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2019-20 BOARD**

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# Alameda Branch News

*Celebrating our strengths and promoting education and equity  
for women and girls in our community*

**November 2019**

A publication of AAUW-Alameda Branch, chartered 1962

Vol. 57, Issue 3

## AAUW Alameda November Speaker and Luncheon

### The Hats and Gloves May Be Gone, But the Unequal Pay Remains

President Kennedy, signing the Equal Pay Act with prominent activists (below)



## Updates and Insights on the Equal Pay Act of 1963

Our speaker will be Alexa Hanlon, an Attorney with the Fisher & Phillips, LLP law firm. *Please refer to the Bio for Ms. Hanlon, on Page Two.*

**Lunch – November 9<sup>th</sup> -- 11:30 am Social, 12:00 Lunch  
Otaez Mexican Restaurant – 1619 Webster St., Alameda**

Entree Choices:

- **Vegetarian – Bean Taco (please specify black or pinto beans), Chile Rellano, and Cheese Enchilada**
- **Enchilada Verde and Chile Relleno with guacamole and sour cream**
- **Taco, Tamale, and Enchilada**

Includes small salad, desert, and coffee, tea, or soft drink.

**Price per person is \$28.00 -- mail check to Paula Biwer, 1804 2<sup>nd</sup> St, Alameda 94501 to arrive by Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>.** Indicate menu choice (include your preference for black or pinto beans for your vegetarian taco) on the memo line or on a separate piece of paper. For more information, or if you cannot get a check sent in on time and still wish to attend, contact Paula -- 510-918-8577 or [pbiwer@yahoo.com](mailto:pbiwer@yahoo.com). Please note start time.

*Our Mission is to advance 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.*



### **November Guest Presenter Bio**

Alexa Hanlon is an associate in the Fisher & Phillips LLC firm's Sacramento Office. She represents employers in all aspects of labor and employment law, including the defense of claims involving workplace discrimination, wrongful termination, harassment, and wage and hour issues. Additionally, she provides advice and counsel to employers concerning workplace policies and practices.

Alexa graduated with distinction from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law and was inducted into the Roger J. Traynor Honor Society. Prior to joining Fisher Phillips, Alexa worked in healthcare law, defending and counseling hospitals and physicians throughout the state of California. Alexa is a problem-solver whose litigation experience, coupled with her tenacity and sharp instincts, result in the successful representation of her clients.

**REMINDER: Our Monthly Branch Board Meetings are open to all members** – The Board welcomes everyone's input and contributions. Meetings are held at 6:00 pm on the first Monday of each month in Conference Room A at the Alameda Hospital. **The next Meeting is Monday, November 4.**

### **Special Concert To Honor Patty Heimbürger**

If you like taiko drumming, African marimba, and Persian stringed instruments, you will love the **Saturday, Nov. 9th (8:00 pm) concert at Rhythmix Cultural Center (go to <https://www.rhythmix.org/events/>)**. If you click on that particular event, you'll see (at the bottom of the webpage) that the concert is a tribute to Patti Heimbürger.

Hope to see you all there!

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS/Special Events**

**November 4 (Monday)** – Board Meeting – 6:00 pm, Alameda Hospital, Conference Room A – ALL WELCOME

**November 7-30** – Adele Aced's Art Show at Frank Bette Center – Opening Reception November 8 (see flier on Page Seven of this Newsletter)

**November 9 (Saturday)** -- 11:30 am – Monthly Luncheon – Program at Otaez Mexican Restaurant (see details on Pages One and Two of this Newsletter)

**Also November 9 (Saturday)** – 8:00 pm – Patty Heimbürger Tribute Concert at Rhythmix Cultural Works (see above)

**AAUW GreenThumbers:** We can all start getting ready for Next Year's Alameda Earth Day Celebration and our Second Annual Plant Sale. Please start saving any plastic pots you have from purchasing plants and small individual plastic yogurt containers for the children's planting activity. Also, think about propagating something different in addition to succulents. Coordinator Paula Biver is really getting into African Violets after purchasing some at last year's sale. The more variety we have, the greater the sales.

You can bring your saved plastic pots and small yogurt containers to each Luncheon, beginning in September. Paula will be collecting and storing them for the Earth Day Event.

## In Memoriam



This month, we fondly remember and celebrate the life and contributions of Past President **Betty Hatch**. Here are a few words about her consistent leadership and dedication to AAUW at the state, local, and national levels. She will be missed!

Betty Haydn Purvis Hatch was a member of Alameda AAUW for 40 years. She attended school in Alameda and was a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley. She was a member of Phi Mu Fraternity and was still in touch with many of her sisters. She was a Physical Education teacher and a lifelong volunteer. She married Phillip L. Hatch, who served in the Army. They had two children -- Phyllis, of Santa Clara, and Clark, whose permanent home is in Del Rey Oaks with his wife, Dawn. Clark and Dawn are moving from Germany to Washington, D.C. because of his job. Their son, Connor, Betty's adored grandson, attends Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

Betty passed away on April 18 in her sleep after spending the day in a boat rowing with friends of many years. PEO members had a memorial service for her on May 20th.

She was twice president of our Branch, 1981-1982 and 2005-2006, and, when living in Littleton, Colorado, where Phillip was transferred with Southern Pacific Railroad, she became actively involved as a member of the Littleton branch of AAUW. Fortunately for us, she returned to Alameda in 2004. Betty was always willing to help within our Branch, and served on many Committees. She was a Convention Delegate regularly and provided detailed reports about her experiences to the Branch. She was a Named Gift Honoree, Century Club member, Fundraising Chairwoman, Newsletter editor, Installation officer, EF supporter, Parliamentarian, and, in general, a leader in all areas.

She was equally involved in the California State Division and as Member Coordination Assistant. She was responsible for notifying the Membership Vice Presidents of CA about the activities of Local Branches. She received 155+ newsletters monthly to read, clip, and then forward news to the appropriate local district representatives.

In addition to her important positions in our Branch, she was also involved in many other organizations, including serving as president of Girl's, Inc. She ran the show when necessary, multi-tasking for successful fundraisers, including calculating costs, purchasing supplies, and supervising food preparation in the kitchen.

In addition to her many talents and contributions she was a stand-out golfer and bridge player. We will miss her.

submitted by Gwen Pirack, Past President

### **REDUCE YOUR TAXABLE INCOME BY HELPING AAUW**

Under the new tax law, your charitable donations will not yield a tax benefit unless your total itemized deductions exceed \$12,200 for single people, \$24,400 for married couples filing jointly. As a result, you must donate considerably more to charity in 2019 to receive a tax benefit from your donation than in prior years. There is a simple solution, however, if you are over the age of 70-and-a-half years old and must take the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from IRA accounts. You can both do good and do well (tax-wise) if you donate to AAUW (and other charities) directly from the annual RMD from your IRA accounts. You or the person/entity managing your IRA accounts simply makes the donations to AAUW and other charities as part of the distribution. The donations come right off the top of the RMD, thereby reducing your taxable income by the amount of your charitable contribution(s).

Please discuss with your accountant or other tax advisor the benefits of making a donation to AAUW as part of your RMD. If you will itemize your deductions, you can still reduce your tax liability with a donation to AAUW. Either way, you help AAUW and reduce your taxes.

### **New Members Spotlight**

We will be running short biographies for our new members in each monthly Newsletter. Here are two more!

**Laura Porter** graduated from the United States Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York with a Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Transportation, a US Coast Guard license as a Third Mate, and a commission as an Ensign in the US Navy Reserve. Her maritime career began as a ship's officer on ocean-going ships where she was responsible for safe navigation while underway and cargo operations while in port. Her career progressed to managing port, terminal, and pipeline operations in the domestic oil and gas industry. Laura retired in 2017 from Chevron Shipping Company where she was working in the Offshore and Marine Terminals group. Now that she is retired, Laura has more time for pickleball, bicycling, travel, attending classes at Mastick Senior Center, learning to play drums, and participating in local walking and hiking groups. Laura and her husband John live in Alameda, on Bay Farm Island.

My name is **Silver Alkhafaji**. My name, in Arabic, means Silver when translated to English. I was born in Iraq, and I lived in Jordan for seven years before moving to the United States as a refugee in 2013. I attended Alameda High School for a year, completed my lower division coursework at the Peralta Colleges, and transferred to UC Berkeley to obtain my Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Biology in 2017. After graduating from Cal last May, I interned at Genentech, Inc., in South San Francisco, in the Department of Discovery Oncology. I will also be pursuing my Doctoral degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences at UCSF, starting in fall 2020. Throughout my gap year, I will continue to work in the industry in order to gain a deeper knowledge of the "pharma world" while giving back to my community and mentoring college students through my involvement with AAUW and UC Berkeley. After receiving my Ph.D., I plan to transfer my academic knowledge to the industrial level, at the same time continuing to help and mentor students to succeed in their college careers. Through organized workshops, I plan to provide disadvantaged and underrepresented college students with specialized training to help them pursue doctoral degrees and achieve their dream careers in STEM by overcoming any obstacles they may encounter. In my free time, I enjoy reading novels and poetry, watching soccer games, and doing yoga!

## AAUW Work Smart Initiative

AAUW has established a goal of providing salary negotiation training to 100,000 women this year and 1,000,000 women by 2022 in order to help close the wage gap between men and women. AAUW has developed an **online training module** for individual women to learn salary negotiation skills. It is **available to all, not just members**.

To reach its goals, AAUW National is asking its members for their help in **making the online training tool available to as many working women as possible**. That includes working women in our branch as well as our members' daughters, granddaughters, nieces and friends. The National AAUW office suggests that each of us take the training ourselves so that we can explain its specifics and value to those women to whom we will reach out.

You can find the training module as follows:

1. Website: <https://salary.aauw.org>
2. Click on "start your online salary negotiation course now"
3. Complete the registration, including creating a personal password for this tool (be sure to accept the terms of privacy)

The online course will take several hours. If you are not inclined to do the entire course, yourself, but believe **the online training will benefit other women you know**, please **give them the instructions (above) or simply forward the link**. *LET'S MAKE THIS HAPPEN!* We can help ourselves, our daughters, our friends, and their friends increase their own salaries and help our country move closer to wage equity.

## Branch Interest Groups

### **Ethnic Dining Group**

This Group meets monthly, usually on the third Saturday evening, starting at 6:00 pm. If you like good food and good company, join us. **For more information, contact Mark Hamilton -- 510 749-0738 or [mdham21@yahoo.com](mailto:mdham21@yahoo.com)**

### **Great Decisions Group**

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, and eight meetings are held between February and June. **For more information, contact Dorothy Kerwin -- [kerwindorothy@gmail.com](mailto:kerwindorothy@gmail.com)**

**Museum Group** will go to the Legion of Honor's exhibit, **JAMES TISSOT, FASHION AND FAITH**, on November 7.

James Tissot (1836-1902) was born in France. His family was in the textile business. James became interested in depicting fashion--costume, precise detail, and social satire. Tissot had the advantage of being able to use chemical advances in paints, which significantly impacted artists' choices, as more vibrant hues were available.

Tissot did not flee the Franco Prussian War (1870-1871) like Monet and Pissarro, but enlisted to fight like other artists, including Manet and Degas. Tissot documented the atrocities of his experiences as a sharpshooter in sketches, which he later made into prints.

After the war, he moved to London and entered another phase of painting, becoming a visual storyteller. Elie Roy said, "...a painting by Tissot will be enough for the archaeologists of the future to reconstruct our era." Tissot painted beautiful and complex portraits of his muse and wife, Kathleen Newton. When Kathleen died of tuberculosis at age 28, Tissot abandoned a mansion and gardens in a bohemian enclave and returned to Paris. He embarked on an ambitious campaign to reenter the French art world with a series of 15 large-scale paintings representing La Femme a Paris. He planned to accompany these prints with short stories written by famous contemporary artists.

During his research for one of these compositions, Tissot experienced a religious vision in Paris's Church of Saint-Sulpice. The last two decades of his life were spent creating sketches and watercolor illustrations for the Bible, which were made in tandem with three trips to the Holy Land. Tissot made a fortune from the sale of his Biblical illustrations. These illustrations inspired early filmmakers such as William Wilder, creator of the film Ben Hur.

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

(Interest Groups Information continued on next page)

**Afternoon Books**

We will meet at 1:30 pm on the third Monday, September 16, to discuss books we are currently reading.

**Call Kate Quick, 523-3612, for more information.**

**Evening Books**

Fourth Tuesday of each month -- 7:15 pm. **Call Cindy Silva at 510- 523-4677** for more information, including the title of the book the Group is currently reading.

**Bridge Group**

The Bridge Group will meet Saturday, Nov. 9, at Marlis White’s home. No meeting is scheduled for December. They will meet at Joyce Denyven’s home on Saturday, January 11, 2020. We are still looking for substitutes -- call Joyce Denyven at 510-523-6341 or send an e-mail to her at denyven@comcast.net.

**Cinema Group**

Join us for a movie! We are a lively group of movie lovers who visit the Alameda Theatre on the first Sunday afternoon of every month, October through June, to see a current movie. Spouses are welcome to attend.

**For more information please e-mail Kevis Brownson at [kevis.brownson@gmail.com](mailto:kevis.brownson@gmail.com)**

**Calendar**

Branch Activities	November						2019
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
					1	2	
3 – 1:00 pm -- Cinema Group	4—6:00 pm – Board Meeting, Alameda Hospital – Conference Room A	5	6	7-- 9:30 am -- Museum Group	8 – 7:00 pm Opening Reception for Aced Art Show	9 -- Monthly Luncheon – 11:30 am – Otaez Mexican Restaurant, 1619 Webster St. + 8:00 pm -- Rhythmix Concert honoring Patti Heimberger	
10	11 – 1:30 pm -- Afternoon Books Group	12	13	14	15	16 – Bridge Group + 5:30 pm -- Ethnic Dining Group -- Speisekammer	
17	18	19 – 7:15 pm -- Evening Books Group	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	

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.

Adele would like to invite her fellow Alameda AAUW members to her upcoming show!



**Fragments and Shards**

Recent work  
by Adele Aced

November 7 - 30, 2019

Opening reception  
November 8, 7:00 - 9:00

Frank Bette Art Center  
1601 Paru St. Alameda

<https://www.frankbettecenter.org/>