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Alameda Branch News

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

February 2021

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February Luncheon Update



EDUCATION FUND ZOOM LECTURE presented by Maria Jose Navarrete from Ecuador

Saturday, February 13 at 11 AM

Please join us for this very special presentation by a young scientist who is currently working in her home country of Ecuador in a jungle environment. She is a naturalist by passion, a conservationist by conviction, and a biologist by a complex mixture of curiosity, hard work and chance. Her passion for nature and an intrinsic curiosity for deciphering it, coupled with growing up in Ecuador, one of the Earth's biodiversity hotspots, have steered her endeavors towards becoming a scientist. What excites her the most about her profession is that it encourages a profound and transformative process of creativity for the noble pursuit of knowledge. In the biological sciences, the source of her inspiration is rooted in the beauty and complexity of the natural world. She feels overwhelming passion and gratitude for this academic path, and it is this fulfillment that drives her to build a better world.

Find out more about Maria by looking at the last page of this newsletter.

If you wish to participate, you must **Register in Advance**, via link:

<https://slusd-us.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAoc-iplrTquH9VIHsf073HOzqwKzml1tF3PC>

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

February 2021

As many of you already know, I was fortunate enough to have been appointed to serve a two-year term on the AAUW National Inclusion & Equity Committee last fall. This is an advisory committee to the National Board of Directors. It was formed to support the Board in its efforts to work toward the achievement of this goal:

AAUW seeks to promote inclusion and awareness for all members to create an equitable, sustainable and inclusive membership reflective of today's world.

As Maya Angelou said, "In diversity, there is beauty and there is strength." AAUW works to actively respect and celebrate the diversity of our Members, with the sincere belief that it represents the backbone of our organization. AAUW is dedicated to helping Members become more comfortable sharing their perspectives in all Association program and training venues and to address diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) in all aspects of their personal lives and work activities.

The AAUW Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) resources aim to identify best practices for promoting diversity, equity and inclusion within AAUW. These resources present guidelines for how AAUW Branches, National and State Members, Student Members and Individual Members can demonstrate an understanding of AAUW's Mission, Values, Goals and Strategic Plan.

The **Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Toolkit** was developed by the Inclusion & Equity Committee to function as a "roadmap" for our State and Local Branches to use when addressing recruitment and retention of Members, with an eye to building diversity and helping potential Members to more easily "find their places" and find their voices within our Organization.

You can read all about the Toolkit on the AAUW National website:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/dei-toolkit/>

To help "get the word out" to State and Local leaders, the Inclusion & Equity Committee is planning **two informational Zoom webinars, one this month (February, 2021) and the other in April**. At this writing, the details are being worked out. Be on the lookout for registration and participation information for these webinars. Notification will be sent out for the February webinar soon, via e-mail, from our Public Policy Coordinator, Donna Vaughn.

-Mark D. Hamilton, 2020-2021 President, Alameda Branch

2069? 2369? 2451?



WHEN WILL THE GENDER PAY GAP BE CLOSED?

How long will it take? What can we do to make it happen sooner rather than later? These are questions that AAUW has been grappling with for decades. As we mark Equal Pay Day on March 31st, perhaps there is hope that we can make progress in decreasing the gender pay gap in 2021, given a new administration that is committed to social justice and leveling the growing disparity between the haves and have not. We also now have women in the highest echelons of national leadership; and as we all know, when women are in charge, things get done!

According to the 2020 update to AAUW's *The Simple Truth*, it will take white women until the year 2069 to achieve parity with men based on the projected earnings ratio compiled between 1988-2019. For women of color the numbers are even worse. Black women will have to wait until the year 2369 – 350 years – as their earnings ratio has only advanced a mere 7% from 1988-2019. And Latinas find themselves in the worse scenario as their earnings ratio has only increased 4% from 51% to 55% during this period of time, projecting their year of parity to 2451! (AAUW, *The Simple Truth* 2020 update)

The reasons for these disparities in the gender wage gap are known – and understanding what's causing the problem is the first step to meeting it head on. Members are urged to read the summary of *The Simple Truth* update on our National website which lays out the problem, its causes and solutions. https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2020/10/SimpleTruth_1.8.pdf

AAUW is leading the charge to effectuate change and you are part of the solution with the work your branches undertake on behalf of women and girls. The more we educate ourselves and others about the scope of this gender wage gap with programs like Start Smart, Work Smart, NCCWSL, etc., the more we chip away at the disparity. What is your branch doing to make a difference in the Gender Pay Gap? Let us know what creative ideas you have come up with to spread the word in these days of social distancing, we'll share them on the web (send to publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org).

-Ginny Hatfield, AAUW California Public Policy Committee

Interest Group Spotlight – Dirt Divas!



Come join our Zoom meeting on February 19 to learn all about **WORMS!** Worms are truly nature's wonder workers. It is a fact that good soil is full of red worms. Attend this workshop to discover more about vermiculture, composting, worm tea and much more. Presented by Jim Shaw from Uncle Jim's Worm Farm: <https://unclejimswormfarm.com/>

When: Friday, Feb 19, 2021 1:00 PM.

Register in advance for this meeting via link: [Worm Composting](#) . After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/Future Events

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

Monday, February 1, 6:00 pm – **Board Meeting** – ALL WELCOME !

Non-board members may contact Mark Hamilton mdham21@yahoo.com for Zoom Link

Sunday, February 7, 4:00 pm -- **Cinema Club**

Saturday, February 13, 11:00 am -- **February Luncheon**

Monday, February 15, 1:30 pm – **Afternoon Books Group**

Thursday, February 18, 6:30 pm - **Aileen Rizo Supreme Court Decision Presentation** – see flyer

Friday, February 19, 1:00 pm – **Dirt Divas/Gardening Club**

Saturday, February 20, 6:00 pm -- **Ethnic Dining Group**

Tuesday, February 23, 7:00 pm -- **Evening Books Group**

Wednesday, March 24 – **Virtual Lobby Day**

Tuesday-Wednesday, May 25-26 – **National Conference for College Women Student Leaders**

News from AAUW NCCWSL - 2021 Conference

The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders this year will be a fully virtual conference on May 25-26, 2021.

The keynote speaker is Dr. Brittney Cooper, author, associate professor at Rutgers University, activist and cultural critic. She is the author of NYT best seller "Eloquent Rage"2018. She is a strong advocate for women's equity whose message on feminism, race and power has received wide attention by national media, including her recent article in Time magazine.

The program includes recognition of other women of distinction and workshops and panels and a STEM roundtable. The preregistration fee is \$95 from January 15- February 27, 2021

All former AAUW Alameda NCCCWSL scholarship award winners are eligible to attend. Please contact Penny Washbourn pwashbou@hotmail.com before February 15 so she can register you.

As fees are so low, we can support offering scholarships to other local women college students, such as graduates of our Tech Trek program . Members are encouraged to nominate undergraduate or graduate students who could benefit. Please check aauw.org for NCCWSL information.

--Penny Washbourn , NCCWSL Coordinator

IN MEMORIUM

Two outstanding ladies have departed from the ranks of AAUW active members:

Betty Snider, past president 1979-1981. Passed on December 24, 2020

Doris Broughton, athlete and leader of one of the section groups, Tennis at Krusi Park, passed on Dec. 29, 2020

As a new member I joined the tennis group and fondly remember a fabulous foursome playing on a Friday, Kay Cossette, former AHS teacher, Betty, Doris and myself, Gwen Pirack

Branch Interest Groups

Afternoon Books

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

Bridge Group No meeting this month.

Cinema Club

Cinema Club meets February 7 at 4:00 pm to discuss the movie *On the Waterfront* (shown on KQED 1/9). For more information about the group, please contact Kevis at kevis.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

The 4th Tuesday Evening Book group meets at 7:00 pm February 23 via Zoom, to discuss *The Guest Book* by Sarah Blake. For more information about the group, please contact Kevis at kevis.brownson@gmail.com.
For a list of the remaining books this year, please visit link:
<https://alameda-ca.aauw.net/book-club/>

Dirt Divas/Garden Club

Friday, February 19 – Dirt Divas (Branch Gardening Club) – Learn all about worm composting in a Zoom meeting presented by Jim Gaffigan from Uncle Jim's Worm Farm
Contact Paula Biwer 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**

Museum Group

The **MUSEUM GROUP** will not have a planned activity in February. Please check the Friends of the Alameda Free Library website for docent art and author webinars.

Here are the dates and titles for February:

Monday, Feb. 8 -- 7:00 - 8:00 -- Hidden in Plain View --The African American Experience.

Wednesday, Feb. 10 -- 7:00 - 8:00 -- Elsa Hart Discusses Her Books.

Wednesday, Feb. 17 -- 7:00 - 8:00 -- Robin Sloan Discusses

"Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore" and "Sourdough".

Wednesday, Feb. 24 -- 7:00 - 8:00 --Revelations: Art From the African American South.

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

Calendar

Branch Activities	February						2021
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	1—Board Meeting 6:00 PM	2	3	4	5	6	
7– Cinema Club 4:00 PM	8	9	10	11	12	13-Luncheon via Zoom 11:00 AM	
14	15- Afternoon Books 1:30PM	16	17	18-Aileen Rizo SC Decision 6:30 PM	19-Dirt Divas 1:00 PM	20 -Ethnic Dining Group 6:00PM	
21	22	23-- Evening Book Club 7:00 PM	24	25	26	27	
28							

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.

PROGRESS MADE by GOOD TROUBLE

Passionate Voice
for
EQUITY

What would you do if you won your US Supreme Court Pay Equity case?



Come hear Aileen Rizo's story of her 8-year fight for pay equity, and how she remains a passionate voice for equity, diversity, and inclusiveness.

Aileen was born in Phoenix, Arizona and embraces both her Native American and Mexican heritage. First in her family to finish college, she earned master's degrees in educational technology and Mathematics Education. Aileen spent 23 years working in mathematics education striving to close academic achievement gaps, and promoting groups underrepresented in STEM fields. In 2012, she began a fight, supported in part by AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund, for pay equity and became an advocate for the economic security of women in our state and throughout the country. She is a wife and mother of three girls currently working as the Associate Director of The AIMS Center for Math and Science, plus pursuing a PhD in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) Education.

THURSDAY • FEB 18 • 6:30 PM
Register in Advance
<https://tinyurl.com/AileenRizo>

Hosted by Alameda County Inter-Branch Council.



After registering you will receive an email with instructions about joining the meeting.

For information about donating to the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund, see <http://bit.ly/LAEdonateRizo>

Call (510) 435-6150. Admission is free but seating is limited. Event is open to the public.

AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.



Maria Jose Navarrete

Maria is particularly interested in the study of amphibians and reptiles. She received her bachelor's degree at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador (PUCE) in Quito. Her senior research in frog systematics led to a thesis in biogeography titled "Systematics of the *Pristimantis chloronotus* species group (Anura: Craugastoridae) with insights into their historical biogeography". Currently, She is retooling her previous work and focusing on the study of the role that Andean orogeny has played on the diversification dynamics of three species groups of *Pristimantis* distributed through altitudinal gradients, from cloud forest to high-altitude environments (i.e., páramo). She has officially finished the first semester of her PhD program at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, within the Integrative Biology program at UC Berkeley. This fall semester, she took classes in Evolution, organismal microbiome and host-pathogen interactions, academic professional development, and pedagogy. Though she has only just started her program, she is finishing up a side project that she has been working on since late 2019 with her advisor, Rebecca Tarvin, where they investigate opsin evolution across amphibians, with a particular emphasis on clades of aposematic frogs. She also worked on a science outreach project with her lab over the summer, where they developed "Amphibioscope" a daily horoscope bot in Twitter that infuses Artificial Intelligence-generated horoscopes with amphibian life-history data from AmphibiaWeb (<https://amphibiaweb.org/>) for science communication and entertainment purposes. For her dissertation, she is interested in studying the genetic and environmental mechanisms underlying the evolution of novel traits which characterize instances of phenotypic diversification and convergence, particularly in Andean ecosystems. Along with her professional aspirations, she is committed to protecting biological richness through science, empowering indigenous communities and women through conservation, and fostering gender equality in academia.

