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[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*

*November 2020*

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Vol. 58, Issue 3



## November Luncheon Update

New monthly lecture/luncheon series.

Please join us on **Saturday, November 14 at 11:15 AM** for our lecture series. This month we are very pleased to have a member and published author, **Helen Harris**, as our guest. Please enjoy reading the materials that she has provided. To attend this event, please contact Mark Hamilton at [mdham@yahoo.com](mailto:mdham@yahoo.com) to receive your link to this event. Remember, you may invite a friend to any of our lectures as a way to introduce them to AAUW. Just let Mark know so he can send them an invitation.

- 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*

### **ESTATE PLANNING AND THE AAUW LEGACY CIRCLE CONTEST**

Established by Congress in 2008, Estate Planning Awareness Week is observed annually during the third week in October to recognize the need, importance, and benefits of estate planning. This is an important reminder to make sure your own estate plan is up to date and talk to your family members about your wishes. In a 2019 survey carried out by caring.com, 57% of adults in the United States say that they don't have a will or trust, even though 76% of people surveyed think estate planning is important.

Estate planning is often a difficult subject to broach, as it raises the unpleasant topics of aging and death. Creating an estate plan can provide peace of mind for you and your loved ones by ensuring that your life savings will be protected, plans are in place in the event of an illness, and property is passed down as you wish. Some Members may wish to donate a part of their estate to AAUW to help assure that it can continue its important work. Whether you would like to learn more about estate planning in general or tax-wise ways to include AAUW as a part of your legacy, we are here to help. You may contact Heather Miller, AAUW Advancement Director at -- [millerh@aauw.org](mailto:millerh@aauw.org) -- if you have questions.

The Legacy Circle is AAUW's recognition society for visionary members who are committed to advancing equity for women and girls long into the future by bequeathing some portion of their estate to AAUW. Heather Miller, Judy Horan -- [queenjah@pacbell.net](mailto:queenjah@pacbell.net) -- and Charmin Goehring - [charminme@yahoo.com](mailto:charminme@yahoo.com) -- of the AAUW Legacy Circle team are available to assist you. You can also find information on AAUW's website -- <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/support-aauw/leave-a-legacy/>.

Also, don't forget our state **Legacy Circle Contest**- only two months left to join the fun! **The Branch with the most new Legacy Circle members will enjoy special recognition as well as a unique and engaging Zoom call with Heather Miller, Dianne Owens, and more!!**

Charmin Goehring, N. California Legacy Circle Liaison -- [charminme@yahoo.com](mailto:charminme@yahoo.com) -- can answer questions.

Mark Hamilton, AAUW-Alameda Branch President


## Nuts and Bolts: Policing in Alameda

The recorded Community Forums that AAUW-Alameda Branch and the League of Women Voters of Alameda jointly planned and co-sponsored premiered on September 30 and October 1. The Forums provided accurate, up-to-date information on the policies and procedures of the Alameda Police Department, statistics regarding Police interactions within the Community, and insight into opportunities and challenges that lie ahead for the Department.

If you were unable to “attend” the premieres, not to worry! They are available on the League of Women Voters of Alameda website: <https://LWVAlameda.org/CE>

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ALAMEDA **AAUW** ALAMEDA LOCAL BRANCH

**Nuts & Bolts:  
Policing in Alameda**



**Facebook.com/LWVAlameda  
or LWVAlameda.org/CE**

- **Part 1 Premiere: 7pm, Wed. Sep 30**
- **Part 2 Premiere: 7pm, Thu. Oct 1**

Or watch anytime after these premieres

Get more info: [LWVAlameda.org/CE](https://LWVAlameda.org/CE)

## SB 973 Signed by the Governor!

In 2018, AAUW co-sponsored a bill requiring companies with more than 100 employees to collect and report to the Department of Fair Employment and Housing data on:

1. The number of employees by race, ethnicity, and sex for 10 job categories;
2. The number of employees by race, ethnicity, and sex, whose annual earnings fall within certain pay bands;
3. The total number of hours worked by each employee counted in each pay band during the reporting year.

The purpose of the bill is “to allow for designated state agencies to collect wage data to more efficiently identify wage patterns and allow for targeted enforcement of equal pay or discrimination laws.” The bill failed in 2019, and was re-introduced last year by the same author, Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara), and was signed by Governor Newsom on September 30<sup>th</sup> – the last day in the last hour!

**Fifteen other AAUW California-supported bills were also signed by the Governor**, including: improved medical care for incarcerated pregnant women (**AB732**); protection for women testifying in sexual assault cases from having their testimony of alcohol or drug use at the time of the assault used against them in a separate prosecution (**AB1927**); addition of “sexual harassment” as a form of prohibited sex discrimination in higher education (**SB493**); and expansion of the California Family Rights Act to require any employer with 5 or more employees to grant a request by an employee to take up to 12 workweeks of unpaid protected leave during any 12-month period to bond with a new child or to care for themselves or a child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner (**SB1383**).

Finally, as part of our “white allyship” posture, we are proud to have supported six bills that were enacted to address racial injustice and/or to enhance opportunities for Black women: **AB979**, requiring corporations to include a specified number of members from underrepresented communities on their boards of directors; **AB1196 and AB1506**, regulating police use of force; **AB1460**, requiring ethnic studies as a graduation requirement in CSU schools; **AB3070**,

addressing discriminatory use of peremptory challenges in jury selection; and **AB3121**, establishing a task force to study and develop reparation proposals.

You can find additional information on these and all our 2019-20 bills on “Capitol Track” on our website.

By Kathi Harper, AAUW California Public Policy Co-Chair

## Your 2020 Ballot

If you’re wondering which way to vote on the many propositions and measures on this year’s ballot, below are some recommendations from the Alameda League of Women Voters, one of our sister organizations.

## Vote with the League



The League only takes a stance on ballot measures based on current League positions. Recommendations for State ballot measures are considered by the LWV of California Legislation Committee, and approved by its Board. Recommendations for County ballot measures are considered by the LWV Alameda County Council, and approved by the six local Leagues in Alameda County. Recommendations for City of Alameda ballot measures are considered by the LWV of Alameda Action Committee and approved by the LWV of Alameda Board.

See League recommendations for the California 2020 General Elections below.

### State Propositions (no recommendations on Prop 14, Prop 21, Prop 22, or Prop 23):

- [Yes on Prop 15: Schools & Communities First](#)
- [Yes on Prop 16: Opportunity for All](#)
- [Yes on Prop 17: Restore Voting Rights](#)
- [Yes on Prop 18: Voting Rights for 17-Year Olds](#)
- [No on Prop 19: Property Tax Breaks](#)
- [No on Prop 20: Rollback on Criminal Justice Reforms](#)
- [No on Prop 24: Consumer Data Privacy](#)
- [Yes on Prop 25: End Cash Money Bail](#)
- [Read and share League recommendations on all State Propositions](#)

### Local Ballot Measures (City of Alameda voters):

- [Yes on City of Alameda Measure AA](#)
- [Yes on City of Alameda Measure Z](#)

-- Barbara Krummel

## Interest Group Spotlight – Great Decisions Group

Are you interested in world affairs and want to have scintillating discussions about how to solve the world's problems? Join us and enjoy studying 8 topics chosen and researched by the Foreign Policy Association.

The mission of the Foreign Policy Association today, as it has been for over 100 years, is to serve as a catalyst for developing awareness, understanding, and informed opinion on U.S. foreign policy and global issues. Through its balanced, nonpartisan programs and publications, the FPA encourages citizens to participate in the foreign policy process.

The 8 topics for Great Decisions 2021 are:

- Global Supply Chains and National Security
- Persian Gulf Security Issues
- Brexit and the European Union
- Struggles Over the Melting Arctic
- China's Role in Africa
- The Korean Peninsula
- Roles of International Organizations in a Global Pandemic
- The end of globalization?

If you are interested, let me know at [kerwindorothy@gmail.com](mailto:kerwindorothy@gmail.com)

-Dorothy Kerwin

## ANNOUNCEMENTS/Future Events

NOTE: All Events will be virtual (on the Zoom platform) until further notice.

Tuesday, October 27, 7:00 pm -- **Evening Books Group**

Sunday, November 1, 4:00 pm -- **Cinema Club**

Monday, November 2, 6:00 pm -- **November Board Meeting** -- ALL WELCOME

Saturday, November 7, 11:00 am – **AAUW Scholarship Award Winners Meetup**

Saturday, November 14, 11:15 am -- **Virtual Luncheon Meeting and Program**

Monday, November 16, 1:30 pm -- **Afternoon Books Group**

Thursday, November 19, 9:30 am – **Museum Group**

Friday, November 20, 1:00 pm – **Gardening Club**

Saturday, November 21, 6:00 pm -- **Ethnic Dining Group**

Tuesday, November 24, 7:00 pm -- **Evening Books Group**

Saturday, December 12, 11:15 am – **December Luncheon** - Please save the date for our holiday celebration. Lena and I are planning a lovely event. If you have any suggestions to help make this a special/fun event over zoom, please contact me at [pbiwer@yahoo.com](mailto:pbiwer@yahoo.com) or text (510)918-8577.

### College of Alameda Scholarship News

We have just received the exciting news that the Peralta Colleges Foundation has received a \$20,000 annual grant from Patti Heimburger's Trust to be used for the Patti Heimburger College of Alameda Scholarships! **Our branch has advised the Foundation to establish five (5) annual transfer scholarships of \$4,000.00 each, with priority given to Alameda residents.** These transfer scholarships are open to second year students with 3.0 grade point average, preparing to transfer to a university to complete their bachelors' degrees.

These awards will make a significant difference in the lives of transfer students and improve their chances of academic success by reducing the number of hours they must work to meet their basic expenses and reducing their student debt.

As a result of the new funding of the Patti Heimburger Scholarships, the Board has voted to continue the Branch fundraising efforts for the Study Abroad scholarships, also provided for College of Alameda students. **We will support two annual Study Abroad scholarships at \$1,500.00 each.** (Students will still be expected to raise some of their own funds, since some courses cost more than \$3,000)

### **News from Fundraising and East Bay Community Foundation (EBCF) Committees.**

January 2020 our Branch received a three year annual \$10,000 grant from the EBCF from Patti Heimburger's estate to be designated for scholarships. The Branch established a new scholarship program to develop College of Alameda student leaders by supporting their attendance at the AAUW National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) held annually in late May at the University of Maryland. Three exceptional candidates were selected, but the conference was cancelled due to COVID. They have the option to attend this coming summer, should the conference resume. \$5,400.00 of the grant was allocated to this fund this program and remains in the budget for next year. \$4,600.00 was designated for the Branch Tech Trek program and will help fund future Tech Trek scholarships. The joint committee has begun brainstorming about the allocation of the \$10,000 for this coming year and is considering a number of options for partnerships with non-profit organizations in Alameda to provide programs and educational scholarships for students. This is a wonderful opportunity to expand AAUW Alameda's service to the community as an expression of the AAUW mission and to reflect Patti Heimburger's interests and passions. We so grateful her legacy will continue to expand and we will have a part in sharing her generosity with the community that she loved.

**Meet the Scholarship Award Winners on Zoom Sat. Nov 7, 11am!**

**Penny Washbourn will host a Zoom meet up with the students who were awarded our AAUW Alameda scholarships last Spring and invite all members to participate for an hour. Email her if you would like to attend and she will send you a link. [pwashbou@hotmail.com](mailto:pwashbou@hotmail.com)**

--Penny Washbourn

## Branch Interest Groups

### **Afternoon Books**

We will meet at 1:30 pm on the third Monday, November 16, 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 November 1 - online Zoom meeting

During the pandemic, we are meeting virtually on the 1st Sunday to discuss a movie broadcast on KQED channel 9 during the previous month. 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](mailto:kevis.brownson@gmail.com). Current members will receive an email with the Zoom link. For November, our movie to watch on KQED will be *Dr. Strangelove* shown on KQED October 24 and 31.

### **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](mailto:mdham21@yahoo.com)**

### **Evening Books**

7:00 pm October 27 - online through Zoom

7:00 pm November 24 - online through Zoom

For information on how to participate, please email [kevis.brownson@gmail.com](mailto: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**

We held our second monthly meeting in October. Our club members range from novices to experienced gardeners with an interest in growing a wide variety of plants, herbs, flowers and vegetables. We are currently meeting using Zoom on the third Friday of the month, with some "socially distant" gardening-related field trips planned for the future. Our next meeting will be at 1pm on November 20 when we'll be sharing how to create some plant-based holiday gifts. All are welcome, so please join us for our November meeting. Zoom joining details will be sent separately. Contact Paula Biber [pbiwer@yahoo.com](mailto:pbiwer@yahoo.com) (510)918-8577 for more information.

### **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)**

**Museum Group**

On Thursday, November 19. the museum group will travel to the DeYoung Museum to see the Frida Kahlo exhibit "Appearances Can Be Deceiving". We will drive in two cars, wearing masks and doing social distancing as best we can. We will eat lunch as they have outdoor seating. Bring your own water. Meet at the Ross Parking Lot for a 9:30 am sharp departure.

**For more information, contact Judy Sparks – 510-526-6736 or [judysparks@comcast.net](mailto:judysparks@comcast.net)**

**Calendar**

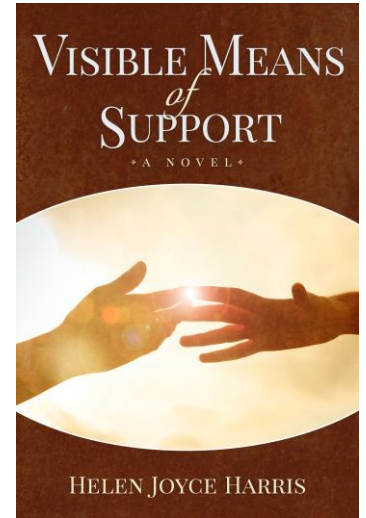
Branch Activities	November						2020
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1—Cinema Club 4PM	2--- Board Meeting 6 PM via Zoom	3--VOTE	4	5	6	7—Scholarship Award Winners Meetup 11 AM	
8--	9 –	10	11	12	13	14--Luncheon Virtual Gathering 11:15 AM	
15	16 -- Afternoon Books 1:30pm	17	18	19 – Museum Group 9:30am	20— Garden Club 1PM	21 - Ethnic Dining Group Virtual Gathering 6:00 PM	
22	23	24—Evening Books 7:00 pm	25	26 -Thanksgiving 	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.





## Helen Joyce Harris



Alameda resident Helen Joyce Harris's teaching/writing career spans 44 years. She has a B.A. in American Literature from Stanford, a teaching credential through UC Berkeley, and an MFA in Writing from the University of Montana.

Beginning in 1971, she taught English in Alameda for 22 years at both Chipman Middle School and Encinal High School.

In 1993 she took a leave from the AUSD to do graduate work in writing in Missoula, MT, during which time she completed her novel, ***Visible Means of Support***, which was agented in 1995 but whose publication would take another 25 years.

From Missoula, she moved to Colorado Springs, where she taught college composition. In 2000 she returned to the Bay Area to begin similar work at both Oakland's Laney College and, later, at Alameda's Argosy University.

She has been published in *Signs of Hope*, *Writer's Market*, AARP's *Modern Maturity*, *The English Journal*, and *California English*. She has also midwived half a dozen other writers' books to publication.

She's married, lives in Marina Village, and has three sons, five stepkids, two grandsons, and a great-granddaughter.

***Visible Means of Support*** is available as a paperback or as an Ebook from either Amazon.com or BarnesandNoble.com. Alameda's Books Inc. also carries the novel.

Helen Joyce Harris

983 Independence Drive, Alameda CA 94501

(510) 748-9087 cell: (510) 205-4980

[helenrav4@yahoo.com](mailto:helenrav4@yahoo.com)

Amazon review - ***Visible Means of Support*** - 5.0 out of 5 stars Page-turner alert!

Well, I breezed through this book, eager each night to check in with the family and read the latest news about Adam Fiske's drug bust, his schoolteacher mother's shame, and her elderly, patrician mother's suspicions. Yes, middle-class white life in the San Francisco Bay Area is turned upside down when your blue-eyed boy runs afoul of the law. Work, marriage, holidays—all crumble behind the facade of normality. Harris captures this drama superbly, conveying the humorous

and depressing inner monologues, banter, and cutting remarks that characterize such a wrenching experience. "My son the felon." There's no getting used to it. But there is time and growth. Yet this is not just a mother's story. The POV shifts seamlessly among the three principal characters, surrounded as they each are by co-workers, lovers, neighbors, sibs, and cellmates. The ditzy, classy, needy girlfriend Christie is like a Rorschach test, read differently by all parties. What a delicious supporting role she plays! The scenes shift from Oakland to Texarkana to Denver and provide a potent reminder that the drug wars of the 1980s created a lot of collateral damage which crossed race and class lines like an ill-gotten Porsche weaving through East Bay traffic.

Vincent DiGirolamo, Ph.D, New York 1-31-2020