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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.*

JANUARY 2017

A publication of AAUW Alameda Branch, chartered 1962

Vol. 54, Issue 5

POLITICS, ELECTIONS, AND GENDER

Our speaker for January is Rachel Bernhard is a Ph.D. candidate in political science who studies how voters evaluate female candidates. Her current work focuses on the impact of voter stereotypes on female candidates' success, the structural challenges women face in running for office, and the professional paths women take into office. She teaches graduate and undergraduate courses on political methodology, political psychology, and American politics.

Prior to graduate school, Rachel served as the interim executive director of Los Médicos Voladores, a small public health non-profit, and as associate director of advancement at The Athenian School, a Bay Area independent school. She graduated from Dartmouth College in 2009 with a B.A. in government and a B.A. in classical studies and received her M.A. in political science from Berkeley in 2014.

Saturday, January 14, 2017

11:30 am Social, 12:00 pm Lunch, 12:30 pm Speaker

Speisekammer Restaurant

2424 Lincoln Avenue, Alameda

Menu:

Entrees (To be served family style)

Grilled Bratwurst served on a bed of Sauerkraut

Organic Herb Chicken with White Wine Butter Sauce

Spätzle baked with Caramelized Onion & European Cheese Blend - vegetarian

Sides are Grilled Broccolini and Braised Red Cabbage

Lunch includes a combination salad - Cucumber Salad, Red Beet Salad, Carrot Salad, Cabbage Salad and Dessert - Apple Strudel with Whipped Cream.

Also coffee or tea.

Make the check out to AAUW-Alameda Branch for \$35 and mail to:

Mary Ann Rose, 933 Shoreline Dr, #306, Alameda, CA 94501,

marose94501@gmail.com for receipt by Tuesday, January 10.

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

Our December Silent Auction at Cardinal Point was a great success! Thanks to the hard work of Barbara Krummel, Adele Aced, Linda Preminger, Amy Rose, Patti Heimburger, Rose Anne White, Kevis Brownson, Carol Ansley, Karen Kenney, and Cindy Silva, a splendid array of gifts and goodies were on display at the Silent Auction for our Tech trek program. Congratulations to all for raising over \$2,000! Members and guests had a lot of fun bidding on items to take home or give as holiday presents.

Volunteers are needed. As we plan our New Year resolutions, now is also a time to think about how you can contribute your time and talents to help our branch achieve its goals. We need people to help by becoming a buddy for a new member, to assist with special events, take pictures to upload to our Facebook and Website, design flyers for special events, or work with our Facebook page. Let us know how you would like to help us this Spring, by contacting me at pwashbou@hotmail.com or 510-748-7455. Thanks!

Upgrade your Tech skills: an invitation from AAUW Oakland Piedmont. They have issued an invitation for any interested members to attend a training session called "Managing your Online Presence" to be held at the Rockridge Library, 5366 College Avenue Oakland 94618 (College and Manila) on Saturday January 28 at 10 am. No need to RSVP, just come!

New Website Coordinator (Interim): Inge Grethe. Inge has agreed to help being our liaison with our AAUW National site resources to keep our website up to date, with information about our special events. She will also be a member of the Communications Committee. Thank you Inge for helping us fill out the remainder of Keri's term. We look forward to seeing you back in the Bay Area in the New Year.

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year! Penny Washbourn, pwashbou@hotmail.com, 510-748-7455

General Business Meeting & Visioning and Strategic Planning Workshop

Our next Board meeting is Monday, January 9 in Conference room 'C' at the Alameda Hospital. There will be a short board meeting from 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm, then a 'Visioning and Strategic Planning Workshop' from 7 pm to 9 pm.

We will look at our current vision statement for the Branch and goals for the year and assess where we are and where we want to go. Come bring your ideas on what AAUW means to you and your AAUW "elevator" speech! We need your imagination and creativity. Coffee will be served. RSVP Penny Washbourn 510-748-7455 or pwashbou@hotmail.com

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

Membership & Outreach

Membership update: We now have (80) members and Suzanne Demee is the most current member. Suzanne is new to East Bay and is also a member of the Oakland-Piedmont branch.

The Membership/Outreach committee had another meeting and we are trying to acquire more skills to grow our membership. Linda Pon came gave us information as new member; she has already been helpful to our branch.

We will have another "Meet Up" for new members within the next couple of months. Like the first one we will have the members filled-out the "Member Talent, Skills and Interest Survey". I am sure it will be very helpful for both the board and our branch because we need these new member's skills.

Outreach update: We will present a panel discussion on American Muslims called, "ISLAM 102-A DIALOGUE" on Wednesday, February 15th from 6:30 pm– 8:00 pm at the Alameda library. The Friends of the Library and the Alameda League of Women Voters will 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.

We know more than ever how important it is to plan events, both days and evenings to keep our branch active.

We can always use more ideas and help in getting these off the ground

Peralta Account: We have \$3,048.28 in the account for the College of Alameda scholarship. Donations are always welcome.
Patti Heimburger & Joy Pratt Co-Chair Membership

Tech Trek Report

Cheers to everyone who participated in our Holiday Auction on December 3. Thanks to our generous AAUW membership we were able to raise just a bit under \$2000.00 for our Summer Camp program. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to our amazing Tech Trek Auction Team and especially Barbara Krummel who led our group with such efficiency and grace. As usual it was a pleasure to work with everyone.

Fundraising continues to be an ongoing challenge for us, as the cost of each campership has just risen to \$1000.00. Unfortunately, our application to Alameda Rotary will not be funded this year. They reported a substantial increase in requests this year and made their decision based on an effort to help the greatest number of folks. For us, it is a sad but understandable choice.

Two of our committee members Kevis Brownson and Linda Preminger will be attending the East Bay Gives workshop as representatives of Alameda Tech Trek. Hopefully we will be able to take better advantage of the opportunity to work with them during this year's online "Day of Giving" in the Spring.

We have just received this year's camper application Packet and will be customizing it to fit our specific Alameda population and will begin the selection process in January.
Respectfully, Adele Aced, Tech Trek Co-chair



Members Adele Aced, Linda Preminger, and RoseAnne White are shopping for the holidays.



Elves Barbara Krummel and Amy Rose

LAF Update

At our Legal Advocacy Fund meeting in November we heard how harassment in the workplace can extend far beyond the workplace. For our speakers, retribution by employers for protesting harassment, and in one case apparent judicial prejudice, were repercussions. There is clearly much work ahead to achieve a society of decency, respect, and equity. The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund supports education and legal support for this cause. We received \$875 in checks to LAF. Thank you to all who contributed.
Sally Faulhaber, LAF chair

Women's March in Oakland on January 21

As a parallel to the march in Washington, D.C., there will be a Women's March on January 21, 2017 at Oakland City Center at 12th St and Broadway from 10 am-3 pm. For more information, check out womensmarchbayarea.org

Several of our AAUW Alameda members are planning to attend with children and friends. Would you like to form a group and carry the AAUW banner, so we are identified as AAUW? Ideas are welcome. Would you like to coordinate with AAUW Oakland /Piedmont? Strength in Numbers!

New Partnerships

We are delighted to have new partners for upcoming events this Winter/ Spring! We will be working with the Friends of the Library as well as the League of Women Voters of Alameda on ISLAM 102: A Dialogue , on February 23, 2017 , 6:30 pm at the Library.

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.

Year End Donations

December 31, 2016 is the time to make sure our tax deductible donations to charities are postmarked to take advantage of the fiscal year end. Our AAUW Alameda Branch supports two tax deductible charities, Tech Trek and the Peralta Colleges Foundation for the College of Alameda AAUW Scholarships.

Please check our website for instructions on how to make those donations. Tech Trek donations can be made online for members.

Good news! \$46 of the \$49 of your National Dues is tax deductible.

Branch Gifts

You might want to consider making a straight gift (non- tax deductible) to help our branch with special expenses, such as room rental fees and advertising costs for our special events. For example, one small ad in the Sun is \$100. These events are in support of our mission-based programming and help make our branch more visible to the public.

Several of our members have been most generous in helping us meet these expenses! A special thank you to Honora Murphy, Mark Hamilton and Elizabeth McGaffey for your support of our branch activities this year.

Any small amount would help: checks can be made out to AAUW-Alameda and sent to Cindy Silva, our Treasurer, at P.O. Box 2932 Alameda, CA 94501. Thank you for your support!

New Branch Activity

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?

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.

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, Jan 21. If you like good food and good company, join us. For more information call Mark Hamilton, 749-0738.

Museum Group

On Thursday, January 19 the Museum Group will have a treat. We will go to the Pardee Home Museum (672 11th St. & Castro) in Oakland for a tour and tea. We can only have 12 guests for this event. Cost is \$30/person.

The Pardee Home has been described as the finest intact Italianate villa estate remaining in Northern California. Furnishings and collections are original. We will see the life of the Pardee family (from 1869 – 1981). The tour will include three parlors, dining room, three bedrooms upstairs including closets containing period clothing, billiard room, curio room, and the hallway lined with cabinets of antiquities. We will also visit the cupola to admire the views. We will see the gardens and the redwood carriage house, which was saved from demolition when Interstate 980 was built.

Please RSVP with check made out to Judy Sparks for \$30 (934 Fountain St. Alameda 94501) by Wed. January 11. We will meet at Ross Parking Lot at South Shore. We will carpool at 10:00 a.m. sharp.

Evening Books

The book for Tuesday, January 24, 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, Jan 16, 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, January 8. 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.

Technology User's Group

Join us on Jan 19 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: January 19, Feb 16, March 16, April 20, May 18. Email Amy at amyjanerose@gmail.com or call at 916-337-1259

Member Biography

Dr. Char Perlas was born in San Francisco and raised in San Rafael, CA. She is first generation Filipino-American and, was the first in her family to obtain Post Baccalaureate Degrees. In high school, Char was told that she wasn't college material and was urged to find a career that didn't require any college education. Since then, she has obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Fresno State University, a Master's in Counseling from Sacramento State University, a Master's in Public Administration from CSU East Bay and a PhD in Education from Capella University.

Char has chosen to empower disenfranchised students within the California Community College (CCC) system and, has been working in the CCC System since 1999. Currently, she serves as the Dean of Science, Engineering and Math at Chabot College in Hayward.

During her free time, Char enjoys wakeboarding in the Delta, snowboarding in Tahoe and attending group exercise classes at Bladium in Alameda, CA.

Voting Rights are at Risk Across the Nation.

Show your support for the Voting Rights Advancement Act today.

Throughout the 2016 presidential primary season, voters in many states faced barriers at the polls that weren't there before. In fact, over 17 states have enacted new voting restrictions--ranging from early voting limitations to photo ID laws--for the first time in a presidential election. These voting restrictions directly affect women, minorities, young voters, and the elderly from accessing the ballot box.

These restrictions are unacceptable. Take action now and support the Voting Rights Advancement Act (S.1659/H.R.2867).

The 2013 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Shelby v. Holder* gutted the heart of the Voting Rights Act by striking down the law's pre-clearance provisions. That's why Congress must act to restore key voter protections that would require key states that have demonstrated a history of voting discrimination to obtain preclearance prior to any voting changes.

In states such as North Carolina, the situation is dire. The state's own board of elections says 64 percent of the women registered to vote in North Carolina lack the required ID, as compared to 33 percent of their male counterparts. This means that women and many others may have barriers to voting in the 2016 election due to the new photo ID provision of the law. Our members of Congress can and should do something about these nonsensical and unnecessary state voting restrictions.

The 2016 election was the first presidential race without the full protections of the Voting Rights Act since its signing in 1965, and the potential ramifications are frightening. The right to vote is exactly that -- a right. The 2013 decision in *Shelby v. Holder* has made it harder for millions of women, college students, minorities, the poor, and the elderly to vote; it is long past time for Congress to fix this decision and protect voting rights for all.

Take action now: Urge your representative to support the Voting Rights Advancement Act (S.1659/H.R. 2867) and join us in protecting voting rights across the country!

Tell Congress: We Need Women's Voices in Peace Negotiations!

AAUW believes that women deserve a seat at the table in peace negotiations. The U.S. House of Representatives passed the bipartisan Women, Peace, and Security Act (WPS Act), which would ensure that women's voices are heard when decisions about conflict prevention are being made.

Research shows that women's involvement in peace processes has led to a 20 percent increase in the probability of an agreement lasting at least two years, and a 35 percent increase in the probability of an agreement lasting at least 15 years. Despite their obvious success, women only make up 10 percent of negotiators in peace agreements.

The Women, Peace, and Security Act would empower women by giving them a seat at the negotiating table, ensuring that their voices are heard and their concerns are addressed in the peace process. Its passage would:

- Establish women's participation as a permanent element of U.S. foreign policy
- Require the U.S. Departments of State and Defense to report annually to Congress about efforts to promote women's participation in conflict prevention and resolution
- Institute training modules on the protection and rights of women in conflict

Women's inclusion in peace and security processes is vital to the effectiveness and long-term sustainability of these efforts, yet by and large, women continue to be systematically excluded! That is not acceptable. Tell your U.S. Senators to support the Women, Peace, and Security Act today. Now more than ever, women's voices must be heard.



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	JANUARY						2017
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 7:30 pm Bridge	
8 Cinema Club	9 6:30 pm Business Mtg 7 pm Vision Planning	10 12:30 pm Bridge	11	12	13	14 11:30 am Lunch and Speaker	
15	16 1:30 pm Afternoon Books	17	18	19 10 am Museum Group 7 pm Technology User's Group	20	21 7 pm Ethnic Dinner	
22	23	24 7:15 pm Evening Books	25	26	27	28	
29	30	31					