



**ALAMEDA BRANCH
2019-20 BOARD**

alameda-ca.aauw.net

LEADERSHIP TEAM

PRESIDENT

Cynthia Silva

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Mark Hamilton

MEMBERSHIP VPs

Susan Myers & Mark Hamilton

PROGRAM VPs

Penny Washbourn and
Paula Biwer

AAUW FUNDS VPs

Karen Scanlon and
Mary Oppedahl

FINANCE VPs

Lisa Fitts, Jennifer Ayres,
and Susan Myers

SECRETARY

Mary Oppedahl

CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARY

Dorothy Kerwin

HISTORIAN Open

HOSPITALITY

Claudia Lewey, Lois Pryor,
and Sue Fialer

NEWSLETTER: Mark Hamilton

PARLIAMENTARIAN/Bylaws

Dorothy Kerwin

PUBLIC POLICY

Donna Vaughn

PUBLICITY

Elizabeth McGaffey

SUNSHINE: Cynthia Silva

TECH TREK COORDINATOR

Barbara Krummel

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

Penny Washbourn and
Dorie Guess Behrstock

WEBSITE COORDINATOR

JoAnn Ainsworth

Alameda Branch News

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

December 2019

A publication of AAUW-Alameda Branch, chartered 1962

Vol. 57, Issue 4



Please join us on **Saturday, December 7**, at the historic **Cohen Bray House at 1440 29th Ave., Oakland**, at **11:30** for our **Holiday Luncheon**. We will have a brief tour of the main level of the house followed by a classic High Tea, including four savories, tea sandwiches (including vegetarian), scones, four sweets, and “bottomless” tea. **The cost is \$35** and due to space available, we are limited to 35 participants. Therefore, only the first 35 respondents will be able to attend. **There will be a fun (voluntary) “white elephant”/Secret Santa gift exchange, with suggested value of \$15 per (wrapped) item.** Finally, wear a special hat to this occasion. Please **make checks payable to AAUW Alameda Branch and send to Paula Biwer 1804 2nd St., Alameda, 94501-1830 by Saturday, November 30.** Call/text (510)918-8577 or email pbiwer@yahoo.com if you can’t get your check to Paula on time, but still wish to attend. There is limited parking behind the House, so we are encouraging carpooling. Meet at the South Shore parking lot by Ross (this is where the Museum group meets) at 11:00 am if you wish to share a ride.

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.

Leadership Corner: Giving to AAUW: TAX Strategies for Charitable donations Part II

As mentioned in last month's Newsletter, "**Reduce your taxable income by Helping AAUW**", people over 70.5 years who must take required minimum distributions (RMDs) from their IRA accounts can reduce their tax burden for 2019 by making charitable donations directly from their IRA accounts (**if you have not already received these funds, of course!**) This can be set up at any point of the year and represent any portion of those RMDs.

So how to benefit AAUW? Give the holder of your IRA, such as Vanguard or Edward Jones etc, a letter with the name, address, and TAX ID of the Charity and specific designation for the funds.

1. For our AAUW Alameda Branch, there are TWO options that qualify as 501(c)(3) entities.

A. For our **Tech Trek Program** the charity is **AAUW CA SPF**, the designation is for **AAUW Alameda scholarships**. TAX ID # **68-0463071**

The addressee is Barbara Krummel, Tech Trek Coordinator, 3258 Liberty Avenue , Alameda CA 94501-3105 . (This is important because a form needs to accompany the check to ensure it is credited correctly.)

B. For our **College of Alameda Patti Heimburger Scholarships** .

Make the check out to : Peralta Community Colleges Foundation: Tax ID 23-7091547

Mail to: Peralta Community College Foundation 333 E. 8th Street, Oakland CA 94606:

Designate in a letter these are funds for the **AAUW Alameda College of Alameda Scholarships**..

2. For AAUW National: Tax ID 52-6037388

P.O. Box 98045, Washington DC 20005.

Make check out to AAUW and use above address.

You can make open ended donations to AAUW or you can specify particular fund designations in your instruction letter.

Fund designation choices: a) Greatest Need Fund #9110; b) Education and Training #4450 includes Fellowships, STEM, Title IX ; c) Economic Security#4449 includes Pay Equity, Title VII and Legal Advocacy Fund; d) Leadership Fund #4452 includes Campus Action projects and National Conference for Women Student Leaders.

Submitted by Penny Washbourn, Program Co-Vp and College/University Relations Co-Chair

ANNOUNCEMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS

November 7-December 21 – Adele Aced's Art Show at Frank Bette Center

December 2 (Monday) – Board Meeting – 6:00 pm, Alameda Hospital, Conference Room A – ALL WELCOME

December 7 (Saturday) -- 11:30 am – Monthly Luncheon and Holiday "Secret Santa" Gift Exchange – Tour and High Tea at the Historic Cohen Bray House in Oakland (see details on Page One of this Newsletter)

SAVE THESE DATES:

Saturday, Jan. 18 – The Last Gift Box Community Workshop with Tina Cole Kreitz

Sunday, Feb. 9 – Black History Month Panel, co-sponsor Friends of the Alameda Free Library

Tuesday, Mar. 24, 1:00-2:30 pm – Informational Meeting at Mastick Senior Center

Thursday, Apr. 23, 7:00 pm – Showing of "Misrepresentation" (movie) at Alameda High School, co-sponsor Alameda Unified School District

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.



WE DID IT!! The Tech Trek Committee would like to thank all of our amazing supporters who helped us reach our fundraising goal. With donations received before, during, and after the September luncheon, we collected \$2,500. This made us eligible to receive a matching grant of \$2,500 provided by Carolyn Gannon, in honor of her sister, Patti Heimburger. What a wonderful way to remember Patti.

As most of you know, Tech Trek is a one-week STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) camp for girls who have just completed seventh grade. Because the girls live on campus at Sonoma State University, they are also able to experience life on a college campus and imagine their futures as young women pursuing education and careers in STEM. Our Alameda Branch sends six girls each year at a cost of \$1,000 each, so we have almost a full year covered just through our September fundraising! Thanks again for all of your support and enthusiasm for this program.

Interest Group Spotlight: Great Decisions

Alameda branch AAUW has had an active Great Decisions group for more than 30 years. We are people who are interested in world affairs including geo-politics, public health, the environment, regional borders and disputes, and the future. If discussing these issues sounds interesting to you, please join us in January as we plan our meetings for 2020. We meet eight times over the course of about 3 months, taking turns researching and presenting a topic. For more information, email kerwindorothy@gmail.com

Great Decisions is a program of the Foreign Policy Association, visit their website at fpa.org They provide a booklet covering information on the eight topics. The topics for 2020 are Climate Change and the Global Order, India and Pakistan, Red Sea Security, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking, U.S. Relations with the Northern Triangle, China's Road into Latin America, The Philippines and the U.S., Artificial Intelligence and Data

AAUW CALIFORNIA OCTOBER FUND LUNCHEONS

Almost 300 AAUW members and guests attended the three October AAUW Fund luncheons in the Bay Area and Southern California. Nineteen of the thirty-six California Fellows and Grant recipients spoke at the Luncheons to tell us about their fields of study and to thank us for the opportunity AAUW has given them this year. They were all very inspirational and made us proud to be AAUW members and to be supporters of AAUW Funds. More information and pictures of the recipients will be featured in the winter edition of the California Perspective.

If your Branch or Inter Branch Council (IBC) is eligible, it may make a request for a Fellow or Grant recipient to speak to their branch or IBC by filling out the form found on the AAUW California website. Videos from the three luncheons are also posted there.

The deadline for submitting contributions to AAUW Fund for 2019 is December 31, 2019. Will your Branch be in the Top Ten for 2019? Will California reach its goal of \$500,000 this year? The answers to these questions will be revealed at the 2020 convention on April 18th at the Westin San Francisco Airport. Don't miss our Gala Celebration!

November LAF Luncheon Success!

Our branch LAF luncheon, in November, was a great success, raising \$470.00 in individual donations, plus \$150.00 in proceeds from our monthly Opportunity Drawing, for a total of \$620.00 applied to the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund. Our speaker, from the law firm of Fisher & Phillips, was well received and brought us up to date on equal pay laws in California and at the Federal level.

For any Members who were unable to attend the luncheon and still want to donate, please send your checks (made out to AAUW Funds) to Mary Oppedahl, 3311 Central Avenue, Apt. A, Alameda CA 94501-3110. Your donation will assist AAUW in continuing to fight for equal opportunities for women and girls by supporting lawsuits that challenge the inequities that women/girls still face in employment and education.

Just a few of the currently pending cases AAUW is supporting are equal pay lawsuits against the University of Oregon and Virginia State University and Title IX lawsuits against four universities on various grounds, including access to sports and sexual harassment procedures. AAUW continues to support Eileen Rizo's lawsuit to ban salary history in making salary decisions, which has been sent back to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. California has legislatively banned this practice but much of the rest of the nation has yet to catch up.

Please consider supporting this important work on behalf of all women and girls. When people won't do the right thing, sometimes you simply must "in ius voco spurium."

Submitted by Mary Oppedahl, Secretary and Legal Action Fund coordinator.

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 complete the training 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**

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, see additional article on Page Three of this Newsletter and/or contact Dorothy Kerwin -- kerwindorothy@gmail.com**

(Branch Interest Groups continued on next page)

Museum Group will travel to Niles, CA on **Thursday, December 12** to the **Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum**, 37417 Niles Blvd. At 10:30 we will have a tour of the facilities and then get to see a film. The cost is \$7/person. Then, at 12:45, we will have tea at Tyme for Tea. The cost of the Victorian Tea is \$45 per person, which includes tax and tip. We will also have between half-an-hour and an hour to go into the antique and quilt shops. Please bring exact cash for each event.

We meet at the Ross parking lot, at South Shore Center and leave at 9:30, sharp. Please let Judy know if you want to go or further information, contact Judy Sparks at judy Sparks@comcast.net or 510-523-6736

Afternoon Books

We will meet at 1:30 pm on the third Monday, December 16, to discuss books we are currently reading.
Call Kate Quick, 523-3612, for more information.

Evening Books

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER -- Usually the 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

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER -- 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

Calendar

Branch Activities	December					2019
	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 -- 1:00 pm -- Cinema Group	2--6:00 pm -- Board Meeting, Alameda Hospital -- Conference Room A	3	4	5	6	7 -- Monthly Luncheon -- 11:30 am -- Tour, High Tea, and Secret Santa Gift Exchange at Cohen Bray House, Oakland
8	9	10	11	12-- 9:30 am -- Museum Group	13 --	14 -- 6:00 pm -- Ethnic Dining Group Annual Cocktails/Mocktails and Hors D'oeuvres Party at Casa Pacifica
15	16 -- 1:30 pm -- Afternoon Books Group	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 -- Christmas Eve	25-- Christmas	26	27	28
29	30	31 -- New Year's Eve	(January) 1 -- New Year's Day			

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.



AAUW – Alameda Branch

P. O. Box 2923

Alameda, CA 94501

alameda-ca.aauw.net

The Last Gift Box: a free community workshop for all ages with Tina Cole Kreitz



Saturday January 18, 4:30pm-6pm

Alameda Hospital Conference Room A

2070 Clinton Avenue, Alameda 94501

What is the ultimate gift we can give our loved ones before we die? It is a well-ordered set of our critical information and wishes. This is the goal of **The Last Gift Box, A Present to Those Who Follow Me**. Tina, a former educator who holds a Master's degree in Clinical Psychology, was motivated to write when many friends and family died without leaving instructions behind for family and friends.

RSVP by January 11, 2020 to pwashbou@hotmail.com or call 510-748-7455