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2019-20 BOARD**

[alameda-ca.aauw.net](http://alameda-ca.aauw.net)

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# Alameda Branch News

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

*February 2020*

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AAUW Career  
Development  
Grant  
Recipient  
Briana Lizarraga  
to speak at  
Alameda Branch  
Luncheon,  
February 8<sup>th</sup>.

AAUW Career Development Grant awardee Briana Marela Lizárraga is a Latinx composer/artist formerly from Seattle, WA but currently based in Oakland, CA. Pursuing an Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) degree in Electronic Music at Mills College, she has returned to a more experimental sound focus than recent albums/work she had released commercially have had. She is known for her work with sampled instrumentation and synthesis performance with MaxMSP, using her voice as a focal point as well as an ambient texture in compositions. Her current interest is in working with surface transducers in live performance and utilizing objects with mapped and coded gestural control. She is working toward her M.F.A. with the overall goal of teaching and inspiring other women to enter this traditionally male-dominated field of audio production and music technology.

**Curry Up Now will be catering our February 8th luncheon at the Alameda Hospital, Conference Room A (Second Floor). The cost is \$25 per person and includes turmeric rice, kulcha naan, seasonal salad, pico kachumber, tamarind chutney, cilantro chutney, aloo gobi, daal lentils, chicken masala and choice of mango lassi or hot chai tea. Please send a check made out to AAUW Alameda Branch to Paula Biwer at 1804 2nd St, Alameda, CA 94501-1830 by Saturday, February 1. We always encourage carpooling and suggest all who are planning to attend call another member and invite her or him to attend.**

*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.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS

**Sunday, Feb. 2** – 2:00-4:00 pm -- Alameda Free Library, Main Branch – Panel Discussion: How Racism Affects Black Youth -- Kiki Devoramoni, Moderator; Panel: Oral Lee Brown, Michelle McAfee, and Ron Whittaker.

**Monday, Feb. 3** – 6:00 pm -- Branch Board Meeting -- Alameda Hospital, Conference Room A (All Welcome)

**Saturday, Feb. 8** – 11:30 am -- Monthly Luncheon and Program (see details on previous page and below)

**Wednesday, Feb. 12** – 6:00 pm – Alameda Free Library/AAUW Author Series (see “flier” on Page Six)

### SAVE THESE DATES:

**Tuesday, Mar. 10** – 12:30-1:30 pm -- Celebration of International Women’s Day with (see details below)

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

**Saturday, April 18** – Alameda Earth Day Celebration/AAUW Plant Sale (see details below)

**Wednesday April 22** -- 12 noon-2:00 pm -- Women in STEM Conference (see details below)

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

### Upcoming events at College of Alameda, Building F, Student Center

**Tuesday March 10 12:30-1:30pm:** Celebration of International Women’s Day with Professor Ndola Prata M.D., M.Sc. and Fred H. Bixby -- Endowed Chair in Population and Family Planning, Professor in Residence, Maternal and Child Health, Director, Bixby Center for Population Health and Sustainability, Co-Director, Innovations for Youth (I4Y) School of Public Health, University of California, Berkeley, Co-Director, Center of Expertise on Women's Health, Gender and Empowerment, University of California, Global Health Institute (UCGHI)

**Wednesday April 22 12 noon- 2:00 pm** -- Women in STEM conference with panel of speakers: Sponsored by AAUW Alameda Outreach Committee, COA MESA Program and Biology Department

### Greatest Needs Fund

At our February Luncheon, we get to see our financial donations in action when we hear from one of the scholars that AAUW supports. In past years, we have asked that you bring your checkbook and the silver tray was passed. Thanks to member generosity, AAUW is now in the enviable position of being able to continue funding these scholarships and grants in perpetuity. At the Northern California Funds Lunch in October, we saw a graphic created with Legos that showed that the Ed Fund and Legal Advocacy Fund were receiving a disproportionately large percentage of donations, by far. However, these two areas are only a part of AAUW’s mission to empower women. To enhance the Association’s flexibility, the Greatest Needs Fund was established.

By giving to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund for our strategic focus areas, you can help bring the vision of equality for women into reality. A donation to the Greatest Needs Fund will help us expand our highly successful, community-based, mission-driven programs, such as Start Smart and Work Smart, the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), conduct groundbreaking research, and launch exciting new initiatives to help women and girls thrive. **So, do bring your checkbook to the Funds lunch. If you can’t make it, you can send your check made payable to AAUW Funds to Karen Scanlon, 1259 Hawthorne St., Alameda, CA 94501. AAUW is a 501 (c) (3) charity and all donations are tax deductible.**

#### Plant Sale Update

Laura Porter will be hosting a planting party at her house -- 352 Channing Way, Alameda -- on Saturday, February 15, from 1:00-4:00. Please share in this fun activity. You don't need any skills -- just show up and stay for as long as you can. Bring any plastic plant containers from plants you've bought, individual serving yogurt containers, any kind of plant cuttings, and/or any partial bags of potting soil or other extra planting supplies you may have.

We'll provide all necessary supplies. If you're not available or planting is not your thing, you may wish to volunteer to be a “plant babysitter” until the April 18 (Earth Day) plant sale. Please call Paula at (510) 918-8577 to express your interest or any ideas. Saturday, February 22 is the rain date for this activity.

## Leadership Corner -- 📌 AAUW NEEDS YOU! 📌

The Board will have a significant number of vacancies next year (September to May 2020), as a number of long-time leaders will be stepping back to take on more hands-on roles in a number of activities. Penny Washbourn, who has so ably and enthusiastically guided the Board over the past five years as President and then Program Chair, is among them. It will be difficult to “fill the void,” and the Board be looking for the most appropriate ways to thank her -- other members being inspired to step up and serve is one of those ways.

Please seriously consider filling a Board position to help AAUW continue its great work for the community and for its members. The lunches are fun and many of us also enjoy participating in the various interest groups and special events throughout the year. Accepting a Board position will enable you to give back for all of these opportunities.

Board duties include only one monthly meeting and a few extra hours, depending on the position. A list of open Board positions will be published. A Nominating Committee will be constituted over the next several months. Please volunteer for a Board position now or answer their call with an enthusiastic “yes” when contacted in the coming months.

Submitted by Mary Oppedahl, Secretary

### Another Worthy Cause

## R★ Foundation

**"WOMEN HELPING WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN NEPAL... THEREFORE THE WORLD"**

**SERVES AND EDUCATES THE ISOLATED AND DISEMPOWERED WOMEN AND CHILDREN OF NEPAL. WE CONNECT RESOURCES AND DISTRIBUTE THEM TO THE NEEDIEST PEOPLE IN ONE OF THE MOST REMOTE AREAS ON EARTH, ENHANCING WORLD PEACE.**

**<http://rstarfoundation.org/>**

R Star Foundation, “Women Helping Women and Children in Nepal”, started in 2003, with creation of a beginning solution for the poorest villages in the district of Kavre, Nepal, which has always been a communist-dominated district. The founder, Rosalind Russell, started with money for 89 goats and was able, with collaborations at Nepal’s federal level, to get sufficient help to actually give 200 goats to the natives in two diverse villages with a ‘pay it back’ program to those were gifted. Since 2003, the program is responsible for the distribution of over 15,000 goats beyond the original gifting, and microfinancing was established for a group of 25 women. These loans were otherwise unavailable to residents in the rural villages.

In 2008 R Star opened a school, Top of the World-(TOW)-Nepal (TOW-N). In addition to traditional Nepali studies, they teach peace for twenty minutes per day by programs created by Rosalind and expanded by an intern from SOKA University. Student-created peace flags are sent to Nepal by American students who learn of the Foundation’s work through presentations. In return, the TOW-N students create peace flags as part of their “recreational learning,” which Rosalind brings to the USA. The villagers and other government schools are now joined in our peace efforts. Our above average students teach peace to the government schools, which adds to our reach to peace in a long standing warring area. Our reach to teach peace extends to the adults as children return home and share what they are doing as children do... thus teaching peace in ways we cannot!

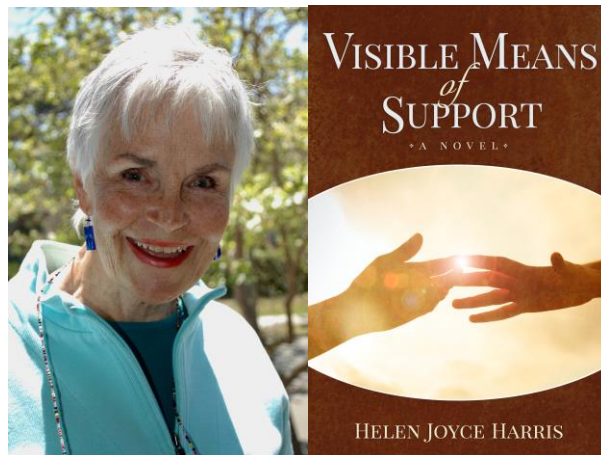
To help spread the word about the peace program, Rosalind wrote the little book “REACH TO PEACE.” Read more on the Foundation’s website to learn about more recent local and overseas programs and consider supporting Rosalind and the Foundation’s efforts. For more information, including a timeline of the Foundation’s response after the devastating 2015 Earthquake in Nepal, a 2020 Activities update, and/or a donation form, please contact Mark Hamilton, [mdham21@yahoo.com](mailto:mdham21@yahoo.com), (510) 749-0738. All donations are tax-deductible.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Website Coordinator JoAnn Smith Ainsworth's** novel, "Expect Betrayal," Book 3 of her award winning WWII paranormal suspense series, is available on pre-order as an e-book -- <https://books2read.com/b/3Lp7zN>.

In it, a college friend offers advice on staying safe in war-torn England to the naval commander overseeing the U.S. psychic team and to its team leader (a U.S. WAVES clairvoyant) while they search for her family's grimoire, The Book of Cures. It contains spells and charms to protect their Philadelphia headquarters from further Nazi occult attacks. However, the friend is the very man assigned by the Fatherland to spy on them and to put a bullet between their eyes once he gets his hands on this grimoire that Hitler covets and needs to fight the war.

**Great News for Women's Rights:** The Virginia General Assembly officially passed the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), making Virginia the 38th state to ratify the Constitutional Amendment. This is an amazing step, but it doesn't stop there... The US House of Representatives still must remove the old deadline of passage so it can bring it to a new vote and secure the Equal Rights Amendment once and for all. That's why California's own Representative, Jackie Speier introduced House Resolution 38 which would eliminate the deadline and open the door to final passage of the ERA!



Branch Member Helen Harris's new book, "*Visible Means of Support*" has been published by Wheatmark, and it's being carried at Books Inc. Alameda (paperback) as well as through both [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and [barnesandnoble.com](https://www.barnesandnoble.com) (paperback and Ebook). An author event, at Books, Inc. (Alameda), begins at 7:00 pm on Thursday, March 12. There will be wine and finger food.

Helen taught secondary English and related subjects in the Alameda Unified School District for 22 years, beginning in 1970 (Chipman and Encinal H.S.). She also taught composition at Laney College and at Alameda's Argosy University. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in English from Stanford and an M.F.A. from the University of Montana.

BriefPlot Summary: The mainstream novel "*Visible Means of Support*" is, on one level, the life story of a secret. Middle-class Ginger Fiske and her twenty-one-year-old son conspire to keep her mother/his grandmother from learning about his arrest, conviction, and imprisonment for conspiracy to deal cocaine. Set in the "just say no" mid-1980s, the book has wide appeal because its story is told through the eyes of the felon, his mid-forties mother (also a teacher), and his grandmother, Alice. While it tells a suspenseful story with its share of anguish, it is also in some places quite funny. It is set in the mother's Oakland high school, her Oakland hills home, a gated community in Colorado Springs, and two federal prisons, one in Texarkana and the other near Denver.

## 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)**

**The Museum Group** will visit the De Young Museum on **February 13**, and we will see

***Soul of a Nation -- Art in the Age of Black Power, 1963 -1983.***

This internationally acclaimed exhibition, organized by Tate Modern, celebrates art made by Black artists during two pivotal decades when issues of race and identity dominated and defined both public and private discourse. The de Young's presentation includes a focus on Bay Area artists whose work promoted personal and cultural pride, collective solidarity, empowerment, and political and social activism.

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, for further information, contact Judy Sparks at [judysparks@comcast.net](mailto:judysparks@comcast.net) or by phone at 510-523-6736.

### **Afternoon Books**

We will meet at 1:30 pm on the third Monday, February 17, to discuss books we are currently reading.

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

### **Evening Books**

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**

We are still looking for substitutes -- call Joyce Denyven at 510-523-6341 or send an e-mail to her at [denyven@comcast.net](mailto: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 – Page Six**

<b>Branch Activities</b>	<b>February</b>					<b>2020</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> -- 1:00 pm -- Cinema Group; 2:00 -- Black History Month Panel Discussion	<b>3</b> —6:00 pm – Board Meeting, Alameda Hospital – Conference Room A	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> – 11:30 -- Monthly Luncheon -- Alameda Hospital, Conference Room A
<b>9</b> –	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> – 6:00 -- Alameda Library/AAUW Author Series	<b>13</b> -- 9:30 am -- Museum Group	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> – Ethnic Dining Group -- TBA
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> – 1:30 pm -- Afternoon Books Group	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>36</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> – Evening Books Group	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	29

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.

## ***Alameda Authors Series IV***



When a Purple  
Rose Blooms



Jeneé Darden

### **Jeneé Darden** **on her book** ***When a Purple Rose Blooms***

The fourth annual **Alameda Authors Series**, sponsored by, **AAUW Alameda** and the **Friends of the Alameda Free Library**, returns with award winning journalist and book author **Jeneé Darden**.

Ms. Darden will speak about her book, *When a Purple Rose Blooms*, a collection of poetry and essays that reflect her journey through Black womanhood. With heart and humor, Darden engages us in conversations about race, love, sex, and mental health. Like a rose, being a Black woman in this society comes with its thorns and beauty. Darden brings that complexity to every page.

**February 12, 2020, 6:00 p.m.**

**in the Stafford Room  
Alameda Free Library  
1550 Oak Street  
Alameda 94501**

**Reservations requested:**

**<https://jeneedarden-aauw2020.eventbrite.com>**

**For more information, please contact AAUW Alameda at [alameda-ca@aauw.net](mailto:alameda-ca@aauw.net) or see our Web site at <http://alameda-ca.aauw.net/>  
Event telephone: 510.463.4966 Kevis Brownson (leave message)**