestone and to thank you, Jane, for your commitment to the community and to AAUW.

Kathleen

Promote Women In 2021 Join the Nominating Committee

Please consider taking part in the forward momentum of our Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch by joining the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee's charge is to seek out branch members to serve on the 2021-22 Board of Directors. **The election of three branch members** (see Branch Bylaws reference below) to serve on this Nominating Committee will take place at our January 30, 2021 Authors Luncheon.

ARTICLE IX. SECTION 1., NOMINATIONS: There shall be a nominating committee of five (5) members, elected as follows: three (3) shall be elected at a general meeting in January. Two (2) shall be elected by the board of directors at the first board meeting of the calendar year, one of whom shall be appointed chair of the committee (traditionally the immediate past president).

Directory Updates

Please correct Mary Smeritschnig's email address and the AAUW California office information.

Smeritschnig, Mary	(626) 798-5536
2780 Santa Anita Ave.	
Altadena, CA 91001	mrsmary237@gmail.com
CSULA (2)	
AAUW member since 1975	

The new, official mailing address for the AAUW California office is:

AAUW California
915 L Street, Suite C, Box #418
Sacramento, CA 95814

New Phone number is: 916-389-0220

Letty

Holiday Programs ZOOMED!

The pandemic prevented our traditional holiday musical program by a local high school choir. Mission Gateway thanks Kathleen Doty and Janice Lee who, in the spirit of a 1940's musical, stepped up to put on a show of holiday favorites. And thanks to the cast members: Jane Anderson (*Yes, Virginia There Is A Santa Clause*), Jim Doty (*The Dreaded Christmas Letter*), Kathleen Doty (*Brain Teasers & Can Santa Be Black?*), Theresa Jolley (*Caroling, Caroling*), Janice Lee (*Rudolph the Nasally Empowered Reindeer*), and Betty Morin along with Jane Krause, Leticia Peralta, Lovey Sherman, Imelda Valencia (*Too Many Tamales*), and Elena Velarde (intro and outro).



Thanks to David Pitts, Choral Director of Gabrielino High School, who created a mini holiday program and kindly remembered to send us the link. It was a special treat. In case you missed it, or would like to see it again, click [HERE](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKNZKFRjnXNeNnURMoWuAzH1H5maSR5z_) to view the Gabrielino High School Choir's Virtual Holiday Concert: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKNZKFRjnXNeNnURMoWuAzH1H5maSR5z_

Tech Trek

AAUW CA Tech Trek is moving forward with plans for a 2021 virtual camp. Recently there was a virtual informational meeting and it really looks exciting.

Yes, it will be different – quite different than in the past. There will be only one core class – Robotics [in the morning]. In the afternoon two workshops will be offered. TT is looking for workshop leaders – are you interested? Workshops will be offered in the following areas: Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Contact Jane or Lilia if you want more information. Recruitment from our Alhambra/Montebello schools hopefully will begin in February.

*Jane Krause
& Lilia Hall*

AAUW Fund

Can you believe it? 2021 has finally arrived.

We can look forward to newly elected officials, a vaccine for COVID-19, and maybe even a kinder world.

The AAUW California set a goal of \$500,000 in total contributions to AAUW Fund in 2020. As of November 2020, the state had only reached about half of that goal. However, there is always a rush at the end of the year as everyone is trying to get their charitable contributions in for the year.

Thanks to all of you that purchased tea boxes. That was a \$900+ donation from the branch that we do not usually have.

The committee is starting to plan the March virtual fund meeting. Do you have ideas or suggestions? Please share them with us.

Hopefully you had enjoyable holidays in our new “normal”. Keep putting one foot in front of the other, stay safe, and wear your masks.

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 8th (or as arranged post pandemic). Raffle tickets are \$10 each – 3 for \$25. Please make checks payable to “AAUW Fund.” Contact us at: The Dotys, 1224 S. 4th St., Alhambra, CA 91801 or 626-284-0763 or

aauwfundraffle-dotys2021@yahoo.com.

All money and ticket stubs must be returned to us by the drawing on April 19, 2021. 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 Dining with the Dotys.

AAUW CALIFORNIA

From Dianne's Desk...

Dianne Owens, President
AAUW California
statepresident@aauw-ca.org

This is the time of year when I start looking forward to the possibilities of a NEW YEAR. I am shopping, baking, and preparing for the holidays and, also, looking forward to a new beginning.

I am looking forward to working with our new marketing consultant, Dowitcher DESIGNS, and learning how all of us can make AAUW California more visible in our golden state.

I am looking forward to working with our new advocacy firm, MVM Strategies, and preparing for our virtual Lobby Day in late March. I hope you will all join us that day.

I am looking forward to our April 17, 2021 virtual Annual Meeting with exciting speakers, new awards, and our Speech Trek contest. Be sure to join us to see some new twists.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in person again in the summer or fall of 2021. The timing is still unknown, but we will all look forward to that.

I am looking forward to saying "Goodbye 2020." It was not the greatest year, but we learned a lot about Zoom, webinars, and more techie stuff than we thought we needed to know.

Have a wonderful and safe holiday everyone! Be kind to yourself and others!

AAUW California Webinars

The following AAUW California online webinars are open to all members simply by registering at aauw-ca.org.

January 11 at 7 PM: **Title IX: Breaking Down Barriers 2020.** This webinar will present a panel of speakers who are knowledgeable about Title IX. They will review the

history of Title IX, the impact on athletics/physical education, the new fight to reverse the damaging aspects of the Title IX Sexual Harassment Rule, and what you, as an individual and an AAUW branch, can do to inform your community members, learn how to speak up on the issues of gender discrimination, and encourage your community schools to comply fully with all gender equity laws. Lead by Alicia Hetman. Registration required. Click [HERE](#) to register.

January 27 at 7 PM: **Mentoring Women for Career Advancement.** Mentorship program for student members and young women members early on in their career who aspire to advance, and how to advance in their career. Lead by Crystal Stebbins. Registration is required. Click [HERE](#) to register.

February 8 at 4 PM. **How to Upload your Speech Trek Video to YouTube.** Now that your Speech Trek competition is scheduled or has been held, learn how to edit your video and send your winning speech to AAUW California for judging. Lead by Sandi Gabe. Registration required. Click [HERE](#) to register.

February 24. **She Who Thrives Survives.** Learning what successful branches have to teach us. Lead by Sharyn Siebert.

BET YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS...

Bold, Brave & Brilliant!

Janice Lee, Nominations & Elections Chair
nominating@aauw-ca.org

These are the leadership traits we are looking for in candidates to fill three open positions on the 2021 AAUW California Board of Directors.

- President-Elect (one-year term 2021-2022) during the second year of the president's term, followed by a two-year term (2022-2024) as president
- Chief Financial Officer (two-year term 2021-2023)
- Director (two-year term 2021-2023)

We bet that *you* have these leadership qualities. If you have been thinking about getting more involved at the state level with AAUW and have been enjoying and learning from all the webinars this year and appreciate all the programs planned to meet AAUW's mission, then contact the Nominations & Elections Committee.

Deanna Arthur, Charmen Goehring, and Janice Lee are here to cheer you on and to answer your questions at nominating@aauw-ca.org.

It's a collaborative, fun, action-oriented time to be part of AAUW California's leadership team.

Click [HERE](#) for details on "How to Proceed," but we are also happy to guide you through the process personally and to give you the inside scoop!

AAUW California First Virtual Lobby Day!

Kathleen Harper, Director, and Sue Miller
Public Policy Committee Co-Chairs
publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org

On March 24, 2021, AAUW California in conjunction with our new advocacy firm, MVM Strategy Group, will be conducting a virtual Lobby Day with our legislators in Sacramento. This is a terrific opportunity for branch members to get involved in the public policy process by helping the state Public Policy (PP) Committee advance our legislative goals for 2021-22. It's also a great way to meet your local legislators and let them know how you, through AAUW, are helping their constituents in your communities.

Interested branch members should register [HERE](#) by January 8, 2021.

Finally, all participants will be given full training in a Zoom webinar on March 22, 2021, at 7:00 PM. Click [HERE](#) to register for "How to Talk to Your Legislators."

Important Dates:

- January 8 – Last day to register to participate in Lobby Day
- March 22 – Lobby Day training webinar
- March 24 – Lobby Day

The Next Great Project

Jim Doty, Project Oversight Chair
oc@aauw-ca.org

Do you have an idea for a project that could enhance the mission of AAUW in 2021-22? Could you use a little financial help? Applications for state funding, up to \$500, are due on March 1, 2021. **Any member, branch, or AAUW affiliate may apply.** Click [HERE](#) for directions and application forms.

Word Search

Betty Morin

Women We Know

Find the words listed below. Each word may be in any direction: horizontal, vertical or diagonal and may be spelled forward or backward.

← → ↑ ↓ ↖ ↗ ↘ ↙

EON	BASTE	NOSE	BELL
IDA B WELLS	JANUARY	BALL	MONTH
BADERGINSBERG	MAINE	ARREST	ROSE
SUSAN B ANTHONY	BUTTER	EEL	CURIE
RALLY	IRIS	MOTOR	UNITE
MICHELLE	SUB	GATE	SEA
SALLY RIDE	ABSENT	LET	NOON
JUNE	IN	SUE	EARN

J	A	N	U	A	R	Y	I	V	C
U	B	P	X	L	D	F	D	B	D
N	S	N	R	A	E	M	A	Z	F
E	E	D	F	N	Y	U	B	M	S
E	N	V	I	J	G	H	W	X	U
L	T	A	C	U	R	I	E	U	S
S	M	I	C	H	E	L	L	E	A
N	O	O	N	V	B	E	L	E	N
B	F	E	Q	U	S	D	S	U	B
H	R	X	T	C	N	I	K	V	A
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A	E	N	K	D	G	A	H	Z	T
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E	V	S	S	T	D	Y	E	Z	N
S	E	D	E	A	A	S	L	R	Y
T	M	L	U	T	B	A	L	L	Q

In diversity, there is beauty and there is strength.
Maya Angelou

AAUW NATIONAL

National Dues Increase Election of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris

Julia T. Brown, Esq., Chair
AAUW Board of Directors

At its October 16, 2020, meeting, the AAUW Board of Directors voted to increase Individual Member dues for the next THREE YEARS. THE DUES WILL RISE BY \$3 FOR FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2022, \$5 FOR FY 2023 AND \$5 FOR FY 2024, MAKING THE Total dues amount for those years \$62, \$67 and \$72, respectively. All but \$3 of your annual dues remains tax deductible.

This decision wasn't made lightly. The board members couldn't be more grateful for our members — or prouder of the work you've done this year. We also recognize that all of us are navigating numerous challenges in these uncertain times. However, in order to preserve the viability of this organization we all love, the board needed to take action. Simply put, this measure is essential for AAUW to continue our mission to achieve gender equity.

Most nonprofits adjust their dues annually or every other year to keep pace with inflation and rising expenses. However, due to prudent budgetary management, AAUW has been able to keep its dues flat since July 2018. That means that, by the time the first scheduled increase takes effect, we will have maintained three years of dues stability.

Moreover, in recognition of the difficult economy we're in, the board planned for the initial adjustment to be the most modest. Over the course of the year, it works out to be only an additional 25 cents per month — what we hope is a small price to pay for maintaining our important work and community.

Current life members will not be affected by this change. New life memberships acquired after July 1, 2021, will reflect the higher dues' amounts. College and university membership fees will remain unchanged.

Please reach out to us with any feedback or concerns.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to AAUW and our mission. On behalf of the AAUW Board, we are grateful for your understanding and look forward to continuing our work together.

Kim Churches, AAUW CEO

The nation's voters have spoken, and a historic election is over: Despite the challenges of a global pandemic, Americans cast their ballots in record numbers and elected Joe Biden and Kamala Harris to lead our nation forward.

All of us at AAUW are honored to have witnessed — and participated in — the power of our democracy, with impressive numbers of women, people of color and young Americans joining in with their voices and their votes.

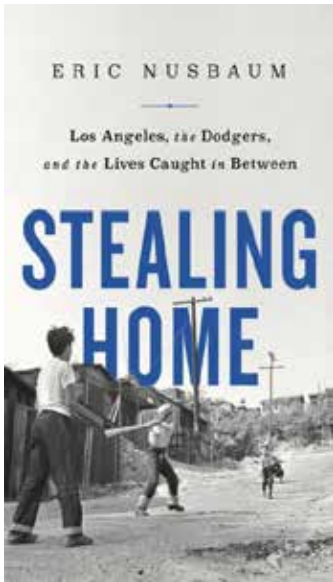
AAUW is particularly heartened and inspired by the election of so many women to positions of power. Most notably, we celebrate the fact that Vice President-elect Kamala Harris has shattered barriers, becoming the first Black American, Indian and South Asian American to assume the second highest office in the land. The daughter of immigrants and a graduate of Howard University, she gives us hope for a future where women can reach the highest heights.

We are also encouraged by President-elect Biden's promise to unite our sorely divided country and to find common ground and common good. Yet we are mindful of the challenges and the work that lie ahead. In 2021, AAUW will turn 140 years old, and as we have in every year prior, we will work tirelessly on behalf of women and girls to advance laws, policies and practices that ensure equity in education, employment and economic security — and equal justice for all.

COVID-19 is a Nightmare for Working Moms. The challenges families face blending work and home life have been simmering beneath the surface for decades. Now the pandemic is shining a bright spotlight, underscoring the systemic barriers working families face. The net result? The economic progress women have made in recent decades is frighteningly at risk.

Kim Churches, AAUW CEO

Books¹



Day Books will meet via Zoom on January 20th (3rd Wednesday) at 2:00 PM to discuss *Stealing Home* by Eric Nusbaum. Contact Kathleen Doty.

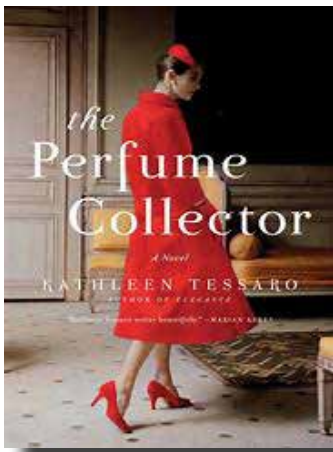
A story about baseball, family, the American Dream, and the fight to turn Los Angeles into a big league city.

Dodger Stadium is an American icon. But the story of how it came to be goes far beyond baseball.

The hills that cradle the stadium were once home to three vibrant Mexican American communities. In the early 1950s, those communities were condemned to make way for a utopian public housing project. Then, in a remarkable turn, public housing in the city was defeated amidst a Red Scare conspiracy.

Instead of getting their homes back, the remaining residents saw the city sell their land to Walter O'Malley, the owner of the Brooklyn Dodgers. Now LA would be getting a different sort of utopian fantasy — a glittering, ultra-modern stadium.

But before Dodger Stadium could be built, the city would have to face down the neighborhood's families — including one, the Aréchigas, who refused to yield their home. The ensuing confrontation captivated the nation - and the divisive outcome still echoes through Los Angeles today.



Evening Books will meet via Zoom on January 25th (4th Monday) at 7:00 PM to discuss *The Perfume Collector* by Kathleen Tessaro. Contact Deanna Arthur.

A remarkable novel about secrets, desire, memory, passion, and possibility.

Newlywed Grace Monroe doesn't fit anyone's expectations of a successful 1950s London socialite, least of all

her own. When she receives an unexpected inheritance from a complete stranger, Madame Eva d'Orsey, Grace is drawn to uncover the identity of her mysterious benefactor.

Weaving through the decades, from 1920s New York to Monte Carlo, Paris, and London, the story Grace uncovers is that of an extraordinary woman who inspired one of Paris's greatest perfumers. Immortalized in three evocative perfumes, Eva d'Orsey's history will transform Grace's life forever, forcing her to choose between the woman she is expected to be and the person she really is.

The Perfume Collector explores the complex and obsessive love between muse and artist, and the tremendous power of memory and scent.

Drama

Drama will meet via Zoom on January 11th (2nd Monday) at 7:00 PM to read *Night Watch* by Lucille Fletcher. Contact Kathleen Doty. Parts for 4 women & 5 men.

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.

An outstanding Broadway success, this ingeniously devised thriller builds steadily in menace and suspense until the final, breath-stopping moment of its unexpected, "twist" ending. "A most superior thriller...which from its first blood-curdling scream to its last charming surprise is a first-class example of its genre." —NY Times.

"The call for a good American mystery melodrama was answered last night...fulfills all the requirements for an evening of satisfying menace and mystification." —NY Post.

1. Book Group members can purchase books on the group's reading list at Vroman's Books in Pasadena.

ACTIVITIES

Tap into the Fun!

New faces, and used ones, are always welcomed.

Join In!

Professional Women Gourmets are on "hold" until things open up. We will try to schedule a Zoom Happy New Year cocktail hour. Contact Jane Anderson.



Branch Board of Directors will meet via Zoom on January 4th (1st Monday) at 7:15 PM. The host will open Zoom at 7:00 PM. Open to all members. Contact Elena Velarde.

Scattergories: (every Thursday) at 3:00 PM via Zoom. 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 every Thursday. Silly, serious, intellectually challenging. Contact Deanna Arthur.

Branch Crafters! 2021 is here and we are starting a new group! We are calling ourselves the "Branch Crafters." We are crafters: knitting, crocheting, painting, etc. Our first gathering [of course, via Zoom] will be in January and then monthly through June. We have scheduled meetings on the first Wednesday of the month at 3:00 PM. The dates are: January 6th, February 3rd, March 3rd, April 7th, May 5th and June 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.



Restaurant Gourmets: January 9th (4th Saturday) at 6 PM. Looking for a suggestion for a take out restaurant – Cook your own, pick up a meal or have it delivered and enjoy it with your friends. For details contact Deanna Arthur.



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.

Drama will meet via Zoom on January 11th (2nd Monday) at 7:00 PM to read *Night Watch* by Lucille Fletcher. Contact Kathleen Doty.



Meetup: via Zoom January 13th happy hour conversation with friends. Reservations are necessary - please call Deanna Arthur so a code can be sent for joining the meeting.

Day Books: will meet via Zoom on January 20th (3rd Wednesday) at 2:00 PM to discuss *Stealing Home* by Eric Nusbaum. Contact Kathleen Doty.



Evening Books will meet via Zoom on January 25th (4th Monday) at 7:00 PM to discuss *The Perfume Collector* by Kathleen Tessaro. Contact Deanna Arthur.



Every Member Event: Saturday, January 30th at 11:00 AM (PST). We're Zooming to Paris, France to visit Craig Carlson & Julien Chameroy owners of the "Breakfast In America" restaurants. Details on page 1.

How to Zoom

Any device connected to the internet can be used to join a Zoom meeting, but you must have the Zoom application on that device. The basic version is free and can be installed from [Zoom \(zoom.us\)](https://zoom.us) or by clicking on the meeting link provided by the meeting host and following the prompts. Installation will take a few minutes, so if Zoom hasn't already been installed, link early. The Pasadena League of Women Voters has tips for mastering Zoom on their [website \(https://my.lwv.org/california/pasadena/article/zoom-tips#.XzMUWdVc6bo.gmail\)](https://my.lwv.org/california/pasadena/article/zoom-tips#.XzMUWdVc6bo.gmail)

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](#)