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2020-21 BOARD**
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*

September 2020

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Vol. 58, Issue 1

September Luncheon Update

New monthly lecture/luncheon series.

I wish to welcome Lena Tam as my new co-chair of programming and want to thank Penny Washbourn for a great year of mentorship as my co-chair and wish her a great year of growth and creativity. So, welcome everyone to a new season of our AAUW lunch/lecture series. Starting in September all meetings will begin at 11:15, provide about 15 minutes for social chat in small groups, Mark will then open the meeting and share relevant AAUW business and invite committee/club chairs to share with the group. People can get their beverages and or snack/lunch ready and then the speaker will be introduced. September 12 Is our annual tech trek luncheon and although the 2020 camp was canceled, we will hear from past participants and get a first-hand account of the experience in a presentation prepared by our 2019 campers. For more details about Tech Trek, please read the update later in this newsletter.

- Submitted by Paula Biwer

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.

President's Corner

AAUW-Alameda Branch is starting a very different Membership Year this fall, due to the continuing COVID-19 Pandemic Crisis. I am honored to have been chosen to lead our Branch through the fundamental changes and challenges we were just beginning to get used to last March and April.

I dare say most of you, our Members, know me pretty well by now. My name is Mark Hamilton. Born in Chicago, I was raised, attended high school and college, and started my (so far) thirty-two-year Public Education career in Southern California before moving to North Carolina in 1993. Personal circumstances brought me back to California in 2006, when I landed here, in Alameda. I love this Community for its activist base and its evident spirit of egalitarianism and cultural awareness. I consider myself to be a life-long Feminist and an ardent ally to the LGBTQ+ Community.

We, the Officers, Committee Chairs, and Appointed Board Members – your Board --keep the health and welfare of our Members at the forefront as we plan each Membership Year. We have been reaching out on several fronts – we conducted a Member Survey recently and reached out, by phone, to all Members, both in the spring, when the Pandemic Crisis was beginning, and then, again, last month. We will also soon publish and distribute an up-to-date In-House Roster, which will include a list of the wonderful Past Presidents of our Branch.

Starting this month, on September 12, we will begin our new Monthly Virtual Luncheon Meeting Programs, to replace our customary in-person Meetings, until further notice. About two weeks before each monthly Meeting, all of you who have e-mail addresses on file with us will receive invitations to register. Those who choose to register will receive a second e-mail with a link to each Meeting. These events will all begin at 11:15 am and will usually occur on the second Saturday of each month. Please join us for these fun and informative events!

Also, about two weeks in advance, all Members with e-mail addresses will receive invitations to all regularly scheduled, monthly Board Meetings, which usually occur at 6:00 pm on the first Monday of each month, along with other planned Events. Our Special Interest Group Leaders may also send you messages from time to time, and always be on the lookout for E-Blasts from our Public Policy Chair, Donna Vaughn, when important information becomes available between Newsletters.

Lastly, I, personally, along with all of our Board Members, appreciate and cherish your support and encouragement, especially under the current circumstances facing our Nation, State, and Community. As always, we count on all of you, our Members, to tell your friends and neighbors about our Branch. You can invite them to check out our Branch website -- alameda-ca.aauw.net – and, if they are interested in becoming Members, they can contact our Vice President for Membership, Susan Myers, via e-mail, at samsat@att.net for more information.

Mark Hamilton, President, 2020-2021

Tech Trek Coordinator Update

Unfortunately, like so many events of 2020, the Tech Trek camp was cancelled. However, we want to share with you what Tech Trek is about as we plan for a 2021 camp and invite you to consider joining the Tech Trek committee to make this amazing and often life-changing experience available to Alameda's girls.

Tech Trek, a program of AAUW California, is a resident summer camp designed to develop interest, excitement, and self-confidence in young women rising from 7th to 8th grade in California public schools. It features hands-on activities in science, technology, engineering and math taught by specially-selected faculty, and a full program of inquiry-based learning experiences designed to help girls build and sustain their STEM interests through their middle and high school years, and beyond. All sleeping, eating, instructional, and recreational facilities are located on a university campus where camps are held.

Attendance at Tech Trek is by invitation only. All attendees are nominated by their teachers and apply to participate with a branch of AAUW CA. The process is competitive, and all girls selected receive a full scholarship to attend.

The cost for each girl to attend is \$1,000, and is paid for by individual AAUW branches. Since our goal is to send 6 girls each summer, we need to raise \$6,000 a year. Our Branch Members are our major supporters! **You can support this wonderful program by going to the Tech Trek section of our website, and following the instructions 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. Many thanks to all for sending our girls to camp!**

Our Alameda Branch Tech Trek committee works directly with instructors and administrators at our local middle schools to select girls to attend the summer camp. It is a deeply satisfying collaboration as we get to meet some amazing young women and provide what is often a life-changing experience. If you would like additional information about the committee, please contact Barbara Krummel, barbarakrummel@comcast.net or 510-846-5887.

- submitted by Barbara Krummel, Committee Chair

Interest Group Spotlight



Announcing a new AAUW interest group: a Gardening Club!

The board has approved a new club with a gardening theme. Please join me and others at a planning zoom meeting on Saturday, September 26 at 11 AM. We will discuss ideas to promote a love of gardening and ways to learn new skills. Please email or text me at pbiwer@yahoo.com (510)918-8577. I will send out a ZOOM link closer to the event date.

First ever virtual museum experience for AAUW Museum Club

Paula and over a dozen members participated in a virtual museum visit to the Asian Art Museum looking at original art and video clips. We had interactive activities to heighten our appreciation of the arts and to promote a sense of well being. Please stay posted to find out if this group decides to host more of these experiences during the stay at home mandate.

- submitted by Paula Biber

ANNOUNCEMENTS/Future Events

Monday, August 31 -- **September Board Meeting** -- ALL WELCOME -- Invitations to register were sent, via e-mail, to all Members on August 17.

Wednesday, September 2 – **Alameda Authors Series IV** – Virtual presentation. See flyer.

Saturday, September 12 -- **Virtual Luncheon Meeting and Program** -- Invitations to register will be sent, via e-mail, to all Members on August 28.



August 2020 is the 100 year anniversary Women's Suffrage in the United States.

The New York Times had a section devoted to women's suffrage. If you subscribe, here's a link to the articles. <https://www.nytimes.com/spotlight/women-suffrage-100>

There was also a recent one-hour webinar put on by the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission and Twitter with panelists Librarian of Congress Dr. Carla Hayden, historian and author Elaine Weiss, and former Secretary of State Hilary Rodham Clinton. Here's a link to the recorded webinar: <https://twitter.com/i/broadcasts/1vAGRrgMYwaGl>

New Book By Branch Member Ellen Chesnut

On December 10, 2019, my second non-fiction book, "We Armenians Survived! Battle of Marash 1920" was published. Reviews have been good.

On July 08, 2020, with the expert help of an all-female team -- Donna Tate (Book Interior), Janice Lalley (Editor) and Valerie Turpen (cover) -- "Written Works of Glen Chesnut" was published. With these books, I am honoring two legacies -- my Armenian heritage and my husband, Glen, who was an original artist and writer. Both books can be ordered at Amazon.com or at any independent bookstore in America. I invite all AAUW Members to visit my website: <https://ellensarkisianchesnut.com/>

News from the Fundraising Committee.

As all members are aware, the Fundraising Committee, with leadership from Paula Biwer who coordinated the Plant Sale in May, navigated a completely new " CoronaVirus " environment and managed to conduct a highly successful fundraiser for the Patti Heimburger College of Alameda Scholarships . These were the results:

The conclusion: Great Alameda Progressive Plant Caper more than achieved its goal and raised \$1,900 from all plant caper activities and donations which, along with matching funds of \$1,425 more than meets the goal for providing three College of Alameda Scholarships. Estimated total \$3,328.

19 AAUW Members directly contributed in organizing, growing over 400 plants, hosting and as well as donating to the Plant Caper:

Paula Biwer, Barbara Krummel, Dorie Behrstock, Kevis Brownson, Laura Porter, Mari Clark, Cindy Silva, Elizabeth McGaffey, Jennifer McGaffey, Beth Sibley, Penny Washbourn, Karen Kenney, Marilyn Sharron, Susan Myers, Shubha Fanse, Judy Sparks, Barbara Ihler, Earleen Hamlin, Lena Tam. Many other members attended and purchased plants. THANK YOU ALLL

In our debrief session, the Committee recognized we had learned a great deal and would implement these new strategies for future fundraising efforts. There is an interest in doing an annual plant sale, somewhat earlier in the Spring.

Change of Leadership for Fundraising Committee: Effective for 2020-2021 Barbara Krummel will be the new chair. Penny Washbourn will stay on the committee in her role as the Branch liaison with the Peralta Colleges Foundation and the Coordinator of the College of Alameda National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) scholarships.

News from AAUW College of Alameda Scholarships

Based on our Branch support for a Special Projects Fund and previous fundraising efforts, AAUW Alameda Branch awarded several scholarships to College of Alameda Students in Spring 2020.

1. With the participation of the NCCWSL committee, Karen Kenney, Silver Alkhafaji Annette Koch and Tina Vasconcellos from the College of Alameda, we interviewed three finalists over Zoom in March. Because of the outstanding quality of these students we offered each of them a full scholarship of \$1,200 to attend the national AAUW NCCWSL conference in Baltimore MD in May. The winners were Sarah McCarthy, Daniela Dula-Meja and Jaylan Campbell.

Unfortunately, as we know, that conference was cancelled, but we have committed to award these scholarships to these winners should the leadership conference be held in May 2021. Penny Washbourn will reach out to them to inquire on their academic plans and progress towards their goals.

In the meantime, since the College of Alameda will be conducting its classes remotely in Fall 2020 and student activities and athletics where students can demonstrate leadership on campus are in abeyance, we will postpone the next NCCWSL application process until Fall 2021.

2. For the first time three \$1,000 scholarship were able to be awarded for the Patti Heimburger College of Alameda AAUW scholarships. The first award specifically for Study Abroad went to Maya Johnson, whose February thank you letter is attached.

Unfortunately at that point she did not know that all the Peralta Colleges Study Abroad programs would be cancelled for the Spring and Summer 2020.

Two more scholarships were awarded, one to Kristina Mendes, who had won a previous AAUW Alameda scholarship in 2019. She too had planned to attend a summer Study Abroad program, but had to adjust her plans, as her thank you letter describes.

The second transfer scholarship went to Pauline Roxas, a resident of Alameda who describes her academic goals in her attached thank you letter.

Penny Washbourn will reach out to each of these student winners to see how they are doing in pursuing their personal and academic goals in this time of “Pandemic upheaval”.

Thank you to all our members who have contributed to both these scholarship activities. Having the opportunity to meet and interview our three NCCWSL winners over Zoom was a great pleasure and strongly reinforced the value of what our Branch does in supporting their education. These efforts are more important now than ever. We will explore whether we can use technology to introduce them to our Branch membership. Stay tuned!

- Penny Washbourn, College / University Relations.

Branch Interest Groups

Afternoon Books

We will meet at 1:30 pm on the third Monday, September 21, to discuss books we are currently reading. **Call Kate Quick, 523-3612, for more information.**

Bridge Group

If you are interested in bridge, particularly in being a substitute, contact **Judy Sparks at 510-523-6736**. The current bridge group meets in the evening once a month in different homes. Yes, we can furnish a printed schedule upon request. At present, we have five regular partnerships and need a sixth regular partnership to complete a third table of bridge. Currently, we use two substitutes to make that sixth partnership.

Cinema Group

Next meeting is October 4 - 4:00 pm.

We meet the first Sunday of the month – October through June – at the Alameda Theatre for a matinee of a current movie, followed by coffee and conversation at a local cafe. During the pandemic, we are meeting online. Our movie to watch in September for discussion is *Five Easy Pieces*, showing on KQED on 9/12 for discussion on 10/4.

For more information please e-mail Kevis Brownson at mkevis.brownson@gmail.com

Ethnic Dining Group

Meets monthly, usually on the third Saturday evening, at 6:00 pm. *All Gatherings will be virtual, on the Zoom platform, until further notice.* If you like good food and good company, join us. **For more information, contact Mark Hamilton -- (510) 749-0738 or mdham21@yahoo.com**

Evening Books

September 22 - 7:15 pm - Our group meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:15 pm at members' homes for book discussion and dessert, beginning our year in September. During the pandemic, we are meeting and discussing the books online **via Zoom**. Our book for September is Homer's classic - The Odyssey. For more information about this group, please contact [Kevis Brownson](#). For a list of the remaining books this year, please visit this link <https://alameda-ca.aauw.net/book-club/>

Garden Club

First meeting Saturday, September 26 at 11:00 via Zoom. For more information, contact Paula Biber at pbiwer@yahoo.com (510)918-8577.

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**

Museum Group . No meeting this month.

Calendar

| Branch Activities | September | | | | | | 2020 |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------|--------|--|------|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | |
| | 31 – Board Meeting via Zoom 6:00 pm | 1 | 2 – Alameda Authors Series 7:00 PM | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| 6 – | 7 – Labor Day | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 – Luncheon Virtual Gathering 11:15 AM | |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 - Ethnic Dining Group Virtual Gathering 6:00 PM | |
| 20 | 21 - Afternoon Books 1:30pm | 22 – Evening Books 7:15 PM | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 – Garden Club Virtual Gathering 11:00 AM | |
| 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.

Thank You Letters from Scholarship Recipients

I am deeply honored to be the recipient of the AAUW of Alameda in Memory of Patti Heimburger Scholarship. As a low-income, Filipina immigrant, who continues to strive for higher education, this scholarship means a lot to me.

Moving to the United States with a low socio-economic background has always been a struggle for me. I had to take multiple jobs in order to achieve my educational goals. With this, I have realized the value of a college education. My plan at this moment is to earn an AA-T Degree in Psychology and apply for transfer with the same major to the University of California in Berkeley or Davis in Fall 2020. The award will give me an opportunity to be able to do more volunteer work in my community. I will also use the money to buy school supplies, books, and other materials needed for my classes.

Once again, thank you for choosing me as the recipient of this scholarship. I am fully committed to achieving my educational goals. I will make sure that I will use this scholarship for the betterment of my community and my education. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Sincerely,
Pauline Roxas

I am humbled and honored to be a recipient of the 2020 Peralta College Foundation Patti Heimburger AAUW College of Alameda Study Abroad Scholarship. I want to share my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude for your continued support to students who need it most. I was thrilled to learn that I was selected as a recipient of your scholarship.

I am a Public Health major with an emphasis on policy. My life's dream is to pursue a career in Public health within my community of Alameda County upon graduating from the California State East Bay. I am currently a junior carrying 25 units and plan to graduate in the spring. Thanks to you, I am one step closer to that goal.

This year I have the privilege of being accepted to multiple study abroad programs. They include Belize, Japan, and Peru and because of donors like you, I am able to attend. Studying abroad is important because it is an experience that I know will change my life, not just as a student but as an individual. When the world is your classroom, you gain an unparalleled education. As someone who studied in Egypt and Jamaica, I wholeheartedly encourage and promote study abroad learning. This type of world knowledge is irreplaceable. Your worldview is subsequently enriched in culture, academics, business, and in life. As a mother of a four-year-old daughter, I now have the knowledge and tools needed to introduce new avenues of learning to my daughter. One day she will follow in my footsteps.

Your AAUW scholarship has opened a door and the prospect of a brighter future for me. Which then will play a key role in shaping me into a flourishing person in the future. By allocating me this scholarship, you have lifted my financial burden, which allows me to focus more on the crucial aspect of school, learning. Donors like you make life brighter for us, and I can only hope

that one day, I too will be in a position to bring a smile to another needy student. Your admirable generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I vow to come back from my time on study abroad and assist other students to achieve their goals. Just like others who help me on my journey.

I cannot express my gratitude enough, and I want you to know that your generous support will see me achieve my dreams.

Sincerely,
Maya Johnson

Thank you very much for allowing me to be the honored recipient of the Patti Heimbürger AAUW College of Alameda Scholarship. I am very grateful to accept this award. Receiving the email that announced I have been chosen took me for a great surprise.

I am very humbled to accept this award. This will be the second time I have won and it makes me feel very special that you have acknowledged my hard work and dedication. I initially applied for this scholarship to study abroad however, everything in our lives has taken a twist.

Due to the Coronavirus-19, all school classes have now become online zoom classes, study abroad classes have been cancelled, and many of our finances are changing. With bills and rent presenting themselves we are left in the unknown. I plan to use this money to pay the bills that are needed so I can comfortably finish spring semester 2020.

Again, thank you again for believing in me. I can honestly say you have made a big impact on my life. I plan to remain dedicated to my education not letting you or myself down. I hope in the future I am able to become a member of AAUW so I can in return make another woman feel the happiness you have all made me feel. It would also be nice if one day we can have a luncheon, share stories and allow me to thank you all personally. May we all stay safe, healthy and resilient during this time.

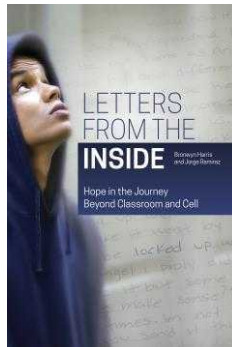
Sincerely,
Kristina Mendes

*AAUW Alameda Branch and Friends of the
Alameda Free Library present*

Alameda Authors Series IV



Bronwyn Harris
on her new nonfiction
*Letters from the Inside:
Hope Beyond the Classroom and the Cell*



September 2, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

Online via Zoom invitation!

Reservations required:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BiqCBneNRjei82bH6TVxjA

For more information, please contact AAUW Alameda at alameda-ca@aauw.net or see our Web site <https://alameda-ca.aauw.net/Event>

Telephone: 510.463.4966 Kevis Brownson (leave message)

Details:

The fourth annual Alameda Authors Series, sponsored by, [AAUW Alameda](#) and the [Friends of the Alameda Free Library](#), continues with nonfiction writer and teacher [Bronwyn Harris](#).



Ms. Harris will speak about *Letters from the Inside: Hope Beyond the Classroom and the Cell*, co-authored with "Jorge Martinez," a former student from her East Oakland classroom.

Ms. Harris' previous work, *Literally Unbelievable: Stories from an East Oakland Classroom*, was published in 2016, and has been provided to state legislators as a reference on conditions in public schools.

About the book:

When Bronwyn Harris finally gets approval to visit her former third-grade student, Jorge, in prison, she doesn't know what to expect. After telling his story in her first book, *Literally Unbelievable: Stories from an East Oakland Classroom*, Harris worries that he will be upset or angered by her portrayal of him. Instead, in a captivating series of letters between a teacher and student, he shares incredible vulnerability while providing details of his life while growing up in East Oakland.

About the author:

Bronwyn Harris began her teaching career in East Oakland in January 2000, teaching first-graders who had already gone through one teacher and six substitutes during that school year. In the first five minutes of teaching, one student threw a book at her head and she realized she had no set curriculum with which to teach them. In addition, she was a "roving teacher," meaning that she moved classrooms every three weeks.

Teaching at this school did not get easier as she transitioned into teaching third grade, but the students were incredible: creative, thoughtful, loving, angry, at-risk, misunderstood, valuable, and overlooked. After eight principals in less than eight years, Harris had to face the fact that she couldn't keep working in such an environment and left the school district, but has stayed in touch with many of her students.

For more information, please contact AAUW Alameda at alameda-ca@aauw.net or see our Web site at <https://alameda-ca.aauw.net/>

Event telephone: 510.463.4966 Kevis Brownson (leave message)