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2020-21 BOARD**
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Alameda Branch News

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

October 2020

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October Luncheon Update

New monthly lecture/luncheon series.

On **October 10, 2020, at 11:15 am**, AAUW-Alameda Branch will host the second of this year's monthly Virtual Luncheons, featuring Bill Smith, Program Chair for the League of Women Voters of Alameda, on the Zoom platform. All Branch Members who have an e-mail address on file will receive an invitation to register for the Luncheon on September 25. Mr. Smith will discuss the Schools & Communities First Initiative, Proposition 15. This measure will appear on the November 3, 2020 General Election ballot. The measure closes commercial property tax loopholes without affecting homeowners or renters, and reclaims \$12 billion every year for California's schools, essential workers, and local governments.

- Submitted by Lena Tam and 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

Let's face it. We live in extraordinary times -- in virtual quarantine due to an aggressive virus and a Global Pandemic. Unusually aggressive lightning storms sparked unprecedented fires and poor air quality followed, due to the smoke. Now, as I write this, a heat wave is upon us with rolling blackouts threatened. How do we survive under these conditions? We keep focused, that's how.

Here is the third, and final, sentence of our Organization's Mission Statement:

"AAUW aims to achieve **Equity** through practical solutions in education, workplaces, and communities."

Just over 100 years ago, white women were united with their right to vote in municipal, state, and federal elections. Programs and activism, by AAUW and other philanthropic organizations, have been at the forefront in the struggle to go beyond that first, bold step to ensure voting rights for ALL women and to continue the quest for protection of human and civil rights and true Equity for all citizens.

So, through the strange and difficult times ahead, let's stay focused on our Mission. Women are still going to college – we are setting up to increase our scholarships for higher education and special programs and trainings for women in our community. We are also providing valuable and timely information to our Members, so we can all “chip in” and win the quest for Equity.

Please continue to urge your family members, friends, neighbors, and area acquaintances to checkout our web page -- <https://alameda-ca.aauw.net/> -- for more information and instructions regarding application for Membership.

Mark Hamilton, 2020-2021 President



The Tech Trek committee hopes you were able to join us at our virtual September luncheon where we enjoyed hearing from Tech Trek alumnae. This was a first for us as we normally have the summer's campers present on their recent experiences. Talking with our alumnae however, gave us an opportunity to hear about the long-term impact of Tech Trek that goes beyond the love of STEM such as lasting self-confidence, ongoing friendships with other young women interested in science, and the ability to recognize the importance of your own interests and values. It's amazing and gratifying to hear that this one week in a girl's life can lead to such growth!

Thanks to our Tech Trek committee members, Linda Preminger, Shuba Fanse, Carolee Ziegenhagen, Lesley Batzloff and Liz London for their help this year and welcome to new committee member Jennifer Ayres.

If you weren't able to attend the luncheon, you can still show your support by going to the Tech Trek section of our website, scroll down and click on the "Donate" button 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. Tech Trek is a 501c3 nonprofit so donations are tax deductible. You will receive a thank you letter with the Tech Trek tax ID number. The cost for each girl is \$1,000 so we have to raise \$5,000 to \$6,000 each year and the branch members are major supporters! The Tech Trek camp allows girls to live like a college student for a week at Sonoma State University and experience STEM (**S**cience, **T**echnology, **E**ngineering and **M**ath) through hands-on learning and interactions with women working in STEM as well as getting to know other girls who share their enthusiasm and focus.

Barbara Krummel, Tech Trek Coordinator

ANNOUNCEMENTS/Future Events

Monday, October 5 -- **October Board Meeting** -- ALL WELCOME -- Invitations to Register were sent, via e-mail, to all Members on September 21.

Saturday, October 10 -- **Virtual Luncheon Meeting and Program** -- Invitations to register will be sent, via e-mail, to all Members on September 25

Wednesday, September 30 - Thursday, October 1 -- **Alameda Policing: Nuts and Bolts**
AAUW-Alameda and the League of Women Voters of Alameda invite you to a two-part moderated discussion with the Alameda Police Department.

Our goal is to educate Alamedans about current police operations and policies so that our community can make informed decisions about proposed reforms

Both discussions will be pre-recorded and posted.

The videos will be 90 minutes in length, and the first part of our discussion will be posted on Wednesday, 30 September, and second part will be posted on Thursday, 1 October.

Town Hall 1 September 30 7-8:30 pm

- Recruiting and Training Personnel
- Managing Police Operations

Town Hall 2 October 1 7-8:30 pm

- Establishing (or Following) Policing Procedures and Enforcing Laws
- Maintaining Public Accountability
- Meeting Challenges and Addressing Controversies

- **Lena Tam, Programs (510) 590-0248**

Author's Corner

Dear friends, family and fans,

Bob and Tom had more time on their hands while sheltering and they created a book trailer (1:35) for EXPECT DECEPTION, Book 2 of my award winning paranormal suspense series wherein the U.S. government recruits psychics to hunt down Nazi spies.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-BuyIPyq54M&t=12s>

EXPECT BETRAYAL (Book 3) (e-book 9781393579403; print 978-1-39303-469-8) | book trailer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqUtBsOgSfY>

EXPECT DECEPTION (Book 2) (e-book 978-1-63152-061-7; print 978-1-63152-060-0) | book trailer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-BuyIPyq54M&t=12s>

EXPECT TROUBLE (Book 1) (e-book 978-1-48356-197-4; print 978-1-48356-196-7; audio (Digital ISBN: 9780998749013 Digital Library ISBN: 9780998749020) | book trailer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wyCYFy0sFkQ>

THE FARMER AND THE WOOD NYMPH (Book 2) (e-book 978-1-61160-660-7; print 978-1-61160-590-7)

POLITE ENEMIES (Book 1) (e-book 978-1-61160-636-2; print 978-1-61160-898-4)

OUT OF THE DARK (Book 2) (e-book 978-1-38671-769-0)

MATILDA'S SONG (Book 1) (e-book 978-1-38669-246-1)

<https://www.joannsmithainsworth.com>

Visit Twitter @JoAnnAinsworth and Facebook's JoAnn Smith Ainsworth Fan Page and profile

Report from the AAUW California Public Policy Committee



The 2020 Election: Responsibilities and Opportunities

Responsibility: Vote and help others vote.

First you have to register. You can check your registration status online at the CA Secretary of State's website.

Then you have to vote. All registered voters in California will receive a Vote-by-Mail (VBM) ballot in early October. You have choices for using that ballot:

- 1) Complete it and mail it in – if you do this, mail early. Ballots must be postmarked by Nov 3. They have 17 days after that date to reach the Registrar's office, but the postmark must be by Nov 3. If you put it in a mailbox on Nov 3 it will not be postmarked in time. Be early!**
 - 2) Complete the ballot and drop it in an official drop box. Your Registrar of Voters will post locations of drop boxes. The Registrar regularly collects the ballots from the boxes.**
 - 3) Take your completed ballot to a Vote Center and hand it in.**
- You don't have to use the VBM ballot. You can vote in person and just hand in your unused ballot at a Vote Center.

Opportunity: Candidates - Black women and other women of color

This election gives all of us an opportunity to expand our thinking and vision by making a conscious commitment to AAUW's work for racial justice and societal change.

The coronavirus pandemic has disproportionately impacted Black Americans. We are seeing a call to address police brutality. In the face of these historic challenges, a record number of Black women are running for Congress, determined to work for change.

The Center of Women and Politics (CAWP) reports that black women are nearly 8% of the U.S. population, but 4.3% of Congress – only 22 out of 435 Representatives and 1 out of 100 Senators. They are underrepresented in statewide executive's jobs and among mayors and city councils.

This November, in addition to federal, state and county elections, local elections are on the ballot – cities, school districts, and water districts. There may be black women or women of other ethnicities on the ballot in your area. You can support women of color who are running for office in your community, state and nation. Be aware. Create an environment of inclusion. Make an effort to meet and talk with these candidates. Commend them for stepping up. Listen to their stories and their goals. Ensure they are included in election discussions and activities.

AAUW has a long tradition of advocating for positive societal change and political activism. Change is underway, and AAUW can be a part of that.

- Read our statement on racism on the AAUW website

Sources: The Washington Post, Reuters, Higher Heights for America

PLEASE NOTE:

You will soon have the opportunity to contribute to AAUW CA's Public Policy Priorities for 2021-23. All members will soon be receiving an online survey asking for your input. Please complete it by the deadline, October 15, so we can begin revising it for a member vote in April, 2021.

- **Nancy Mahr, AAUW CA Public Policy Committee**

News from Peralta Colleges Foundation re Patti Heimburger

College of Alameda Scholarships

I have just been informed by the Peralta Colleges Foundation, that manages the AAUW Alameda Patti Heimburger College of Alameda Scholarships, that they are in receipt of a major bequest from the Patti Heimburger /Shuler Family Foundation for **\$20,000 each year** for scholarships for the next three years, with the possibility of its ongoing renewal!

The Foundation has asked that our Branch recommend how these monies should be allocated. Up to now we have been giving three \$1,000 scholarships since last year when we added one specific Study Aboard scholarship. Now we have the opportunity to both expand the number of scholarships and to increase the award amount which has remained the same since 2014, while costs have increased. Please send any questions and suggestions to me as soon as possible so we can get back to the Foundation to allow them to announce the awards for this upcoming year. This will be big news for the College of Alameda and our community! pwashbou@hotmail.com

News from East Bay Community Foundation AAUW Alameda Grant

In January 2020 AAUW Alameda was granted \$10,000 per year for three years from the Patti Heimburger/ Shuler Family Foundation. These funds needed to be directed towards our Special Projects scholarships and project activities under AAUW CA management. At its August meeting the Board voted to fund three \$1,200 scholarships for our newly established College of Alameda National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) Special Project Fund.

The Board also voted to award our Tech Trek Program \$4,600 from the Foundation Grant for its 2020-2021 Fundraising campaign.

As both of these programs are fully funded for next year (and we hope that in-person activities will resume next summer), we have a new opportunity to direct our next annual grant of \$10,000 to serve our AAUW mission towards women and girls. It is a unique opportunity to partner with an Alameda nonprofit organization to find a way to expand what we are doing in the community in the spirit of Patti Heimburger's most generous gift. Please volunteer to brainstorm with us about our future grant making opportunities, by contacting Dorothy Kerwin kerwindorothy@gmail.com or Penny Washbourn at pwashbou@hotmail.com Thank you !

-- **Penny Washbourn and Dorothy Kerwin**

Branch Interest Groups

Afternoon Books

We will meet at 1:30 pm on the third Monday, October 19, to discuss books we are currently reading. **Call Kate Quick, 523-3612, for more information.**

Bridge Group

No meeting this month.

Cinema Group

4:00 pm October 4 - online Zoom meeting

Cinema Club has been meeting for Sunday film matinees for 10 years this month! For nine years we met at the Alameda Theatre. During the pandemic, we are meeting virtually on the 1st Sunday to discuss a movie broadcast on KQED channel 9 during the previous month. On October 4, we will discuss *Five Easy Pieces* that was broadcast on KQED September 12. Don't worry if you missed it - if you stream movies, it is on many of the streaming services, and is also available from the library as a DVD. Family members are welcome to our virtual event if they also watch the movie. To find out how to join us, contact kevis.brownson@gmail.com. Current members will receive an email with the Zoom link.

For November, our movie to watch on KQED in October will be *The Way We Were* with Barbra Streisand and Robert Redford. Optional secondary movie is *Dr. Strangelove*.

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

7:15 pm October 27 - online through Zoom

In October, we follow up our reading of Homer in September with *An Odyssey* by Daniel Mendelsohn, a memoir of a father and son retracing the journey of Odysseus. For information on how to participate, please email kevis.brownson@gmail.com.

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 pbiber@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 .

Many of the members of the **MUSEUM GROUP** have supported the efforts of Paula Biver's Museum Club. She just organized a docent tour sponsored by the Guggenheim Museum in New York. In addition, many of the group are participating in the Zoom art and author lectures sponsored by the Alameda Free Library, which are interesting and quite well done. To find out about these events and/or register, go to the Friends of Alameda Free Library website and click on events.

For more information, contact Judy Sparks – judysparks@comcast.net

Calendar

Branch Activities	October					2020
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			30 – Alameda Policing – Nuts and Bolts 7PM	1– Alameda Policing – Nuts and Bolts 7PM	2	3
4 – Cinema Group 4:00 PM via Zoom	5 – Board Meeting 6 PM via Zoom	6	7	8	9	10 – Luncheon Virtual Gathering 11:15 AM
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 - Ethnic Dining Group Virtual Gathering 6:00 PM
18	19 - Afternoon Books 1:30pm	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 -- Evening Books 7:15 PM	28	29	30	31 -- Halloween

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.