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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.*

OCTOBER 2018

A publication of AAUW Alameda Branch, chartered 1962 Vol. 56, Issue 2



Come hear **Kathleen Mertz** of the Alameda Housing Authority
The Housing Affordability Horizon: What's New?

Kathleen Mertz is the Interim Director of Housing and Community Development. She joined the Housing Authority of the City of Alameda in 2017 in the role of Asset Manager and was promoted to Interim Director in 2018. She comes to public service after 10 years of working nationally as a housing developer at Christian Church Homes, an Oakland based non-profit affordable senior housing provider. Kathleen has extensive experience in affordable housing finance, including HUD and Low-Income Housing Tax Credit funding programs, along with a passion for community development, advocacy, and social equity. She has a Master's Degree in Historic Preservation, along with a Professional Certificate in Not-for-Profit Management.

Saturday October 13, 2018
11:30 Social, 12:00 noon Lunch
Elks Lodge Card Room
2255 Santa Clara Ave, Alameda

Lunch Buffet includes:

Salad: Spinach and mixed greens
Entrees: Hawaiian Chicken and Chile Rellenos
Sides: Garden wild rice and au gratin potatoes
Vegetable: Green beans and mushrooms
Dessert: Tiramisu
Coffee and tea, rolls and butter

Make the check out to AAUW Alameda Branch for **\$27.00** and mail to:
Penny Washbourn, 501 Lagunaria Lane, Alameda 94502
510-748-7455. pwashbou@hotmail.com
for receipt by Saturday October 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.

AAUW Alameda Branch Leadership Team 2018-2019

Leadership responsibility for our AAUW Alameda Branch this year will be shared among five Board members and one ex officio.

Karen Scanlon VP Ed Fund will chair the Team and be the point person for “presidential” communication from AAUW National and AAUW CA. Penny Washbourn VP Programs, Kendall Harcourt VP Membership, Susan Myers Finance, Mary Oppedahl Secretary and Dorothy Kerwin Parliamentarian will also serve.

Key emails:

Karen Scanlon	yakitt@aol.com
Penny Washbourn	pwashbou@hotmail.com
Kendall Harcourt	ksharcourt@gmail.com
Susan Myers	samsat@att.net
Mary Oppedahl	moppedahl@yahoo.com
Dorothy Kerwin	kerwindorothy@gmail.com
Mari Clark	meclark922@gmail.com



Monthly Luncheon Opportunity Drawings

At each regular Monthly AAUW Alameda Branch Luncheon, we hold an Opportunity Drawing for valuable prizes. The proceeds from these Drawings benefit our Special Fundraisers for Scholarships, as result of a Board vote in 2017. Please consider generous participation in these Drawings. Donations are welcome, if tickets are not desired. We depend on our Members to donate small items of value for the Drawings. Simply bring any such items to the Luncheon with you and give them to Mark Hamilton or his substitute if he is not able to attend.

Message from October Board Chair

September marked the start of what I’m sure will be a vibrant year for our branch. The Tech Trek committee hosted our first luncheon of the year, held at the beautiful Girls Inc. of Island City Recreation Hall. We had the opportunity to meet with all five of our returning Tech Trek campers and their families. These young women presented their experiences at Sonoma State University with incredible thoughtfulness and poise. All expressed gratitude to AAUW for providing them with the opportunity to explore their passion for STEM and build relationships with professional women in the field. All five of these girls articulated an increase of confidence that they directly attributed to their participation in Tech Trek. I’d like to thank Girls Inc. of Island City for opening their doors to us once again and allowing us to use their facilities. A very special thank you to the Tech Trek committee who dedicated a great level of time and care to ensure this fundraiser was a success. We’re in the process of raising funds for next year’s Tech Trek campers and if you would like to help us meet our \$5,000 goal, please contact Barbara Krummel.

We have some exciting events coming up this month:

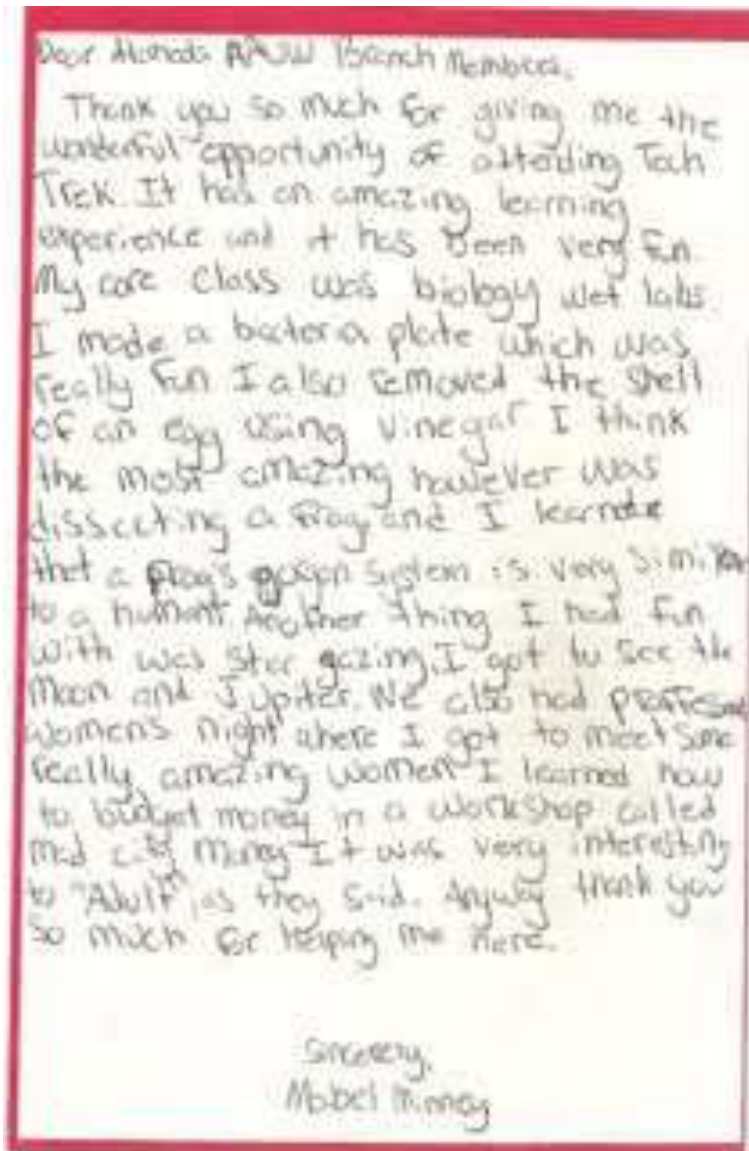
On October 7th, the 2018 AAUW Fund Fall Luncheon: East Bay will be held honoring this year’s fund and grant recipients. This event is from 12 pm - 3 pm at the Crow Canyon Country Club in Danville. This is an opportunity to hear from many of the fund and grant recipients. All members are welcome and you can register online at:
<https://danville-fund-luncheon.eventbrite.com>

On October 13th, Kathleen Mertz, the Alameda Housing Authority’s Interim Director of Housing and Community Development, will be giving a presentation at the Elks Lodge on affordable housing. While affordable housing affects everyone in the Alameda community, current housing policy does in fact have a specific, gender-based impact. Please join us for this important presentation on a very urgent topic.

Lastly, we’re always looking for ways to increase our visibility in the Alameda community! We would love to be able to post photos of our events on the Alameda AAUW Facebook page. Please remember to bring your camera along with you to our events and help us document the amazing work that our branch does!

October Chair Kendall Harcourt

Thank you to everyone for Tech Trek



Dear Alameda AAUW Branch Members,

Thank you so much for giving me the wonderful opportunity of attending Tech Trek. It has [been] an amazing learning experience and it has been very fun. My core class was biology wet labs. I made a bacteria plate which was really fun. I also removed the shell of an egg using vinegar. I think the most amazing however was dissecting a frog and I learned that a frog's organ system is very similar to a human's. Another thing I had fun with was stargazing. I got to see the Moon and Jupiter. We also had professional women's night where I got to meet some really amazing women. I learned how to budget money in a workshop called Mad City Money. It was very interesting to "Adult," as they said. Anyway thank you so much for sending me here.

Sincerely,
Mabel

*We raised \$500 at the
Fundraiser*

The Tech Trek committee hopes you were able to join us at our September luncheon where we enjoyed presentations from our 2018 campers Aaliyah (Bree), Evessa, Mabel, Claire and Katie. We heard about dissecting frogs, kidney dialysis, DNA extractions from strawberries, a trip to a waste water treatment plant and much more. Thanks to our Tech Trek committee members, Linda Preminger, Patti Heimburger, Shuba Fansie, Carolee Ziegenhagen and Judy Jaber for their help with the luncheon and throughout the process. If you weren't able to attend the luncheon, you can still show your support by going to the Tech Trek section of our website, scroll down and click on the "Donate" button or by sending a check. Checks must be made out to **AAUW CA SPF** and can be mailed to Barbara Krummel, 3258 Liberty Ave., Alameda, CA 94501. Tech Trek is a 501c3 nonprofit so donations are tax deductible. You will receive a thank you letter with the Tech Trek tax ID number. The cost for each girl is \$1,000 so we have to raise \$5,000 each year and the branch members are major supporters! The Tech Trek camp allows girls to live like a college student for a week at Sonoma State University and experience STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) through hands-on learning and interactions with women working in STEM as well as getting to know other girls who share their enthusiasm and focus.

Barbara Krummel

Cinema Group

Our first meeting of the 2018-2019 season is October 7. 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 at an afternoon matinee (reduced ticket price). 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. On Saturday, you will receive an email letting you know what movie we will see on Sunday. We post the event on Facebook and the Alameda Branch Web site as well.

Save the date - Urban Treks

Join us on Monday, December 10 for Urban Treks. This will be the holiday version. We'll visit decorations all around the financial district and SOMA, now called East Cut. We meet at the 'O' bus stop at the corner of Santa Clara and Broadway, in front of Kamakura at 9 am. Bus fare is \$2.20 (senior) each way. We highly recommend the Clipper card, but they do take cash. Lunch is in the \$10 - \$12 range and we'll plan on taking the 2:00 pm bus home. We will do the extended Transbay Terminal urban trek on January 14.

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.

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.

Tech Users Group

This is a self-help group for users of smart phones, tablets and new applications to help us stay up with the digital age. Facilitated by Kendall Harcourt we have met in members' homes on the Third Thursday of the month on an as needed basis. Please contact Kendall to let her know of your tech needs so we can plan this year's activities.
ksharcourt@gmail.com
408-449-9695

Evening Books

Fourth Monday 7:15 pm. For more information, call Cindy Silva at 510-523-4677 October book: Season of the Witch by David Talbot.

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.

Great Decisions

Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. The program model involves reading the Great Decisions Briefing Book and meeting in a discussion group to have a conversation about the most critical global issues facing America today. Books are ordered in December. Eight meetings are held between February and June. For more information contact Dorothy Kerwin
kerwindorothy@gmail.com

Museum Group to see **CONTEMPORARY MUSLIM FASHIONS** at DeYoung

The museum group will travel to the DeYoung on Thursday, Oct. 11 to see the exhibit CONTEMPORARY MUSLIM FASHIONS. (Note that our regular museum day will be the second Thursday of the month.)

We will explore diverse expressions of modest dress aesthetics in the first show dedicated to global fashions worn by Muslim women. In the early part of the 20th century, upper class Muslim women across the Ottoman Empire had adopted smart European dress although they continued to wear variations of the veil and cloak when leaving home. Couturiers, foreign tailors, and dressmakers took up residence in Istanbul to capitalize on this new market.

Contemporary Muslim Fashions is the first exhibit to explore the current complex, diverse nature of Muslim dress codes worldwide, focusing on designs that respond to concerns for modesty. It shows a snapshot of clothes that allow the wearer to remain relatively concealed but also appear stylish. Many designers of this style of clothing are represented.

Carpool leaves from the Ross Parking lot at 9:30 am sharp. If you are interested in going, contact Judy Sparks at JudySparks@comcast.net or call 510-523-6736. We meet for lunch in the cafeteria at 11:30 am.

Meet the Editor

I was born in a Naval hospital in the Panama Canal Zone, as was John McCain. Unlike Senator McCain's father who was a Naval Academy graduate, my father was prior-enlisted (a "mustang"). Although my family lived in various places, including a short stay in Alameda, most of my youth was spent in Quincy, Illinois, a small town far away from Chicago, in a region called Downstate Illinois. I attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) for many semesters, but obtained a degree only recently, from a hybrid online degree completion program run by Sonoma State University.

In my twenties I did Fortran programming for geologists, making use of the technical training I had acquired at UIUC. In my thirties I did book composition using computerized typesetting and pagination systems. Much later, after I relocated, I worked a long time at the University of California at Berkeley Financial Aid Office, from which I retired a few years ago.

It was thirty years ago on September 15 that I took a one-way flight from Illinois to Alameda. Since then my husband and I have lived in the Bay Area continuously. We met in a Toastmasters Club at UIUC; he had been sent to that school by the Coast Guard to study in the Civil Engineering department. We continue to participate in weekly Toastmasters club meetings. Consider yourself invited to visit and see what that organization is all about. I also belong to the League of Women Voters and several library associations and I am a member of the Mechanics Institute milibrary.org in San Francisco.

While we lived in Petaluma I was very much involved in establishing a consumer health library for the public, called The Redwood Health Library. Here in Alameda I volunteer at Dewey's Friends Cafe at the Alameda Free Library Main Branch. My favorite Sunday pastimes pertain to theatre; you may cross paths with me at Altarena, Chanticleer, or the Douglas Morrison Theatre and you are welcome to learn about East Bay Play Readers, a play-reading group I belong to. I look forward to getting acquainted with each of you.

Mari (rhymes with Larry) *Clark*

Student Iris Phillips writes about Dorothy Kerwin

Dorothy Elizabeth Kerwin has been in the American Association of University Women for almost 45 years now. She has always been a well-respected, committed, and involved member in her community.

Kerwin was born in San Jose, California. When she was born her family lived in a trailer in Mountain View. She is the eldest of three children, a girl in the middle and a boy as the youngest.

Kerwin realized that there were obstacles she was going to have to overcome as a woman. "We weren't allowed to wear pants to school," Kerwin recalled during the interview. Sexism also happened at home, Dorothy and her sister did all the chores and their brother was obviously the favorite of the family.

Kerwin had many accomplishments at her college; she is extremely gifted at mathematics and science, and she chose to focus on these subjects. Kerwin graduated from San Jose State where she minored in physics. She also still holds the record for the number of pull-ups in a row, seventy pull-ups without rest. Kerwin met her husband in college. They shared a passion for math.

At the end of her time at San Jose State and after, Kerwin had some interesting jobs. She was a computer programmer for a little company of about six people. Kerwin tried to interview for big organizations, but they didn't hire women. When Kerwin got into computer programming, it was new to almost everyone. There were no personal computers.

Kerwin first heard about Alameda when she was looking to move to the Bay Area. She noticed that Alameda was really close to the Oakland airport, where her now ex husband had gotten a job. So Kerwin, her husband, her two daughters, and son all moved to Alameda. They found a great house on the East End. Kerwin was a stay-at-home mom who was extremely involved with the Edison Elementary PTA and the Kiddie Kampus community.

Kerwin found out about the AAUW from her mom. Her mother wasn't a member, but she had heard that it was a great opportunity for college graduates. Kerwin had been a member right after college in San Jose and when she found out that there was an AAUW branch in Alameda, she became part of the association. She found the members very welcoming and she fit right in with the community. Kerwin said that at the beginning she didn't talk that much and now she is the loudest in the room. The AAUW has made Kerwin become more politically involved and aware. She became politically active in her community because of it.

Women's roles have changed a lot since Kerwin was in college and she said that she "couldn't be happier." She relishes that women in the math department can now be more than teachers. She didn't want to be a teacher and because of how women were only supposed to be teachers, Kerwin didn't find many jobs with her math degree. She also said that they are not limited to the kitchen anymore.

Now Kerwin can be found knitting, quilting and keeping up with the grandchildren. She does deserve a long break after all the contributions she has given to Alameda and the AAUW.

[Editor's note] Iris Phillips is a student who participated in an interview and essay-writing activity last year.

OCTOBER IMAGE GALLERY



Claire



Bree



Rocket Science!



Frog Dissection



Katie



Alameda Branch Tech Trek 2018



Evie



Mabel

Donate online!

What will I need?

My AAUW member number.

Where is it?

In the Alameda Branch Directory. If you can't find it, email our VP Membership Kendall Harcourt: Ksharcourt@gmail.com

Why is this important?

So Our ALAMEDA Tech trek program gets credited with your donation!

Once you are on the AAUW national link, there is a drop down menu for you to select a Tech Trek Camp. It is **California Rohnert Park (Sonoma State)** for our program.

Why is this important?

Only if you select the right camp, will our Alameda Tech Trek program benefit from your donation.

You will need a credit card or you can use the Pay Pal link.

You will be sent an acknowledgement via email from AAUW for your Tax deductible donation.

Thank you for your generous support of our Tech Trek program



Alameda Branch
 P.O. Box 2932
 Alameda, CA 94501
<https://alameda-ca.aauw.net/>

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND EVENT

This is an event to which you should invite all your friends, men and women!

Our November 10 Luncheon Speaker will be **Srinoi (See-Noy) Rousseau JD**, a local lawyer who specializes in elder law. She will address topics such as signs of financial abuse and elder abuse, resources to call upon when faced with these types of issues, support for women aging in place and keeping their financial assets protected.

We will be at Pier 29 Restaurant. Check next newsletter for menu and further information.

Holiday Luncheon
 Encinal Yacht Club
 Saturday December 1
 11:30 am

Holiday Urban Trek
 Monday December 10
 9:00 am

SAVE THE DATE

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		<i>OCTOBER</i>					<i>2018</i>
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	1 BOARD	2	3	4	5	6	
7 12-3 ED FUND	8	9	10	11 MUSEUM GROUP	12	13 LUNCHEON	
14	15 AFTERNOON BOOKS	16	17	18	19	20 ETHNIC DINING	
21	22	23 EVENING BOOKS	24	25	26	27	
28	29	30	31				