



# THE TWIG

East San Gabriel Valley Branch, California  
American Association of University Women

<http://esgv-ca.aauw.net>

April 2020



## President's Corner



My deep concern for the health of our members and Governor Newsom's directive has prompted me to cancel the April 11 Board Meeting and ask that all interest groups not meet in April. It is the recommendation of county, state and federal health organizations to stay home and not congregate to protect yourself and others from spreading the coronavirus. As you have been notified, our annual Fashion Show will be rescheduled from April to a fall date to be determined. Checks received from members for this event will be returned and new invitations will be sent when a date is set. As more information regarding the spread of coronavirus becomes available, branch activities in May and June may or may not be affected. You will be kept informed as more information is available.

## Dianne Saurenman, President

### Slate of Officers for East San Gabriel Valley Branch – AAUW 2020-2021

<b>President</b> (second year of term)	<b>Dianne Saurenman</b>
<b>Vice President--Programs</b>	<b>Hope Holdsworth</b>
<b>Vice President--Facilities</b>	<b>Ruth Currie</b>
<b>Financial Officer</b>	<b>Lucille Wright</b>
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	<b>Jill Quezada</b>
<b>STEM Tech Trek Director</b>	<b>Brenda Gulbranson</b>

These officers will be installed at our luncheon on June 27.

### Happy Birthday!

- 1— Jane Glenn
- 3— Rebecca Kemp
- 20— Diane Hoback
- 21— Sandy Brancheau
- 27— Barbara Rugeley

### 2020-2021 Dues

March is the beginning of the renewal time for AAUW dues. You should have received a notification in your inbox on Wednesday, March 25 (that's when mine arrived). Just click on the links to renew online—it's as easy as 1, 2, 3. Why not take a moment now to make sure your renewal is all set up? Check your junk mail if you don't see it in your inbox. The sender is [membershipinfo@aauw.org](mailto:membershipinfo@aauw.org).

### Denim and Diamonds

The April Fashion Show will be rescheduled, hopefully for sometime in October or early November. Keep your invitations so you can reserve at that time, and we will also have information in future issues of the Twig.

### Interest Groups

There will be no interest group activities during the month of April. Hopefully, we can get back to our monthly activities in May.

### Time on your hands??—READ

Catch up on your reading. Here are some of the upcoming book selections for our various book groups:

- Friday Morning: *The Storyteller's Secret*—Sejal Badani
- Monday Afternoon: *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek*—Kim Michele Richardson
- Vinegar Girl*—Ann Tyler
- Wednesday Evening: *Where the Crawdads Sing*—Delia Owen
- The Honey Bus*—Meredith May
- Beneath A Scarlet Sky*—Mark Sullivan
- Mystery Books: *The Death of Mrs. Westaway*—Ruth Ware

## Reproductive Health for All in 2020

by Claire Noonan, AAUW Public Policy committee

As American women consider action to ensure reproductive health rights in 2020, it is useful to recall that in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

*Submitted by Jill Quezada*