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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.*

**MAY 2018**

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## AAUW Alameda Annual Member Celebration and 2018-2019 Board Installation

Come join us and invite family and friends for a special celebration Brunch to recognize and introduce our new 2017-2018 members; To toast our Volunteers of the Year for their exceptional service to the Alameda Branch; To honor our three Golden members: Virginia Darrow, Betty Hatch and Dorothy Kerwin and the Girls Inc students who interviewed them and wrote their stories; To thank the outgoing Board for its many accomplishments on behalf of the Branch this past year; And to install and welcome the 2018-2019 AAUW Alameda Branch Board

**This event is a Brunch, note the social time begins at 10AM.**

**Saturday, May 12, 2018  
10:00am Social, 10:30 Brunch**

Elks Lodge, Card Room  
2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda

The breakfast buffet includes vegetable frittata, quiche, O'Brien potatoes, chicken link sausage, assorted bagels, pastries, croissants, fresh fruit salad, coffee/tea/juice

Make the check for \$25 payable to AAUW Alameda and mail to Beth Sibley, 721 Harbor Road, Alameda, CA 94502, easibley@hotmail.com for receipt by Tuesday May 8.

*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.*

## Presidents Message

As I write this on April 10, 2018, Equal Pay Day, when women's average earnings catch up with what men earned the year before (women make on average 80% of a men's average salaries) there are some glimmers of hope. In today's San Francisco Chronicle it was reported that the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco ruled that **employers cannot set different pay levels for women and men doing the same job by relying, even in part, on their salary at a previous job.** The ruling was written by **Judge Stephen Reinhardt** before his death on March 29, 2018 who noted that paying employees different amounts based on what they were paid at their former jobs "perpetuates the very gender-based assumptions about the value of work that the Equal Pay Act was supposed to end"

This may now go to the U.S Supreme Court, but Judge Reinhardt leaves a legacy of advocating for women and fighting "the financial exploitation of working women embodied by the gender pay gap (which) continues to be an embarrassing reality of our economy."

Our Alameda Branch's contribution to recognizing Equal Pay Day was to sponsor a **Financial Literacy Workshop for Students (and their parents!)** with the College of Alameda. At this workshop I presented information from AAUW's excellent 2017 report *Deeper in Debt, Women and Student Loans* which describes the differential impact of loan debt on women, particularly students of color. An excellent panel of presenters addressed money management skills, common misconceptions about financial aid and the costs of transferring to four year universities to complete bachelors degrees. Finally, our AAUW Oakland/Piedmont former President Becky D' Harlingue described AAUW's *Start Smart* workshop that teaches salary negotiation skills for graduates entering the workforce.

Other local AAUW branches had an "Unequal Bake Sale" on campus and went to the local BART Station and passed out information on equal pay.

**IT IS TIME TO VOTE! VOTING OPENS ON APRIL 25, 2018 AND CLOSES ON JUNE 9, 2018.**

**AAUW National has proposed three bylaws amendments and you will be receiving an email or card in the near future inviting you to vote.**

**The amendments are 1) creating three year staggered board terms,**

**2) opening up board service to those outside of the AAUW membership,**

**3) eliminating the degree requirement for membership.**

The AAUW National Board of Directors strongly supports the proposed amendments that they believe will help keep AAUW vital as an organization and to enable us to uphold and advance AAUW's mission and ensure

optimal execution at the national board level. Detailed rationales can be found at the AAUW website.

**Editorial :** at our April Board meeting several of our members reflected on how AAUW has changed over the years over the degree requirement for membership. Even in the fairly recent past, several of our members were not eligible to join. One was a teacher who went to a Normal School for teacher training, one was a nurse who went to nurses training and one went to a college, not to a university. The most recent change was to open membership up to graduates with Associate degrees and we also now have students as affiliate members.

It is my view that indeed it is time to eliminate the degree requirement for membership and I endorse the National Board's statement ***"The board feels strongly that while the degree requirement made perfect sense at AAUW's inception, this requirement now is perceived by many as counter to our mission and limits our ability to build the capacity needed to increase our impact as an organization."***

I urge you to discuss this with your fellow members and to exercise your vote.

As we come to the end of the 2017-2018 program year in May we are going out with BANG! Our **College of Alameda Scholarship Fundraiser on April 22 at 3-5pm at Girls Inc 1724 Santa Clara Ave** gives us the opportunity to meet President Tim Karas and college faculty. Email Patti Heimburger to let her know you are coming. [Patti\\_art@comcast.net](mailto:Patti_art@comcast.net) . A special thank you to all who donated delectable food and beverages to make this a great party and to Girls Inc for hosting us in a beautiful space, especially Barbara Krummel.

**FINALLY,** Join us at our Alameda Branch Member Celebration Brunch May 12 10am, at the Elks Card room.

This is a very special event to introduce our new members, to recognize our Volunteers of the Year, to honor our three Golden Members, Virginia Darrow, Betty Hatch, and Dorothy Kerwin, to thank our outgoing Board for all their service AND to install the new 2018-2019 Board. It will be a great celebration!

I personally want to thank many long -serving board members and committee members for all your support during my terms as President. It has been an exciting two years, I have learned a great deal and am proud of the many things that our Branch has accomplished in Alameda on behalf of women and girls. Above all, it has been in getting to know and work with many of our members that has made serving in this role such a privilege. It has been fun.

What a great group of women belong to AAUW Alameda!

Thank you all,

*Penny Washbourn*

Our **DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS MEGA YARD SALE** on **May 19 at 3258 Liberty Ave 8:00am-2:00pm** is coming up soon. It is not too late to donate items: make arrangements with Barbara Krummel [barbarakrummel@comcast.net](mailto:barbarakrummel@comcast.net) to bring items to her house.

A HUGE THANK YOU to Barbara and her family for hosting this event and to Paula Biwer for coordinating the volunteers, donations and refreshments and taking charge of the pricing. We could not have done it without you!

A job for all members: GET THE WORD OUT, INVITE NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS:

**WE HAVE FABULOUS DONATIONS!**



The Alameda Branch of AAUW is proud to announce this year's AAUW Tech Trek sponsorship recipients. The AAUW - Alameda Branch Tech Trek Committee received a total of 23 applications from six schools. After evaluating the applications and essays, we chose 10 girls for interviews. We were very impressed by all of the girls and the selection process was a difficult one. We are very excited about this group of curious, enthusiastic and mature young women.

Claire Wong, ACLC

Eveesa Long, The Academy of Alameda

Aaliyah Ingram, Encinal Junior Jets

Mabel Minney, Wood Middle School

Katrina Mcdougald, Lincoln Middle School

and alternate Heather Ross, Lincoln Middle School

**Save the date: AAUW luncheon on Saturday, September 8.**

**Our Tech Trek campers will give a presentation about their summer camp experiences.**

Tech Trek, a program of AAUW California, is a resident summer camp designed to develop interest, excitement, and self-confidence in young women rising from 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade in California public schools. It features hands-on activities in science, technology, engineering and math taught by specially-selected faculty, and a full program of inquiry-based learning experiences designed to help girls build and sustain their STEM interests through their middle and high school years, and beyond. All sleeping, eating, instructional, and recreational facilities are located on a university campus and girls from Alameda attend the camp at Sonoma State University. You can learn more about Tech Trek on our AAUW-Alameda website <https://alameda-ca.aauw.net/activities/tech-trek/>

The camp coordinators are always looking for women to act as dorm moms as well as supervising the girls during class time. If you would be interested in either of these, please contact me at [barbarakrummel@comcast.net](mailto:barbarakrummel@comcast.net)

*Barbara Krummel*, Alameda-Branch Tech Trek, Coordinator

## Membership/Outreach update:

No new members this month but the two College of Alameda staff appear to want to join our branch. Again, we have (95) members and it is great that our website is attracting people.

We are preparing for the new AAUW board, and some of our new members will be on it. This will help keep our branch alive and well.

*Patti Heimbürger*

### Dues are Due

It has been ten years since National AAUW has raised their fee. This is something from AAUW Nation that explained why they did this: “The AAUW Board of Directors voted in June 2017 to enact the first dues change in almost a decade. Effective March 16, 2018, national dues will increase from \$49 to \$59.

Annual dues currently account for 13 percent of AAUW’s annual budget. They help to sustain and grow AAUW’s programs and work that advances equity for women and girls. A combination of dues, donations, and corporate and foundation funding is critical to supporting AAUW’s [salary negotiation workshops](#), groundbreaking [research](#), [advocacy](#) efforts, [campus leadership programs](#), and so much more.

You will renew through a secured email link that you will receive through your email. To pay by mail make check in the amount of \$100 payable to AAUW-Alameda Branch and send to AAUW PO Box 2932 Alameda, 94501

## Member Biography – Ellen Chesnut

I was two years old when I came to America with my father, Sarkis, my mother, Evelyn and my six month old baby brother, Arthur Minas. We started our momentous journey in Mosul, Iraq. It took us six months to come to America with the last phase of the voyage on the Dutch freighter, MS Boschfontein. My mother’s aunt, Ferideh Vagim and my mother’s half brother, Puzant Shamlan sponsored our family. My father had fifty dollars in his pocket when the ship docked in San Francisco in August of 1941. Both of my parents survived the Armenian Genocide perpetrated by the CUP government in Turkey (1915-1923).

I wanted to be a teacher from childhood on. When school ended for summer vacation I was a lost soul. So I set up a pretend classroom in the basement of my parent’s Victorian on 17th Street in the Castro District of San Francisco and proceeded to teach my siblings and neighbor children.

Long story short, I earned my BA from SF State with a Social Studies major and an English minor. A year after that I got my secondary teaching credential. I taught in San Francisco at Benjamin Franklin Jr. High, Herbert Hoover Jr. High, Sunshine Continuation and Mission High School the very school from which I graduated in 1957. I taught for 42 years and absolutely loved my chosen

field. At night I’d take art classes at various schools and started painting and printmaking which I have continued to do. I was a member of the Nanny Goat Hill Gallery, Pacific Art League and SF Women Artists. I had a one woman show of multi-media works and monotype prints at the Nelson Morales Gallery in SF in 1990 called The Armenian Series.

Beginning in the 1980’s I started interviewing my father and my mother’s relatives. You could say I am the family historian. In 2014, the book I wrote of my father’s life *Deli Sarkis: The Scars He Carried* was published. You can order it from Amazon and any independent bookstore can order it for you. My second book: *We Armenians Survived; Battle Of Marash 1920* is progressing nicely thanks to Journalism/Music major Sharon M. who is putting it into Word. I am also working with freelance editor, R A M Y A. We are compiling my late husband, Glen’s writings which will be anthologized into two books: poetry and prose.

*Ellen Sarkisian Chesnut*

(aka S H A K E H my Armenian name which is the name my father used. He never ever called me Ellen)

[www.scarshecarried.com](http://www.scarshecarried.com)

# BRANCH ACTIVITIES

## AFTERNOON BOOKS

Kate Quick  
523-3612

## EVENING BOOKS

Cindy Silva  
523-4677

## CINEMA CLUB

Kevis Brownson  
kevis.brownson@gmail.com

## BRIDGE

Joyce Denyven  
523-6341

## ETHNIC DINNER GROUP

Mark Hamilton  
749-0738

## MUSEUM GROUP

Judy Sparks  
523-6736  
Marlis White  
522-8383

## TECHNOLOGY USERS GROUP

Penny Washbourn  
748-7455

### Afternoon Books

We'll meet at 1:30 pm on the third Monday to discuss books we are currently reading. Call Kate Quick, 510-523-3612, for location and more information.

### Evening Books

For more information, call Cindy Silva at 510-523-4677

### Cinema Club

We are a lively group of movie lovers who visit the Alameda Theatre on the first Sunday of every month, October through June, to see a current movie, usually an afternoon matinee. Spouses are welcome to attend. Afterwards, we walk over to Tucker's for refreshments and conversation.

How it works: please send an email to kevis.brownson@gmail.com to join the group, and then you will get an email to vote on the movie on the Friday before the event. We post the event on Facebook and the Alameda Branch Web site as well.

### Bridge Group

If you are interested in bridge, particularly in being a substitute, contact Joyce Denyven at 510-523-6341. The current bridge group meets at different times depending on the needs of the group.

### Ethnic Dining Group

This Group meets once a month, usually on the third Saturday evening. If you like good food and good company, join us.  
For more information, call Mark Hamilton at 510 749-0738.

### Museum Group

On Thursday, May 10, (the second Thursday instead our regular 3rd Thursday) the Museum Group will go to Treasure Island to the Job Corps Fine Dining Restaurant Center for lunch. This is a culinary academy. Top students from all over the United States come here and live in dorms while they learn about becoming a chef. There are classes in food preparation, cooking, baking, plating, presentation, and serving. It is a three-course menu. This is a "dining experience" provided by students, which took 2-3 hours the last time I was there. Diners need to have a little patience, but the experience is worth it. Please bring \$16 in exact cash, which covers the cost of the meal and gratuity. You can look on line to see pictures of the attractive plates that are served. Carpool leaves from the Ross parking lot at South Shore enter at 11:00 a.m. sharp. If you are interested in going, contact Judy Sparks at JudySparks@comcast.net or call 510-523-6736

### Tech Users Group

Contact Penny Washbourn 510-748-7455.





Karen Guthrie and Cynthia Silva at Fundraiser. They got the dress code memo!



Kevis Brownson and author Janet Dawson at book signing.

Branch Activities		MAY					2018
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
		1	2	3	4	5	
6 Cinema Club	7 7 pm Business Meeting	8	9	10 11 am Museum Group	11	12 10:00 am Brunch	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 YARD SALE 8 am- 2 pm 3258 Liberty	
20	21 1:30 pm Afternoon Books	22 7 pm Evening Books	23	24	25	26	
27	28	29	30	31			