



**ALAMEDA BRANCH
2019-20 BOARD**

alameda-ca.aauw.net

LEADERSHIP TEAM

PRESIDENT

Cynthia Silva

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Mark Hamilton

MEMBERSHIP Co-VPs

Susan Myers & Mark Hamilton

PROGRAM Co-VPs

Penny Washbourn and
Paula Biwer

AAUW FUNDS Co-VPs

Karen Scanlon and
Mary Oppedahl

FINANCE Co-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*

May 2020

A publication of AAUW-Alameda Branch, chartered 1962

Vol. 57, Issue 9



Stay Home – Stay Safe!

**Recurring ANNOUNCEMENT – NO May Luncheon,
OTHER EVENTS CANCELLED/POSTPONED**

In full compliance with State and Local Government COVID-19 Crisis Guidelines, **our planned May 9 Luncheon has been cancelled and tentatively rescheduled.** *Please see the full article from the Program Committee on Page Two for details.*

Usually, the Members present at our April Luncheons each year are asked to ratify, by vote, the Slate of Officers for the next Membership Year. Because that Luncheon was also cancelled, **voting will take place electronically for the majority of our Members, via Survey Monkey. Be on the lookout for an e-mail, the week of April 20, with voting instructions. Our twelve Members who receive their Newsletters by mail rather than electronically will receive paper ballots and stamped, self-addressed envelopes in which their ballots can be returned, then tallied.** You can find the **full list of nominated 2020-2021 Officers**, along with Appointed Positions and Committee Chairpersons, on **Page Two of this Newsletter.** Voting is only required for Officer positions.

Other planned events have been cancelled or postponed, including Alameda's Earth Day Celebration, and our major annual fundraising event, the Plant Sale, along with it. Leadership and the Fundraising Committee are discussing the possibility of scheduling one or more major plant sales for the community in the future. Please see the separate **article about Plant Sales on Page Three of this Newsletter** for more details.

Please also see the **updated Announcements/Special Events list, also on Page Three**, to check on the "Cancelled," "Postponed," or "Tentative" status of all previously planned events for the remainder of the current Membership Year.

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.

Program Committee Report

Unfortunately, our May 9 AAUW Brunch and Board installation at Julie's Coffee and Tea had to be postponed due to quarantine and social distancing measures in place at this time. If these restrictions are lifted prior to June, we have **tentatively scheduled the Board installation for a luncheon on the patio at Dragon Rouge, on June 13 at 11:30am**. This will only be confirmed closer to the time as conditions permit via E-blast from Donna Vaughn.

Julie's Coffee and Tea is currently closed, but those who wish to support her business can go to the website to order some baked goods. We hope to reschedule an event there in the future.

We have postponed our May speaker, AAUW member Helen Joyce Harris, who has authored a new novel, "Visible Means of Support," which can be ordered from Books, Inc. on Park Street or from Amazon.

We look forward to hearing from her at a future date about her past and current writing projects.

AAUW Alameda Board Officers 2020-2021

President: Mark Hamilton

President-Elect: Barbara Krummel

Co-Vice Presidents for Programs: Paula Biwer and Lena Tam

Co-Vice Presidents for Membership: Susan Myers and Paula Biwer

Vice President for AAUW Funds: Mary Oppedahl

Vice President for Finance/Treasurer: Susan Myers

Secretary: Cynthia "Cindy" Silva

Appointed Positions

Communications/Newsletter Editor: Jennifer Ayres

Public Policy/E-Blasts: Donna Vaughn

Tech Trek Coordinator: Barbara Krummel

Website Coordinator: Mark Hamilton

Publicity: Elizabeth McGaffey and Joyce Quartly

Hospitality: Cynthia "Cindy" Silva (Drawings), Karen Guthrie, Silver Alkhafaji, and Mark Hamilton

Sunshine: Cynthia "Cindy" Silva

Parliamentarian/By-Laws/Nominations for 2021-22 Officers: Cynthia "Cindy" Silva

College/University Relations: Penelope "Penny" Washbourn, Shubha Fanse, and Dorie Guess Behrstock

East Bay Community Foundation Grant Liaison: Dorothy Kerwin

Correspondence Secretary: Dorothy Kerwin

Committee Chairs

Fundraising: Open – Committee to be formed (to be discussed at June Board Retreat)

NCCWSL Scholarships: Penelope "Penny" Washbourn

Audit Committee: Susan Myers and Dorothy Kerwin

Budget: Open -- Committee to be formed (to be discussed at June Board Retreat)

March Newsletter – Slate of 2020-2021 Officers Announced

Week of April 20 -- Voting on Slate of 2020-2021 Officers – Electronically or by mail

June 13 – 2020-2021 Officers Installed – At rescheduled Luncheon or via a Virtual (Zoom) Meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS

Monday, April 20 – Alameda Authors Series IV, #3 – **POSTPONED (date TBD)**

Wednesday, April 22 -- Women in STEM Conference – **POSTPONED to Fall 2020**

Thursday, Apr. 23 – Showing of “Misrepresentation” (movie) at Alameda High School, co-sponsored with the Alameda Unified School District -- **CANCELLED/POSTPONED**

Sunday April 26 -- AAUW/College of Alameda Scholarship Fundraiser **CANCELLED/May Be Rescheduled**

Monday, May 4 – Virtual (Zoom) Board Meeting – ALL WELCOME – e-mail mdham21@yahoo.com to be invited

Saturday, May 9 -- Monthly Luncheon – **CANCELLED/Postponed to June 13**

Wednesday, May 20 – Alameda Authors Series IV, #4 -- **POSTPONED (date TBD)**

Saturday, June 13 – 11:30 am – Monthly Luncheon (**tentative**)

Saturday, June 27 – 9:30 am – Board 2020-2021 Membership Year Planning Retreat, Hosted by Dorothy Kerwin

Announcing Project G.LOVES Shopping Service for Seniors

Website: www.projectgloves.org – This is a FREE shopping service for Alameda residents who are 65 years of age and older during the COVID-19 Crisis. There are many citizens in our community, including our own Branch Members, who might need or like this kind of help. Advice from users of the Program includes being very specific about the preferred items on your grocery list, including specific brand names and product sizes, exact names of produce items, like lettuce, apples, radishes, etc. The shoppers will also phone if they need more information, for example when the gallon of organic milk being ordered is no longer available, to determine whether or not a substitute would be acceptable.

The shoppers are high school students who shop only from 12:00 noon to 6:00 pm and usually deliver within a two-hour time frame after your order is placed. You can pay with cash, check, or Pay Pal. Delivery times can be adjusted, depending on prevailing conditions on a given day. Normally, the shoppers go to Safeway or Nob Hill, but there may be more options. A consistent recommendation is for individuals to use their own food safety precautions after delivery.



To All Of Our Amazing AAUW Growers – Plant Sale Update

The Fundraising/Plant Sale Committee met via Zoom and had a very active and creative conversation about what to do with all of our growing plants. To date, there are about 400 of them and, given the uncertainty of the current shelter-in-place orders, the Committee has not come to a final decision about what to do with them. A gigantic thank you to all of our Members who are growing and taking care of these plants for an extended period of time. If you have any ideas about what to do with the plants if it ends up that we cannot have a large plant sale in the future, please text Paula at 510-918-8577.

MAY IS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

Now is the time to renew your AAUW membership for 2020-2021. There are only two ways to do this, and both are relatively convenient:

1. Online – simply send me an email – samsat@att.net and I will have the correct renewal link sent to you. *Contacting national AAUW directly will not work.* However, with the renewal link it is rather easy. It is best to do this shortly after you get the link, so it does not get lost in your email. The email from national will say memberinfo@aauw.org
2. The other way to renew is to send a \$100 check to Jennifer Ayres, 3225 Liberty Ave., Alameda 94501. The check should be made out to AAUW Alameda

Either way works just fine. Both will ensure your continuing membership at the National, State, and Branch levels of our fine Organization. Your renewal will help continue and grow the many activities and programs offered at all three levels.

Some of the things we do, at the Branch level, include seven Special Interest Groups, awarding three College of Alameda scholarships (one designated for study abroad), and Tech Trek – a week of summer Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Camp at Cal State-Sonoma for middle school girls. The newest addition, for us, is to send two young women to NCCWSL – the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders. Monthly Luncheons and other Special Programs also abound, throughout each Membership Year.

The national AAUW foci are education and training, economic security, and leadership, and our Organization is one the world's largest sources of fellowships and grants for women pursuing graduate school opportunities. We need all of us to have strong Branch and fully support various State and National initiatives – therefore, renewing is a good idea.

I want to leave you with a quote from part of Queen Elizabeth's recent speech on the topic of the COVID-19 Pandemic: "...better days will return. We will be with our friends again, we will be with our families again, we will meet again."

Susan Myers, Co-Vice President for Membership.

Tech Trek Update

I am so sorry to share that as a result of ongoing and rising concerns regarding COVID-19 and the impact of directives from national, state and local leaders, AAUW California has cancelled the nine upcoming Tech Trek camps scheduled on seven college campuses in June and July of 2020. We are waiting to hear whether this year's selected campers will be given the opportunity to attend next summer.

Our Tech Trek Committee was able to complete the selection process thanks to member Linda Preminger's experience with Zoom. Five Committee members participated, interviewing eleven candidates. As always, it was a difficult decision and we are very happy with the group of six dynamic, enthusiastic and driven young women representing five Alameda middle schools who were chosen to participate.

Thank you to our Members for your continued support of this one-week, summer Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Camp experience, held annually, in June, on the Sonoma State University campus.

Barbara Krummel, Tech Trek Coordinator, Alameda Branch

AAUW College of Alameda Scholarships News

Our Annual Scholarship Fundraiser for the Patti Heimburger AAUW/College of Alameda (COA) Scholarships, which had been scheduled for April 26, is postponed until the Fall of 2020, on a date to be determined by local conditions. In the meantime, sufficient funds exist in the account for the awarding of three \$1,000 scholarships for women transfer students this Spring. The Peralta Colleges Foundation awards these scholarships on behalf of AAUW Alameda.

The AAUW/College of Alameda Scholarships for two students to attend the National Conference of College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), scheduled for the end of May at the University of Maryland, has also been affected by the COVID-19 Crisis. This year's conference has been postponed until 2021, but the Committee decided to go ahead and interview the three finalists remotely via Zoom, so that they could use this recognition on their resumés. The Committee, comprised of Tina Vasconcellos, VP for Student Services at the College of Alameda, Karen Kenney, Silver Alkhafaji, and Penny Washbourn, interviewed Sarah McCarthy, Daniela Dula-Meija, and Jaylan Campbell, and the Committee was so impressed by the quality of their applications and leadership abilities that we decided to make awards to all three. These funds are intended to cover registration, housing, and travel for the conference -- \$1,200 for each participant. Annette Koch also reviewed the applications.

The AAUW/COA Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Conference, which was to have taken place on April 22, was postponed until the 2020-2021 academic year. The AAUW/COA Committee, comprised of Biology Professor Leslie Reiman, along with Shubha Fanse, Silver Alkhafaji, and Penny Washbourn, had recruited a diverse group of women panelists for this Conference, representing many different STEM professions. Though the conference was canceled for this Spring, all panelists expressed a willingness to participate in the event on a future date.

A special thank you from Penny Washbourn, Dorie Behrstock and the College/University Relations Committee, to the all AAUW members, who continue to support our Branch's efforts to provide enrichment and new educational opportunities for this important local population of women community college students. Their "thank you" notes demonstrate a recognition of the great value of these awards to their personal and educational goals. We can be proud of what we are doing for them! **Thank you!**

COVID-19 Pandemic Member Services and New In-House Roster

Your Local Branch Officers decided to reach out to all Members by phone after our Board Meeting on April 6. Each member with a phone number on file with AAUW should have received a call by now. If you did not receive a call or at least a voicemail message, but would like to "check in," please reach out to our Branch Leaders. The purpose of the calls was to chat with all of our wonderful Members and see if they need any assistance with physical activities, regular check-ins, transportation for important appointments or errands, etc., during the COVID-19 Crisis. We also wanted to ask if Members would consider participating in "virtual" Events and Meetings via Zoom.

You can find our contact information on our Local Branch website – alameda-ca.aauw.net – just click on the Members Only tab, just below the picture of the Park Street Bridge. Use the established password to access our newly-posted In-House Branch Roster. If you do not know the established password, please feel free to e-mail me at mdham21@yahoo.com and I will be happy to send it to you.

Please also be aware that several of our Special Interest Groups are organizing virtual Gatherings and Events. If you are a member or one of these Groups, be on the lookout for e-mails/other communications from your Group Leaders.

Submitted by Mark Hamilton, President-Elect

Branch Interest Groups

NOTE: In general, for the month of May, Special Interest Group Leaders should be contacted to find out if scheduled events will be cancelled, postponed, offered as virtual meetings, or rescheduled.

Ethnic Dining Group -- Meets monthly, usually third Saturday evening, at 6:00 pm. *We held our first-ever "virtual cocktail hour last Saturday, and may plan to do another this month.* 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. The Program has concluded for this year. For more information, contact Dorothy Kerwin -- kerwindorothy@gmail.com

The Museum Group (tentative) will go to the deYoung Museum on Thursday, May 14, to see the exhibit:

Frida Kahlo: "Appearances Can Be Deceiving"

Born in 1907, Kahlo lived her formative years against the backdrop of the Mexican Revolution (1910-1920), which shaped her enduring commitment to communism. At age 21, Frida met and married Diego Rivera, an established artist. Their passionate relationship survived infidelities, the pressures of Rivera's career, a divorce, remarriage, and Frida's fragile health. She contracted polio at age 6 and suffered an almost fatal accident at age 18. Kahlo started painting at age 25, while she was recuperating from the medical complications, physical limitations, and intense chronic pain resulting from the accident. Through her self-portraits, Kahlo explored her political views, her health struggles, her accident, her turbulent marriage, and her inability to have children. She adopted indigenous Mexican dress, which consisted of brightly colored blouses and skirts that are Tehuana, from the state of Oaxaca, in southeastern Mexico. Frida was mainly known as Rivera's wife and her art was practically unknown.

Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera arrived in San Francisco in November of 1930. Diego had been hired to paint murals for the City Club of San Francisco and the San Francisco Art Institute. She was 23 and it was her first time away from Mexico. During her time here, Frida painted self-portraits in Tehuana costumes. She wrote home to her parents about local women, whom she called "scarecrows" and "dull." "The gringas like me and take notice of my clothes and jewelry. All the painters want me to pose for them." Paintings from this period began her rise to fame and recognition. She had two solo shows. Feminists admired that she stood up for her principles. In 2002, Julie Taymor's film, "Frida" (featuring Selma Hayek) raised her profile further, resulting in a retrospective at Tate Modern and other worldwide exhibitions.

At the time of Frida's death, in 1954, her husband insisted that all of her belongings be locked away. In 2004, a remarkable trove of the artist's personal belongings was unsealed at her lifetime home, La Casa Azul (the Blue House) in Mexico City. 6,000 photographs, 22,000 documents, and 300 of her personal items -- including medicines, orthopedic devices, clothing, jewelry, and accessories that have never been seen on the West Coast-- are among the items on display in the exhibition. Now Frida Kahlo is known as an artist in her own right.

We meet at the Ross Parking lot at South Shore Center and leave at 9:30 am sharp. Please let Judy know if you want to go or for further information, contact Judy Sparks at [judysparks@comcast.net](mailto:judy Sparks@comcast.net) or by phone at (510) 523-6736.

This trip is subject to change/postponement/cancellation resulting from new information concerning COVID-19.

Afternoon Books – Usually meets at 1:30 pm on the third Monday of each month to discuss books we are currently reading. Call Kate Quick, (510) 523-3612, for more information.

Evening Books – [Usually the fourth Tuesday of each month] -- **Virtual meetings planned for April 28 and May 26, 7:00 pm**, with optional check-in time for Members to chat about what they've been reading. Look for an e-mail with a link to the virtual meeting. Call Kevis Brownson (510) 522-4966 or Cindy Silva (510) 523-4677 for more information.

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

Cinema Group – **Virtual meeting planned for Sunday, May 3, 2:00 pm.** Look for an e-mail with a link to the virtual meeting. We are a lively group of movie lovers who usually 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 – Page Seven

Branch Activities	April/May						2020
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
(April) 26	27	28 -- 7:00 pm -- Evening Books Group (Virtual Meeting)	29	30	1	2	
3 – 2:00 pm – Cinema Group Virtual Meeting	4 -- 6:00 pm – Virtual (Zoom) Board Meeting – ALL WELCOME	5	6	7	8	9 – NOTE: Monthly Luncheon cancelled -- <i>postponed to June 13, 2020</i>	
10	11	12	13	14-- 9:30 am -- Museum Group (tentative)	15	16 – 6:00 pm -- Ethnic Dining Group – Virtual Gathering possible	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24/31	25	26 -- 7:00 pm --- Evening Books Group (Virtual Meeting)	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.