

## President's Message

MADAME VICE PRESIDENT (MVP)



Elena Velarde

It's been a month for the history books, and AAUW is on record responding in condemnation to the shocking assault, deaths, and incitement to racist violence at our Nation's Capitol Building. Our AAUW CEO Kimberly Churches' text is re-published in this edition of the Mission Gateway complete

with clickable links for more depth of information. Furthermore, Churches joined in a unified statement in solidarity with women's organizations across the country dedicated to gender justice and equity. In essence the statement proclaimed: *That President Trump and his enablers be held accountable for their actions* (statement).

I applaud AAUW National's response and collective work to understand and heal our nation's divisions. Starting now let's focus on the cumulative effects of discrimination and oppression and dig into our online Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Toolkit. How can **intersectionality** help us articulate, listen to, understand and value diverse experiences? Why has AAUW included it as an organizational Value?

People yearn to be their true selves at work, at school, in their lives in general — we all want to be able to em-

President's Message continued on Page 2

## Has Social Media Helped or Hindered the Breaking Down of Barriers for Women and Girls?



On Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, we will hear the answer. The program will be via Zoom and will start at 1:00 PM.

Dr. Mary Pipher, clinical psychologist, has described social media as the "huge, unplanned experiment" that has left many young people vulnerable to the ups and downs of digital culture. Some of the troublesome issues associated with social media and young people include dependence on online

friends, reduced attention span, online addiction, sleep deprivation, digital footprints, sexting and neglecting family/friends/responsibilities.

This "unplanned experiment" has transformed an array of life experiences viewed as both positive and negative.

Speech Trek continued on Page 2

1 wsj.com, "The Lonely Burden of Today's Teenage Girls", August 5, 2019

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.

## Intersectionality

The complex, cumulative way in which the effects of multiple forms of discrimination (such as racism,



sexism, and classism) combine, overlap, or intersect especially in the experiences of marginalized individuals or groups

Merriam-Webster Dictionary

#### President's Message continued from Page 1

brace our full identity. But to do that, we have to understand the concept of intersectionality because who you are is a combination of many different identities. The effects of which are not always the same in every circumstance.

Legal scholar Kimberlé Crenshaw originally coined the term intersectionality in her work Mapping the Margins. She pointed out that scholars often look at outcomes for women or outcomes for African Americans, but never look at what happens to African American women whose lives are impacted by the ways these multiple sources of oppression (such as racism, sexism, and classism, etc.) interact. And with that, a new way of examining the experiences of people with overlapping dimensions of diversity was born.

Understanding intersectionality gives us a way of understanding the cumulative effect of discrimination and oppression on people. That's not to say that one person's oppression is greater than another's; it's simply a way of recognizing that our experiences may not be the same because inequality is a complex phenomenon.

Let's illustrate the concept of intersectionality with an example familiar to AAUW members: Pay equity. We are all aware that men and women are paid unequally for equal work: on average, women make 82 cents for every dollar that a white man makes. But did you know that moms make 70 cents on that same dollar? Or that Latinas make just 55 cents? These are just a few examples of intersectionality and how parental status or ethnicity intersect with gender to impact pay equity.

Next month let's further explore intersectionality and the coinciding dimensions of diversity.

Elena

Speech Trek continued from Page 1

The growth and pervasiveness of social media certainly has far-reaching implications across a broad spectrum including social, physical, psychological, emotional, mental, legal, ethical, societal, health and more challenges.

Has this "unplanned experiment" been a boon or a bust for young people? Has social media helped or hindered the breaking down of barriers for women and girls?

On Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, some very bright, insightful, eloquent high school students will provide their answers in the first phase of AAUW California's Speech Trek.

Speech Trek is an annual speaking contest open to all California high school students, whether from public, private, home or continuation high schools.

Students from our local high schools have a winning record. In the 13 years since the contest began, six finalists have come from one of our local schools. Don't miss this inspiring event!

Each contestant will deliver an original 5- to 6-minute speech via Zoom. Their speeches will be judged for content, organization, and delivery. The first place winner of the contest conducted by the Alhambra/San Gabriel Branch of AAUW on February 13<sup>th</sup> will receive \$100 and will advance to the state-wide competition. The second place winner at the state contest will receive \$50, and the third place winner will receive \$25.

A video recording the first place speech will be posted on Youtube for review by a panel of State Speech Trek judges along with branch winners from throughout the state. The State Speech Trek judges will identify five finalists, two of whom will be named as Honorable Mention. The top three speeches will be shown during AAUW California's annual meeting, which will be via Zoom on Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup>.

The first place winner of the state contest will receive \$1500. The second place winner will receive \$1000, and the third place winner will receive \$500. The finalists who received honorable mention also receive cash prizes: \$250 for 4th place and \$150 for 5th place.

As Maya Angelou said, "In diversity, there is beauty and there is strength." AAUW respects and celebrates the diversity of our members and those differences form the backbone of our organization.

## Public Policy: Our Personal Responsibility

The events of the past few days have solidified the axiom that democracy demands involvement by those citizens who wish to perpetuate it. The assault on our nation's capitol reinforces this axiom as it was a demonstration of intense involvement by a group of citizens who obviously have very different views on the peaceful transfer of power via the voting booth and the belief that if you don't want to recognize the voted will of the people you can rise up to violently attempt to overthrow that will. We witnessed all this on January 6, 2021!

Our individual and personal involvement in public policy is essential. But what does that mean? For starters, it means regularly checking the aauw.org website for national news and action alerts as well as checking aauw-ca.org for state news and action alerts. *California Connection* comes out on a regular basis to keep all of us apprised of what our California AAUW is contemplating and doing to advance equity for women and girls. Our *Mission Gateway* newsletter along with our branch website are additional sources of pertinent information and action alerts.

And then there are our local governmental bodies, city councils, boards of education, community college boards, public health departments, etc. Each of these is an arena for our involvement and action. Too often elections are seen as the place for citizen input as well they are. But they are by far not the only avenue for engagement in the body politic. To wait for election to election to make our voice heard, we know now is not nearly enough.

Our congressional representatives need our thoughts on January 6 (and many of us have probably communicated with them) just as they need to hear regularly from us about what they are doing and how they are doing. They need this now more than ever. And it doesn't take much. A simple postcard can relay our pointed concerns and compliments as effectively as a posted letter. A well-constructed email from us lets our legislators at each level, national, state and local, know that we are involved and watching, not simply standing by for whatever they choose to do or not do.

In the final analysis, public policy is the responsibility of each of us and we would do well not to delegate it solely to organizations to which we belong. We let legislators know that organizations don't vote but we do. Living in a representative democracy does not relieve any of us from being involved and active both during and between elections. While it is our right, much more importantly, it is our sacred duty as citizens.

There are far fewer democracies than other forms of government on this connected globe we inhabit. As citizens we determine the continued existence of our own.

## Membership Corner

We Want to Hear from YOU! Yes, YOU!

Hello Members,

As Membership VP I realized I don't know my members as well as I'd like and this pandemic isn't making things easier...and if I don't know you, I'm sure others don't as well and are just too shy to ask.

COVID-19 may have us quarantined, socially distancing and not able to gather as a group, but that does not mean we cannot communicate, keep up with each other, and get to know each other better.

I (and other members) want to know what's on your mind. How are you doing? What is going on in your life? How is your family? What are you doing to keep busy, active, and mentally sharp? Maybe someone else can use some good tips for staying active while under quarantine.

We would love to hear your story. If you are new to AAUW, write a bio so we can get to know you. If you are a long-time member, share your story with new members. What is your educational and professional background? What inspired you to join AAUW? Tell us a personal story of inspiration!

Articles will be published in upcoming newsletters to share with all members and inspire us all to stay connected.

Please email articles to letty530i@gmail.com

Thanks! Hope to hear from you soon!





Supporting Front Line Workers with a spot of tea!
Letty Peralta (left) delivered AAUW Fund tea boxes to the
Alhambra Fire Department Fire Station 71. The dedicated fire
men and women were able to take a moment and relax with
a cup of tea and yummy snacks thanks to AAUW member
donations. Picture taken October 24, 2020



AAUW California Board of Directors has approved the 2021 Virtual Camp Program. The Board has agreed to allow 2020 selected campers to participate in the 2021 virtual camp. This will not affect our branch as we did not select any campers last year due to the pandemic.

AAUW CA Tech Trek has received the directives and materials from National.

They are under review for California's 2021 camps. As soon as they are finalized we will be able to begin our recruitment. We are hoping that in February we will have the documents, approval from Alhambra School District and can start the recruitment process. The total process will all be done via Zoom this year, it will be a challenge that we will take one step at a time.

We are still being told that we will be able to have the same number of participants as we did in 2019. TT North had 8 and TT South had 11. The cost per camper will be approximately \$400.00.

The Tech Trek coordinators will be having a Zoom training session towards the end of January training this will be helpful for our Tech Trek committees.

January Krause Lilia Hall Trek committees.

## **AAUW Fund**

2021 is still here and boy have we had surprises. By the time you read this, the new president will have been inaugurated.

In the spirit of kindness, inclusivity and diversity the committee has decided to serve lunches for the AAUW Fund meeting in March. The proceeds from this event will help fund our new school books project (Colorful Stories) that will be started with the Alhambra Unified School District.

There will be order forms in the next newsletter to order lunches. If you don't want a lunch, support the project by making a donation to buy a book for the project. Let's make this fundraiser even more successful than the last.

Looking forward to another outstanding program.

Thanks for caring about women and girls as we move forward.

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...

# A Letter of Thanks and Hope for 2021

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

I love New Year's Day! It is a new beginning with a thoughtful look back at the old year and a promise of new and exciting things to come. I always make New Year's resolutions and am in the process of writing my "21 things to accomplish in 2021!"

There is a lot to be thankful for in 2020. #1 - We made it through the year. #2 - I am proud of the creativity and resilience all of you had as you planned your branch programs and activities on Zoom, a new platform for many. #3 - You developed new fundraisers or tweaked tried and true ones to fit the reality. #4 - You kept in touch with your members to encourage them to learn new technologies, so they could participate.

With a big GOODBYE to 2020, we can look forward with hope for a better 2021! We must remain patient and meet virtually for several more months, but there is "a light at the end of the tunnel." Won't it be fun to give our family and friends a big hug in late summer/early fall?

We have new opportunities and renewed hope in 2021 to support our work for women and girls. And we have the first woman to be elected as U.S. Vice President for starters!

As you embark on 2021, remember these words from Ruth Bader Ginsberg, "Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you."

SAVE the DATE for the Annual Meeting, April 17, 2021.

The new dawn blooms as we free it For there is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it If only we're brave enough to be it

Amanda Gorman

# AAUW California Webinars

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

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.

March 8. Build Community and Campus Relationships through Work Smart. Join a panel of experts to learn the importance of negotiating your salary and benefits when asking for equal pay, a raise or new position. Lead by Donna Lilly.



## Need Zoom Help?

Contact Deanna Arthur, Jim Doty or Kathleen Doty

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.

## **AAUW NATIONAL** AAUW Responds to Open Membership Capitol Assault

Kim Churches, AAUW CEO

On Wednesday, January 6, our nation watched in horror as our democracy came under attack in an unlawful and violent invasion of the U.S. Capitol. As AAUW's National office is based in Washington, D.C., the personal safety of our staff and their families was at risk as armed insurgents took to the streets calling for violence toward our elected officials and the overthrow of a free and fair election.

The mob used hateful language and displayed symbols of white supremacy as they forced their way into the hallowed halls of Congress. We mourn the loss of the five individuals killed in the attack, including Capitol Police Officer Brian Sicknick, and the many others hurt.

As scary and shocking as this was, it was sadly not surprising given the incendiary speech the President gave to the rioters prior to the attack and the divisive tone he has set for years. From calling the racist protestors in Charlottesville "very fine people" to telling the Proud Boys to "stand by" in a presidential debate, President Trump has given us many warning signs.

AAUW is proud to join in solidarity with leading gender justice and equity organizations in a statement demanding that President Trump and his enablers be held accountable for their actions. We hope this unified message will inspire those in power to action. If you feel comfortable contacting your elected officials, we encourage you to do so.

And, as we collectively work to understand the roots of our nation's divisions, we ask you to actively engage in efforts to defeat white supremacy: Please review our new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion toolkit and plan to attend our town hall webinar on Tuesday, January 19 at 4 p.m. ET with AAUW Board Chair Julia Brown and the Racial and Social Justice Working Group.

As AAUW members, we all embrace our vision of equity for all, and we hold our values close to our hearts and minds. Thank you to everyone who has reached out to ensure your AAUW staff are safe in this uncertain time.

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

As we reflect on the state of our country and the deeprooted beliefs that perpetuate an unequal society, we must consider the role and impact of AAUW and its members in upholding our core values. In pursuing our vision of equity for all, we need to recognize and eliminate the barriers we put on ourselves and on our organization that prevent us from truly achieving our goals.

This spring, the AAUW membership will vote on an important proposal to amend the AAUW bylaws to open membership and eliminate the degree requirement to join AAUW. The national AAUW Board of Directors strongly supports the proposal, along with dozens of member leaders across the country. We believe this is an essential step toward making AAUW a more diverse and inclusive organization, better aligned with our mission, values and the needs of women today. Our full statement on the issue appears below this email.

Now through February 5, 2021, you can provide thoughts and comments on the proposed changes to the AAUW bylaws as well as proposed changes to the Public Policy Priorities. To learn more about the proposed changes and submit your feedback, please visit the election page on on the AAUW website. CLICK HERE

We encourage your participation and look forward to hearing your thoughts.

#### **AAUW Board of Directors** Statement on Open Membership

The AAUW National Board of Directors strongly supports elimination of the degree requirement for membership and will put the requirement up for a membership vote this spring. This important change is a critical step in bringing AAUW's bylaws and membership requirement in line with our mission of advancing equity for women and girls. While AAUW is fiercely committed to educational attainment for all women, given our commitment to inclusion, this is simply the right thing to

Proposals to eliminate the degree requirement for memcontinued on next page... bership have come before the membership for vote a number of times. The Board feels very strongly that, while the degree requirement made perfect sense at AAUW's inception, this requirement is now counter to our mission and limits our ability to build the capacity needed to increase our impact as an organization.

Members can comment on the proposed amendment from January 11 through February 5, 2021, 5:00 p.m. ET. Voting will open on April 7 and close May 17, 2021, 5:00 p.m. ET.

We encourage respectful debate, which has always been a hallmark of the AAUW community. Please send any comments to let the Board know of your thoughts on this proposal and exercise your vote this spring.



## Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day should not be a day to be celebrated just between

couples. It can and should be a day of recognizing others especially during this time of pandemic. If you have friends who are unable to leave home, except for doctor's appointments, it's a good time for you to make a phone call, create a valentine just for them, write a letter to let them know you care and put a smile on their faces.

Here are some puns to put a smile on YOUR face. If you have grandchildren or friends with a sense of humor, you might have a good time asking the following questions about Valentine's Day.

Do you know what the pilgrims gave each other on Feb. 14? *Mayflowers*.

What flower should you never give on Valentine's Day? *Cauliflower*.

What did one pickle say to the other: You mean a great dill to me.

While we're on vegetables, what is the most loving? *Lettuce because it has a heart.* 

Do you know what the valentine said to the stamp? *Stick with me* and you'll go places.

What did the calculator say to the pencil on Valentine's Day? *You can count on me*.

What did one drum say to the other on Valentine's Day? *My heart beats for you*.

Why did the boy have his girlfriend put in jail? *She stole his heart.* 

Do you know why skunks celebrate Valentine's Day? They are very *scent-imental*.

In closing, here is one for all the technology experts. Why did the man send his wife a tweet on Valentine's Day? She was his *Tweet-heart*.

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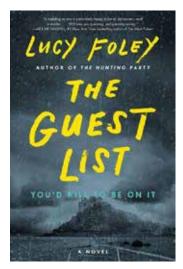
Betty Morin

## Ruth Bader Ginsburg

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

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## Books1



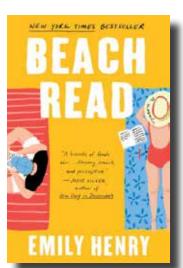
**Day Books**: will meet via Zoom on February 17<sup>th</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday) at 2:00 PM to discuss *The Guest List* by Lucy Foley. Contact Kathleen Doty.

On an island off the coast of Ireland, guests gather to celebrate two people joining their lives together as one. The groom: handsome and charming, a rising television star. The bride:

smart and ambitious, a magazine publisher. It's a wedding for a magazine, or for a celebrity: the designer dress, the remote location, the luxe party favors, the boutique whiskey. The cell phone service may be spotty and the waves may be rough, but every detail has been expertly planned and will be expertly executed.

But perfection is for plans, and people are all too human. As the champagne is popped and the festivities begin, resentments and petty jealousies begin to mingle with the reminiscences and well wishes. The groomsmen begin the drinking game from their school days. The bridesmaid not-so-accidentally ruins her dress. The bride's oldest (male) friend gives an uncomfortably caring toast.

And then someone turns up dead. Who didn't wish the happy couple well? And perhaps more important, why?



Evening Books will meet via Zoom on February  $22^{nd}(4^{th} \text{ Monday})$  at 7:00 PM to discuss *The Beach Read* by Emily Henry. All are welcome to join/visit even if you haven't finished or read the book. Contact Deanna Arthur.

A romance writer who no longer believes in love and a literary writer stuck in a rut engage in a summer-long

<u>challenge that may just upend everything they believe</u>
1. Book Group members can purchase books on the group's reading list at Vroman's Books in Pasadena.

about happily ever afters.

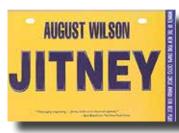
Augustus Everett is an acclaimed author of literary fiction. January Andrews writes bestselling romance. When she pens a happily ever after, he kills off his entire cast.

They're polar opposites.

In fact, the only thing they have in common is that for the next three months, they're living in neighboring beach houses, broke, and bogged down with writer's block.

Until, one hazy evening, one thing leads to another and they strike a deal designed to force them out of their creative ruts: Augustus will spend the summer writing something happy, and January will pen the next Great American Novel. She'll take him on field trips worthy of any rom-com montage, and he'll take her to interview surviving members of a backwoods death cult (obviously). Everyone will finish a book and no one will fall in love. Really.

## Drama



Drama will meet via Zoom on February 8th (2nd Monday) at 7:00 PM to read Jitney by August Wilson. Contact Kathleen Doty. 1 F, 8 M

Jitney is the eighth play in August Wilson's "Pittsburgh Cycle" and premiered on Broadway in 2017. The play is set in a worn-down gypsy cab station in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in early autumn 1977. Regular taxi cabs will not travel to the Pittsburgh Hill District of the 1970s, and so the residents turn to jitneys—unofficial, unlicensed taxi cabs—that operate in the community. This play portrays the lives of the jitney drivers at the station owned by Jim Becker.

Winner of the 2000-2001 Outer Critics Circle Award, Outstanding Off-Broadway Play; 2000 Drama Critics' Circle Award, Best Play; and 2002 Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Play.

## Mission Gateway

Articles relating to AAUW's mission or Branch activities are gladly accepted. Material for the *Mission Gateway* must be received no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the intended month of publication.

## **ACTIVITIES**

Tap into the Fun! New faces, and used ones, are always welcomed. Join In!

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

> Creative Crafters will gather via Zoom on February 3<sup>rd</sup> (1st Wednesday). 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.

**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.



Drama will meet via Zoom on February 8th (2nd Monday) at 7:00 PM to read Jitney by August Wilson. Contact Kathleen Doty.

**Meetup**: via Zoom Febuary 10<sup>th</sup> happy hour at 6:00 PM conversation with friends with or without a cocktail. Contact Deanna Arthur.

Every Member Event: Saturday, February 13th at 1:00 PM. Has social media helped or hindered the breaking down of barriers for women and girls? Details on page 1.

Professional Women Gourmets will have a Valentine Zoom cocktail hour on Saturday evening, February 13th at 6:00 PM. Contact Jane Anderson for more information.

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.

**Restaurant Gourmets**: February 20<sup>th</sup> (4<sup>th</sup> 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. A chance to break up the

quarantine monotony and be safe. For details contact Deanna Arthur.

Day Books: will meet via Zoom on February 17<sup>th</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday) at 2:00 PM to discuss The Guest List by Lucy Foley. Contact Kathleen Doty.

Evening Books will meet via Zoom on February 22<sup>nd</sup>(4<sup>th</sup> Monday) at 7:00 PM to discuss 🦚 *The Beach Read* by Emily Henry. All are welcome to join/visit even if you haven't finished or read the book. Contact Deanna Arthur.

## 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) 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)

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 Am. Assoc. Univ. Women -- Alhambra, San Ga-