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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.*

**FEBRUARY 2017**

A publication of AAUW Alameda Branch, chartered 1962

Vol. 54, Issue 6

## AAUW Educational Funds and Awards

AAUW is providing more than \$3.7 million in funding for more than 230 fellowships and grants to outstanding women and nonprofit organizations in this academic year. Due to generous contributions of AAUW members, a broader community of women continues to gain access to educational and economic opportunities — breaking through barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

Fellowship and grant recipients perform research in a wide range of disciplines and work to improve their schools and communities. Their intellect and dedication forge new paths in scholarship and tackle the educational and social barriers facing women worldwide.

Each year our Alameda Branch welcomes a grant recipient. Our speaker this month is: Abisola Coretta Kusimo. She is pursuing a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering at Stanford University with a focus in design methodologies, with the dream of becoming a university professor and social entrepreneur who designs sanitation products and services for the world's most disadvantaged people.

Please make our your checks to "AAUW Funds" and write "EF" in the memo line. Bring them to the meeting or mail them to: Joy Pratt, 9 Eclipse Ct. Alameda, CA 94501

## Saturday, February 11, 2017 Meeting

11:30 am Social, 12:00 pm Lunch

Pier 29 Waterfront Restaurant,  
1148 Ballena Blvd., Alameda

Menu choices are:

Chicken Marsala, Eggplant Parmigiana,

Salmon with lemon butter caper sauce, or Shrimp & Crab Louis

The entrees are served with salad. The Louis comes with a cup of clam chowder.

Lunch includes choice of coffee or iced tea, dessert is Chocolate Mousse Cake

Make the check out to AAUW-Alameda Branch for \$33 and mail to: Mary Ann Rose,  
933 Shoreline Dr, #306, Alameda, CA 94501, marose94501@gmail.com  
for receipt by Monday, February 6 .

*Our Mission is advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. AAUW is the nation's leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls. Since our founding in 1881, AAUW members have examined and taken positions on the fundamental issues of the day — educational, social, economic, and political.*

## President's Letter

As we enter the second half of our AAUW year, it is an opportunity to look back at what we have accomplished with our goals and to look forward to our exciting planned events in the upcoming months. Your AAUW Board and other members engaged in a strategic planning and visioning exercise at the January Board meeting and came up with many new suggestions to make our mission more visible in our outreach to students, working professionals, parents and pre-retirees/ retirees. We spent time trying to say what we (our Branch) stands for in 8 words or less. It is challenging! Try it and send me your tag line.

Exciting upcoming events:

Wednesday February 15, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm in the Stafford Room, Alameda Library, 1550 Oak Street.

"American Muslims : Islam 102" Register at <https://americanmuslimsislam102.eventbrite.com>

Wednesday March 22, 3:30 pm – 6:00 pm College of Alameda Building F:

“Enhancing opportunities for Women in STEM” Register at <https://aauwwomeninstem.eventbrite.com>

The month is March is when we recognize our Volunteers of the Year. Please get your nominations to Patti Heimburger and Joy Pratt by February 1, so we can recognize them at our March luncheon. This is a wonderful time to honor our unsung heroes who do so much for our branch to keep our activities and programs going.

Call for pictures! We need a steady flow of pictures of our members doing interesting things at AAUW events.. Don't forget to take your camera along on the Women's March, for example. We need to post regularly to Facebook (even during the March!) on our new AlamedaAAUW Facebook page. Also check out our Website for many changes including the new online ordering form for luncheons (so convenient, where you can get a reservation ASAP)

News: The branch has a new email address : [alameda-ca@aauw.net](mailto:alameda-ca@aauw.net) which we will be using for all public communication. Inge Grethe will be taking over as interim Website Coordinator, but we will be needing a permanent replacement for next year. This is an excellent volunteer opportunity for someone new to the branch who is comfortable looking at websites and sending emails to our website support in Washington, who do all the work!

This is also the time to think about whether you would like to serve on the Board or on a subcommittee in 2017-18. The Nominating Committee will start its work very soon and an eblast to all members will go out once they are appointed.

Sad News. One of our branch's founding members, Mary P. Brownson passed away on January 1, 2017 at home in the house where she was born. She was a member of AAUW for 50 years. A memorial will be at 1:00 pm on January 22, 2017 at Grandview Pavilion, Island Drive. (See attached picture and story).

Best wishes for 2017. Penny Washbourn [alameda-ca@aauw.net](mailto:alameda-ca@aauw.net)



Eman Khatri and Amy Chu interviewed Mary for the story recognizing her 50 years of AAUW membership in 2016.

## General Business Meeting

Our next board meeting is Monday, February 6 at 7:00 pm in Conference Room 'C' at the Alameda Hospital. All are welcome.

## Membership & Outreach

Membership update:

National AAUW has some good webinars for branch membership. One was called, “Recruitment Webinar: Attracting Members in Their Forties and Fifties” and a new called, “Membership Retention”. These webinars are easy to take advantage of new and or reminded knowledge.

The next “Meet Up” for new members is February 2nd and like the first one we will have the members filled-out the “Member Talent, Skills and Interest Survey”. It will be very helpful for both the board and our branch because we need these new member’s skills.

Outreach update:

Our branch took part in the Women’s March in Oakland on January 21st, along with the Oakland-Piedmont branch.

We are planning another panel discussion on called, “American Muslims - ISLAM 102” on February 15th (Wednesday) from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm at the Alameda library. The Friends of the Library and the league will both co-sponsor with us.

The Women in STEM workshop will be at the College Of Alameda on March 22nd (Wednesday) from 3:30 – 6:00, which is still in the planning stage but the program is developing through meetings.

## Tech Trek Report

Tech Trek committee members are busy preparing for this year’s camper selection process. The application packets go out to schools in Mid-January. We are all looking forward to meeting our future participants. Judy Ireland and I attended the Tech Trek coordinator’s meeting with our sister East Bay AAUW branches who send students to the Sonoma State Tech Trek Camp. We anticipate another successful campus experience for our lucky and talented Alameda young women. As usual the camp can always use extra help. If you would like to get involved, please consider volunteering as a “Dorm Mom”.

Several of our committee members have been attending the East Bay Community foundation “East Bay Gives” workshops. We are hoping our participation will lead to a successful fundraising event in the Spring. In the meantime, we are learning more about how to effectively utilize social media.

Speaking of fundraising, I am happy to report that Tech Trek will again be a partner in the Oakland A’s Silent Auction. Also, we have again received a generous Community Foundation Anonymous Grant for \$1000.00. We are very grateful for the support of our generous community.

Respectfully, Adele Aced, Tech Trek Co-coordinator

## New Partnerships

In February we are working with Wood Middle School PTA to host a workshop for parents on Sexual Harassment and cyber bullying, which will be open to all parents. On March 22, 3:30 pm-6 pm we are working with the College of Alameda and Girls Inc of the Island City on “Enhancing Opportunities for Women in STEM”. Watch for news of these events in our next Newsletter.

## Mission Based Programming

The mission of AAUW is advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. AAUW is the nation’s leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls. Since our founding in 1881, AAUW members have examined and taken positions on the fundamental issues of the day — educational, social, economic, and political.

Alameda Branch AAUW takes its programming work seriously. We use our monthly meetings to present speakers and ideas that fulfill these promises. While our monthly lunch meetings have a social aspect, their primary purpose is education and outreach. Mission based programs are those which are designed to educate and inspire our members and the community to take action. In addition to implementing our mission, these programs increase the opportunity to recruit new members, promote visibility of AAUW in the community, enable collaboration with like-minded organizations, and re-energize current members.

We invite all of our members to attend. We always learn something new and have our world view expanded. If you have ideas for future programs or locations, please share. Dorothy Kerwin, kerwindorothy@gmail.com

## BRANCH ACTIVITIES

### 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

### TECHNOLOGY USERS

GROUP  
Amy Rose  
916 337-1259

## Ethnic Dining Group

This group meets on the third Saturday, February 18. If you like good food and good company, join us. For more information call Mark Hamilton, 749-0738.

## Museum Group

On Thursday February 16, 2017 we will be going to the De Young to see Frank Stella: a Retrospective, the installation will feature approximately 50 large-scale works, including paintings, wall-mounted reliefs, and three-dimensional sculptures. The exhibition design will highlight the transitions that connect aspects of this diverse body of work, acknowledging the artist's different phases but positing them as pieces of a coherent whole.

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](mailto: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 pm and 4:00 pm.

## Evening Books

The book for Tuesday, February 28, is *Alexander Hamilton* by Ron Chernow. For location and more information, call Cindy Silva, 523-4677.

## Afternoon Books

We'll meet at 1:30 pm on the third Monday, February 20, to discuss books we are currently reading. Call Kate Quick, 523-3612, for location and more information.

## Cinema Club

We will meet on Sunday, February 5. How it works: 1. Request to be on our Cinema Club email list ---email to [kevis.brownson@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## Technology User's Group

Join us on February 16 from 7 pm-9 pm at Applebee's banquet room in South Shore Center for our drop-in, self-help user's group. It will be facilitated by new member Amy Rose whose goal is to help us all adapt to new communications technologies, whether on our smart phones, tablets, lap tops, or home computers.

If you are getting used to a new phone, trying to learn a new application, or hoping to upgrade your skill levels, this is the group for you. Bring your laptops, smart phones, tablets. Outlets and wi-fi will be available. You can order a glass of wine or coffee, or bring a friend and come early for dinner!

Dates for the new year are the third Thursday: February 16, March 16, April 20, May 18. Email Amy at [amyjanerose@gmail.com](mailto:amyjanerose@gmail.com) or call at 916-337-1259

## Remembering Mary Brownson

Mary Brownson is a long-time member of American Association of University Women (AAUW,) approaching 50 years of membership in May. Throughout her life, Mary has been an exceptionally involved individual – from her years spent teaching to the hours of volunteering she still does today.

In her early school years, she attended Versailles – now known as Edison – Elementary, followed by Lincoln Middle School and Alameda High. She spent her free time reading, playing the piano and singing duets with her friend across the street. At that time, in the 1930s, Alameda was a modest town of 35,000 people – less than half of what it is today.

When asked about gender roles growing up, Mary said, “We weren’t boys and girls, we were kids...We lived and we didn’t care. We didn’t think about people [their gender or ethnicity,] they were just friends...”

Mary attended UC Berkeley, where she met her husband through their shared interest in music. At the time, young women had limited career options. If she were in college now, she would be involved in science and math, but back then, women were only seen as nurses, teachers or secretaries.

After college, Mary and her husband moved to the Central Valley. In Stockton, Mary joined AAUW, and met some very nice individuals. In 1961, with four children by her side, she moved back to Alameda and helped found the Alameda Branch of AAUW.

While her youngest child was attending Edison Elementary, she was president of the PTA and established a library at the school. Eventually, Mary earned a teaching credential, and for the next 20 years, she taught second grade at Lum Elementary.

Her work with Alameda did not stop with her service at Lum; she has continued to support her community by working with Philanthropic Educational Organization and Prytanean Women’s Honorary Society at Cal – programs that help working women return to college. Additionally, Mary regularly volunteers at Alameda Welfare Council, contributing to local food banks and charities.

Mary has a passion for doing good, but she never felt like she was out to change the world. She wants to make it better by taking part in what she can. Mary’s ideal for the future is open to interpretation; everyone is an individual with divergent ideals. She voices, “What is an ideal future for one may not be an ideal future for another... I can’t imagine anything worse than going to a job that you don’t like.” She points out some women enjoy staying at home and raising their kids, and that is alright.

To Mary, the most important change in the last fifty years has been the change in how women are perceived. Today, stereotypes regarding careers are less prevalent because now, women are seen as much more than teachers and nurses. She states, “They [women] are mentally capable of doing more.” Whether this female empowerment is labeled feminism or not, she says, “We all have the same goals without labeling [them]...When we get equal opportunity, that’s the important thing.”

When asked for advice, she says it is important to be optimistic when things go wrong: “Worry about things you can do something [about,] then do it... If something’s gone wrong, learn from it but don’t carry it around as a burden. Life’s too short.”

Mary Brownson is in fact, a very unique individual and honorable member of AAUW. Although she is not willing to say it, she has contributed to the community in many ways. Mary bashfully admitted, “Yes, if I said I was going to do something, I got it done, somehow.”

Contributed by Amy Chu and Eman Khatri, Girls Inc of the Island City

## Member Biography

Karen Kenney

Karen spent most of her life living in Alameda. She attended Encinal High school and San Diego State University (B.A&M.A.). Karen’s career at U.C. Berkeley spanned several management positions, culminating as the Dean of Students. After 28 years, Karen left to become the Executive Director at Girls Inc. of the Island City (2005-2015).

Happily retired, she is an avid birder and enjoys hiking, traveling, thrifting, and shenanigans. Karen is active in several community organizations.

Karen is married to Steve Choy and Mom to daughter Annie. Karen proudly tells you that she is the parent of a Junior Slug at U.C. Santa Cruz.

## Look What AAUW Action Network Accomplished in 2016!

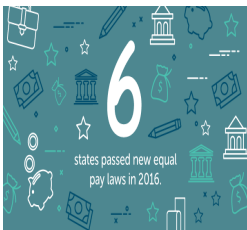
This year was action-packed for AAUW's advocacy efforts. Our reach spanned from the White House to Congress to statehouses across the country. As the year comes to a close, AAUW would like to thank our members and supporters for carrying out our mission to empower all women and girls. Your advocacy and generous support have ensured that we continued many successful and exciting policy activities throughout the year. But the hard work isn't over yet!

Looking for a New Year's resolution? Help grow AAUW Action Network by sharing these successes with friends and family members and urging them to advocate for issues affecting women and girls as a Two-Minute Activist. In the list below, you'll see how much we have done together throughout the past year — and the more our advocacy community grows, the more we'll be able to do in 2017!

If this election taught us anything, it's that AAUW's nonpartisan voice and research-based advocacy are needed now more than ever. You provide the voice, we'll provide the megaphone in 2017 and beyond!

### 200,000+ messages went out to state and federal legislators.

AAUW Action Network supporters in all 50 states made their voices heard on our priority issues. With your help, we contacted all 435 U.S. House offices and all 100 U.S. Senate offices throughout the year!



### 6 states passed new equal pay laws in 2016.

AAUW members played a key role in achieving new equal pay laws in California, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nebraska, and Utah. Yes, you read that right: Those are red, blue, and purple states taking action to close the gender pay gap — thanks to you and AAUW.



### 714 resource guides were delivered to Title IX coordinators in 29 states.

AAUW branches and supporters delivered critical new resources released by the U.S. Department of Education to make our schools safer and more equitable. This first tool kit of its kind was created at AAUW's prompting, and now we are delivering the good news nationwide.

### 2,200 signatures collected on AAUW's petition.

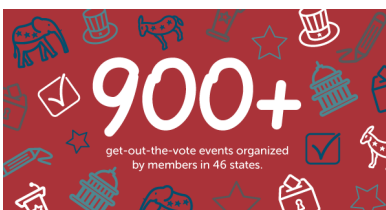
Just three months after the pledge was released — on Women's Equality Day — Anheuser-Busch signed the White House Equal Pay Pledge. To date, more than 100 companies have signed on and committed to closing the gender pay gap.



### 44 years of Title IX celebrated with Senator Harry Reid.

AAUW presented Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV) with our Title IX Champion award at a packed Capitol Hill reception in June. Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-HI) and Reps. Steny Hoyer (D-MD) and Dina Titus (D-NV) also spoke to the crowd of 300 attendees about the positive effect Title IX has had in our country's schools. AAUW has long been a protector and defender of Title IX, and your strong voices have helped to make this groundbreaking civil rights law a real success story.

AAUW Vice President of Government Relations Lisa Maatz presented Democratic Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) with the 2016 Title IX Champion award and a letter from AAUW of Nevada's co-presidents.



### 900+ get-out-the-vote events organized by members in 46 states.

AAUW branches, Younger Women's Task Force chapters, and student organizations hosted voter registration drives and candidate nights with AAUW's It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard resources.

19 AAUW members were elected to state legislatures.

We know of 19 AAUW members who were elected to state legislatures or state senates in 2016. Do you know of any AAUW members in office? Be sure to tell us about them!

The following is a reminder from AAUW -

## The Power of Leaving a Legacy

Making a planned gift to AAUW is a simple way to support our mission and leave a lasting impact.

### **Benefits of Estate Giving**

- Estate gifts allow you flexibility to provide for your family and support AAUW.
- Bequests do not affect your cash flow during your lifetime.
- Certain planned gifts may reduce estate or capital gains taxes.
- There is no minimum gift requirement, and every gift can be tailored to suit your specific wishes.

For more information and giving options, please call AAUW's planned giving office at 877-357-5587.







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	FEBRUARY						2017
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
			1	2	3	4 7:30 pm Bridge	
5 Cinema Club	6 7:00 pm Business Meeting All are welcome	7	8	9	10	11 11:30 am Lunch and EF Speaker	
12	13	14 12:30 pm Bridge	15	16 9:30 am Museum Group 7:00 pm Tech User's Group	17	18 7:00 pm Ethnic Dinner	
19	20 1:30 pm Afternoon Books	21	22	23	24	25	
26	27	28 7:15 pm Evening Books					