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alameda-ca.aauw.net

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Alameda Branch News

*AAUW Alameda Branch celebrates our strengths
and promotes education and equity for women and girls in our community.*

DECEMBER 2016

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The AAUW-Alameda Branch silent auction to benefit our Tech Trek girls will be Saturday, December 3, from 11:00 am to noon - immediately before our luncheon. Be sure to invite a spouse, friend, or prospective member to this festive occasion! It's a great time to do some holiday shopping and benefit a good cause, enjoy delicious food, a glass of wine, and good company.

Silent auction bidding will begin at 11:00 am and close at noon. Winning bids items can be retrieved after the luncheon at 1:30 pm. CHECKS ONLY PAY to AAUW (note in memo section: Alameda Branch TT).

If you are still interested in donating items for the auction, please contact Barbara Krummel at 510 846-5887 by Saturday, November 26, for pick-up or drop-off instructions.

Reminder, the lunch is the first Saturday of the month and there is a very early reservation deadline – Wednesday, November 23.

Saturday, December 3, 2016
Silent Auction begins at 11:00 am
11:30 am Social, 12:00 pm Lunch
Cardinal Point
2431 Mariner Square Dr, Alameda

Menu choices are:

Loin of pork stuffed with cranberry, apple, and pecan in a port wine sauce
Spice crusted salmon with a green apple salad served over black jewel rice
Wild mushroom and winter squash ravioli in a sage sauce
Lunch includes a roasted butternut squash salad with field greens, dried cranberries and walnuts, dessert and coffee or tea.

N.B. there is a different address this month as MaryAnn will be out of town.

Make the check out to AAUW-Alameda Branch for \$39 and mail to:
Dorothy Kerwin, 2918 Lincoln Ave, Alameda, CA 94501,
kerwindorothy@gmail.com, for receipt by Wednesday, November 23.

AAUW's Value Promise: *By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.*

President's Letter

October/ November was a month of many firsts for our branch!

Thanks to the efforts of our planning group Patti Heimburger, Dorie Behrstock, Joy Pratt and a productive relationship with AAUW Oakland/ Piedmont Branch and the College of Alameda, our American Muslim Fact vs Fiction: A Dialogue event on October 26 was a major success. We had over 130 attend: many students, members of the Muslim community and AAUW members from both branches. We even had the press and were covered in a story in the East Bay Times! Given the high level of interest in this topic, our Outreach committee is working on a follow up evening event early in the New Year. We plan to give more time to go into more depth on these subjects.

For those who were not able to attend at the College of Alameda, you can now see a video of the panel presentations and questions from the audience and read the story from the East Bay Times. For the first time we have been able to embed these links into our own website. Check out alameda-ca.aauw.net . A special thanks to the student panelist Sohaib Jalal who recorded the event and posted it on You Tube and to our website support from AAUW national. We hope we can continue to do this for future events.

Another first for us is a link for members to make online donations with their credit cards or Pay Pal to our AAUW Alameda Tech Trek program. It is under Tech Trek in our Website. This is only for members to ensure it gets credited to our program, so if you have generous friends or matching gifts at work, those donations still need to be done by check.

A special thanks is due to Keri Clark who has worked so hard over the last months with our website liaison at AAUW national. The improvements on our website are most well done, so take a look! Keri will be transitioning out of her role as our Website Coordinator soon, as she and her husband plan to move out of the area. We wish them well. The importance of an up -to -date website cannot be overestimated. A new member chose to join us based on what she saw on our website! Stay tuned for other technological links on our website that are under development.

Other transitions: our Sunshine coordinator is now Cindy Silva. Please email Cindy at Cynthia.silva@cnb.com or call her at 510-523-4677 to let her know of any of our members who need a ray of sunshine in their lives. Our thanks to Inge Grethe who will be in Southern California until the New Year.

A new Facebook page has been created for our Branch. Up to now we have had a group page, but our State convention recommended a page as a more public way for us to promote our events and for people to find us. As we build our Facebook presence we need pictures of our branch activities and friends, lots of "likes "and "tags ". For all who use Facebook, see what other branches and nonprofits have on their Facebook pages to keep them interesting. Our new Facebook page is AAUW-alameda. Let me hear from you and I will invite you to be a friend.

I look forward to seeing you at our Tech Trek special holiday luncheon and Silent Auction for Tech Trek on December 3 at Cardinal Point. Have a very Happy Thanksgiving with family and friends! Thank you to all who make this AAUW Alameda branch such a vibrant organization, making valuable contributions to the lives of women and girls.

Penny Washbourn : pwashbou@hotmail.com 510-748-7455



Sameean Usman, Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) and Penny Washbourn, Alameda Branch president at the American Muslim Fact vs Fiction: A Dialogue event on October 26 at the College of Alameda.

Watch for follow ups to this event in the future.

General Business Meeting

Our next Board meeting is Monday, December 5, at 7 pm in Conference room 'C' at the Alameda Hospital. Everyone is welcome! We need your ideas to increase our outreach and have some fun events! Email me at pwashbou@hotmail.com .

Tech Trek Report and Auction Alert!



This month the Tech Trek committee has formally requested 6 places for the 2017 Sonoma State Camp. Between now and December, committee members will be contacting each of the 7 Alameda Middle Schools to discuss next year's applications process and to ask for teacher and counselor feedback.

We have also submitted a Grant request to Alameda Rotary and are hoping that they will again help fund our program. Our primary focus this month has been preparation for our December Silent Auction. Please remember our ability to fundraise determines how many girls we are able to send to camp each summer. We need everyone's help!

We very much hope we can continue to offer this extraordinary opportunity to as many girls in our 7 Alameda Middle Schools as possible. Here are the last two of our talented 2016 Tech Trek Alums.



Michell is an eighth grader at Lincoln Middle School. She has an older brother and all of her family likes to hike. Her favorite subjects are Math and Science and she especially likes coding. One of the best things for her about Tech Trek was that she was forced outside of her comfort zone and was able to try so many new things. She loved both the classes and the dorms, especially the "no cell phone" rule. She said "that really helped everyone make friends". She wants to thank AAUW and tell everyone how "Awesome" Tech Trek was.



Nkechi is an eighth grader at Bay Farm School. She has an older sister and a younger brother. They all like watching basketball and movies. She plays basketball, likes to play with her dog and also loves to draw. At Tech Trek "I loved putting my thoughts together with other people to create one big sculpture!" She would like to thank AAUW and let them know that Tech Trek "made her consider looking at new job fields, I just had a blast."

**Saturday, December 3, 2016 at 11 am
Cardinal Point, Alameda**

**It's time to plan your contribution to our
annual gift-giving themed silent auction.**

- **Donate** jewelry, holiday home decorations, wine, gift baskets
- **Create** artwork, baked goods, jams, candies, floral arrangements



Membership & Outreach

We now have 79 members and the newest members are: Tracy Andreini and Suzanne Demee. We had a very good evening "Meet Up" for new members on October 18th. This went well and we had an enthusiastic give-and-take. Not all the new members were able to attend, but those present were: Char Perlas, Karen Kenney, Linda Pon, Karen Guthrie, Kaitlin O'Donnell, and Lis Arevalo. All these members completed the "Member Talent, Skills and Interest Survey". In general, all are interested in short-term projects and all have something to offer us. A few examples: Kaitlin, whose hobby is videography & social media! Karen Guthrie has a great deal of teaching background here in Alameda. Lis is involved with intercultural activities. Many have communication skills and want to participate in mission based projects. Almost all of the young women are not interested in the luncheon meetings. We also talked about our interest groups and three of the new members live in apartments, which would make hosting an interest group difficult and we should consider this. We are learning from these meet ups what new members are interested in and what information they want from us. We will keep in touch with all the new members and hope all of you will reach out to them. So far 1 member has used 'Shape the Future' (AAUW National's membership campaign), hopefully there will be more to come. This campaign allows a discounted rate for public events, including our luncheon meetings. These individuals need to sign up and pay on the spot for half off National's dues fee or \$24.50.

Outreach update:

The College Of Alameda panel discussion, "American Muslims - Fact vs. Fiction: A Dialogue" event in October was a big hit. The Muslim panel made news: <http://www.eastbaytimes.com/2016/10/27/alameda-american-muslims-voice-concerns-stereotypes-at-forum/>. This is the link to video of the panel event: <https://youtube/vfeq7AfEfC4>.

We know more than ever how important it is to plan events, both day and evenings to keep our branch active. Several evening events are in the planning stage. There will be a follow-up to the American Muslim panel, planned for the evening. We are also planning on presenting local authors book discussions in the evenings. In March there will be a STEM workshop at the College Of Alameda, which is still in the planning stage.

Patti Heimbürger & Joy Pratt Co-Chair Membership

New Interest Group

The Technology Users Group begins January 19, 2017. Are you struggling with a new "smart phone", a tablet, an updated computer or lap top, or waiting for a younger relative to come and help you do stuff? How do you post photos to Facebook, or "Tag"? Or have you said you aren't going to take the plunge into the world of computing technology because it is all too complicated?

When my Dad was 100 he was taking a computer class for seniors and was interviewed by the local TV station as he was the oldest student in the class. When asked his advice for seniors who might be hesitant to take up the new computing technology he said, "Just tell them, give it a Go!" So that's now my family's mantra "Give it a Go! (He lived until 102 and was sharp until the end.)

The Technology Users Group (TUG) will be a self -help group meeting on the third Thursday evening at 7 pm in a networked environment, such as PEET'S on Webster or a similar location with wi fi access. Amy Rose, one of our new members, has offered to facilitate the group. She has a passion for teaching technology to women. This group will be drop in, but we would like to know in advance what specific issues you want help with. If you have a mobile device , a smart phone, a tablet or lap top, please bring it with you.

Email pwashbou@hotmail.com or call me 510-748-7455 to let us know of your interest and what areas are of your concern.

Escrip – Tech Trek Fundraising

Shopping for presents for the holidays? After an investigation with other branches who use the program we have discovered that our Tech Trek program qualifies as a nonprofit and we can enroll as a branch and have companies who participate in the give backs (3-12% of amount spent, varies with company) contribute funds which go directly into our bank account. There are three types of stores that participate: grocery stores and Big Box stores, online retailers, and also restaurants. Anyone, member or friend or relative in any part of the country can participate once we sign up our branch program.

What would I have to do? For grocery stores such as Lucky's, Save Mart , FoodMaxx we would enter your phone number in our application and when you check out having made your purchase you use that phone number to get us the

Tech trek Program credit for the company donation . For online retailers (there is an extensive list on their website including Macy's , Ace Hardware, Old Navy, The Gap, Best Buy) and Big Box retailers such Target and Home Depot, you need to register and visit the Escrip Online Mall before we can get the credit. There is no credit card required. For the restaurants, look at the long dining out list, register your credit card and then you would use that credit card when you dine. There are several restaurants in Alameda, Oakland, Berkeley, San Francisco, including Rockwall Wine bar on Alameda Point!

What is the hitch? Like everything, the company will get contact information from you. I asked my branch contact if it was onerous and was assured it was not. I imagine you can unsubscribe from their promotions. Let us know if you would like to participate in Escrip to help our Tech Trek program and we will sign our branch up. You can then let friends and family know in different parts of the country how to help your favorite AAUW cause.

Small Gifts: Do you come back from trips with lots of soaps , shampoos and conditioners that are sitting in your bathroom cabinet? Now is the time to bring them to our holiday luncheon at Cardinal Point so we can take up a collection and donate them to the Midway Shelter of Alameda, where they will be much appreciated.

INTEREST GROUPS

AFTERNOON BOOKS

Kate Quick
523-3612

EVENING BOOKS

Cindy Silva
523-4677

TUES AFTERNOON BRIDGE

Vicki Cuadra
523-5789

CINEMA CLUB

Kevis Brownson
522-4966

COUPLES BRIDGE

Lynn Groh
522-2473

ETHNIC DINNER GROUP

Mark Hamilton
749-0738

MUSEUM GROUP

Judy Sparks
523-6736
Marlis White
522-8383

Ethnic Dining Group

This group meets on the third Saturday, Dec. 17. If you like good food and good company, join us.

For more information call Mark Hamilton, 749-0738.

Museum Group

On Thursday, December 15, we will be traveling to the Legion of Honor to see the exhibit "The Brothers Le Nain: Painters of 17th-Century France". It is the first major exhibition in the United States devoted to the Le Nain brothers—Antoine (ca. 1598–1648), Louis (ca. 1600/1605–1648) and Mathieu (ca. 1607–1677). They understood rural life in 17th Century France. The presentation features more than forty of the brothers' works. We will also be able to see Madeleine Albright's pin collection.

The carpool meets at the Ross parking lot at South Shore Center. We leave at 9:30 am sharp. Please reserve a seat ASAP if you want to go. Contact Judy Sparks at JudySparks@comcast.net or call 523-6736. Donna Vaughn's van can hold 7. After that, we have to arrange more transportation. We eat lunch at the museum we visit and are usually home between 3:00 and 4:00.

Evening Books

No meeting in December.

Afternoon Books

We'll meet at 1:30 pm on the third Monday, Dec. 19, to discuss books we are currently reading. Call Kate Quick, 523-3612, for location and more information.

Cinema Club

The first Cinema Club meeting will be Sunday, December 4.

How it works: 1. Request to be on our Cinema Club email list ---email to kevis.brownson@gmail.com. 2. Friday before the film you will get an email with a choice of films and times and request for response. 3. Saturday afternoon you will get an email confirming the choice of film and time. We will meet 20 minutes prior to the movie start time in the lobby of the theater.

Costs: \$8.00 for the movie, and \$5-15 for refreshments afterwards. For more information, email or call Kevis at 522-4966.



Alameda Branch
 P.O. Box 2932
 Alameda, CA 94501
 Change Service Requested

AAUW is California's most active and diverse organization for women, offering action for equity, personal and professional growth, community leadership, and friendship. AAUW promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change. Membership is open to all graduates who hold associate or equivalent, baccalaureate or higher degrees from an accredited college or university, and college/university students.

Branch Activities	DECEMBER						2016
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
				1	2	3 11:00 am Silent Auction 11:30 am, Lunch Cardinal Point 7:30 pm Bridge	
4 Cinema Club	5 7:00 pm Business Meeting	6	7	8	9	10	
11	12	13 12:30 pm Bridge	14	15 9:30 am Museum Group Legion of Honor	16	17 7:00 pm Ethnic Dinner	
18	19 1:30 pm Afternoon Books	20	21	22	23	24 Happy Hanukkah	
25 Merry Christmas	26	27 No Evening Books	28	29	30	31 Happy New Year's Eve	