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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*

January 2021

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## January Update



### Holiday luncheon a huge success!

Thanks to all of our members who stayed in to join our zoom holiday celebration and to support a local restaurant, Dragon Rouge. We had great conversations, enjoyed seeing many dear friends and learned how to make decorative holiday gift wrapping paper using a potato.

There is no lecture luncheon in the month of January and we have a very special event for our February 13th traditional education fund meeting. Maria Jose Navarrete is an International Fellow. Her discipline is biology with an emphasis on ecology and evolution. Please save the date on your calendar and more information will be sent early next month.

*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*

### **Enrichment Opportunities from AAUW National**

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic brought unprecedented economic uncertainty, devastating public health consequences and sweeping social distancing measures to curb the spread of the virus. The crisis upended how we live, educate and work. While we were unable to meet in person this year, our virtual programming made it possible for us to connect with more AAUW members and supporters than ever before.

In all, we hosted 35 free webinars and virtual events, extending our reach to more than 18,000 people. As this challenging year draws to a close, we are proud of everything we accomplished together, thanks to the generous support of AAUW members, allies and corporate partners. We look forward to creating more virtual opportunities in 2021. In the meantime, we thought you might want to check out—or revisit—the top 5 member webinars in 2020:

[Holding Space: How to Start and Continue Conversations on Race, Equity and Inclusion](#) AAUW Fellow alumna Dr. Taharee Jackson leads this conversation on why being able to talk about race is critical to achieving equity.

[Interview with Diane Rehm](#) CEO Kim Churches talks with renowned radio host and author Diane Rehm about how she has managed to remain resilient in the face of challenges and loss.

[Archeology of the Self: Sustaining Racial Literacy in the Movement for Change](#) AAUW Fellow alumna Yolanda Sealy-Ruiz takes us on a collective journey of the “Archeology of the Self” — an action-oriented process requiring love, humility, reflection and a commitment to working against racial injustice.

[Is Your Perspective Inclusive?](#) Lisette Garcia, Ph.D., Pamela Fuller and Sheila Amo explore unconscious bias and what it means to have an inclusive perspective.

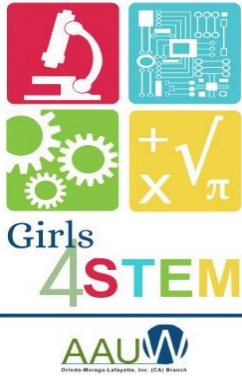
[Perspectives from the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund: Justice Ginsburg's Legacy and the Future of the Court](#) AAUW's Public Policy team discusses Justice Ginsburg's legacy and AAUW's role in shaping history.

Wishing you all the best for a safe, healthy and prosperous new year,

**Nichia P. McFarlane**

**Engagement Associate, Advancement & Partnerships  
AAUW, 1310 L Street NW, Washington, DC 20005-4113**

Adapted/Submitted by Mark Hamilton, 2020-2021 AAUW-Alameda Branch President



## Tech Trek Coordinator Update

In November, our branch received \$10,000 from the Shuler-Heimburger Family Fund, through the East Bay Community Fund, to use as at our discretion. The funds were part of a bequest from our long-time and much-loved member, Patti Heimburger. Patti was an accomplished artist active in numerous roles in AAUW-Alameda and throughout the community. She thrived on seeing young people find transformation – through art, through music, through education and sought to make the world a better, more beautiful place for all. The Fund Raising Committee (in this case more aptly named the Fund Distribution Committee) met over several months to discuss how best to share the funds with the greater Alameda community and honor Patti’s legacy. Below are the recommendations that the committee presented to the Board at the December Board meeting. All were accepted by the Board for immediate distribution except for the Jr Golf Club which requires some more information gathering. Thanks to those who participated in the process, Penny Washbourn, Cindy Silva, Susan Myers, Karen Kenney, Marilyn Sharron, Dorothy Kerwin, Mark Hamilton and Mary Oppedahl. We feel that Patti would be proud of our choices:

- **Alameda Education Foundation (AEF), \$2000**, to fund the purchase of sets of oil, pastel, watercolor and acrylic paints and other art supplies for students enrolled in Art 1 and 2 at Encinal Jr. & Sr. High School (this was presented as a motion and passed at the November Board meeting).
- **PEO, two scholarships at \$1,500 each for a total of \$3,000**. PEO is a local branch of the national Philanthropic Educational Organization that provides scholarships to women. We would have representatives to participate in the selection process. We want to focus on women reentering education and give priority to candidates who are pursuing careers in education and are part of an underrepresented population.
- **Alameda Girls Softball Association (AGSA), \$1,000** which provides scholarships to girls to allow them to participate.
- **Girls Inc. of the Island City, \$1,000**, to be designated for use by Eureka!, a STEM oriented program for teens. Specifically, the Teen Program Director requested funds for STEM materials to support the ongoing virtual learning programs.
- **Friends of the Alameda Free Library, \$600**, to purchase books and other materials about girls and women.
- **Alameda Jr Golf Club at Corica Park, two scholarships at \$1,200 each for a total of \$2,400**, to high school girls towards their college education.

- Barbara Krummel

## Interest Group Spotlight – THE DIRT DIVAS !

### **The Dirt Divas (Alameda Branch Gardening Club)**

Our branch gardening club, now named “The Dirt Divas”, has been meeting on the third Friday of each month. We’ve had an interesting variety of topics, demonstrations, and sharing of knowledge, skills, resources and nature projects. Our January meeting will include a presentation on **container gardening** by Jeff Bridges, Nursery Manager at Ploughshares Nursery\*. With limited space, container gardening gives you the opportunity for cost-effective, manageable gardening.

We are looking for any Master Gardeners in our AAUW BRANCH or amongst your friends and family. Please contact Paula Biver with this information.

Please join us on Friday January 15 at 1pm. All are welcome! Zoom joining details will be sent separately.

Contact Paula Biver for more information.

\*Ploughshares Nursery is a non-profit social enterprise of the Alameda Point Collaborative supportive housing community.

## TITLE IX WEBINAR – BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS

When: **Monday, January 11, 2021**

Time: 7 – 8:30 PM

Where: Virtual Zoom – Registration Required

[Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

“No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”

These thirty-seven words are the Title IX clause of the 1972 Federal Education Amendments. Although Title IX applies to all activities and programs, it has received the most attention for its impacts on athletics, especially at the collegiate level. Our Title IX panel will review the history of Title IX, the impact on athletics/physical education, the new fight to reverse the damaging aspects of the Title IX Sexual Harassment Rule, and what you, as an individual and an AAUW Branch can do to inform your community members, learn how to speak up on the issues of gender discrimination, and encourage your community schools to comply fully with all gender equity laws.

The expert panelists for this Title IX webinar:

**Alicia Hetman**, AAUW CA Title IX Consultant/Public Policy Committee & AAUW Public Policy Committee

**Kim Turner**, Senior Staff Attorney, Gender Equity & LGBT Rights Program, Fair Play for Girls in Sports Project, Legal Aid at Work, San Francisco.

**Linda Slater**, President AAUW Hayward-Castro Valley Branch, AAUW CA Communications Committee, AAUW CA SPF Board Member.

**Keasara (Kiki) Williams**, Executive Director, Student Experience and Equity Compliance Office of Equity & SFCSD, San Francisco Unified School District

**Jean Reed**, AAUW San Jose Branch and co-President Petaluma Branch. She led the San Jose Title IX Sports Equity Community Project.

To get the most out of the panel discussion, here are some recommended pre-webinar preparation steps:

1. Go online to your local school districts and college/university websites and find the “student handbook” or “parent/student handbook”.
2. Look for the following: The Nondiscrimination Policy and Complaint Procedures, the name and contact information for the Title IX Coordinator (required to have at least one, but some have a team approach), The Sexual Harassment Policy and Complaint Procedures, And
3. Take a look at the discipline policy to document which gender discrimination/harassment issues are included.

## **Human Trafficking Awareness Day**

By Kit Hein, AAUW California Public Policy Committee

January 11, 2021 is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. AAUW California supports efforts to combat Human Trafficking, as noted in our Public Policy Priorities: “Freedom from violence and fear of violence, including ...human trafficking...in homes, schools, workplaces and communities...”

Human Trafficking is the third largest organized criminal activity in the world. Human Trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery, with an estimated number of victims in the millions. Whether for labor or sex, men, women, and children are manipulated through force, fraud and coercion.

Research shows that people of color, especially the Black community, are more likely to experience some form of sex trafficking. Racial and economic biases drive both social and legal presumptions of “victims” having chosen their situation.

Law enforcement efforts against human trafficking are stronger today than in 2017, but still inadequate. Globally, definitions of human trafficking vary from country to country. Even using the term “slavery” is met with opposition in cases of forced marriages and cross border smuggling.

In California, legislation in the past few years includes support for victims, updating school health curriculum, and addressing hospitality industry training. But legislation is not the key unless the public is educated as to the enormity of the issues, both locally and globally. Local branches of AAUW continue to provide community awareness events to educate the public. Please join Santa Cruz County Branch on January 11, 2021 at 1pm for a Zoom webinar to learn more. Access the branch website <https://santacruz-ca.aauw.net/> for more information and an invitation to this event.

## Virtual Lobby Day March 24

Please read the Public Policy column in the recent Branch to Branch Newsletter (B2B). We are going to do a virtual Lobby Day in March, and the B2B article has information regarding registering to participate. I want to encourage all of you to register, and to enlist others in your branch to register – this is a great opportunity to meet your legislators or their staff, introduce them to AAUW and to your branch, and help the state Public Policy team advocate for our supported bills. Lobby Day will be on March 24<sup>th</sup>, and there will be a full training webinar on March 22<sup>nd</sup> (separate registration on the website).

Thank you,

Amy Hom  
Los Altos - Mountain View AAUW  
AAUW-CA Public Policy Committee

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS/Future Events**

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

Sunday, January 3, 4:00 pm -- **Cinema Club**

Monday, January 4, 6:00 pm – **Board Meeting** -- ALL WELCOME

Monday, January 11, 1:00 pm – **Human Trafficking Awareness Day Webinar**

Monday, January 11, 7-8:30 pm-- **Title IX Webinar – Breaking Down Barriers**

Friday, January 15, 1:00 pm – **Dirt Divas/Gardening club**

Saturday, January 16, 6:00 pm -- **Ethnic Dining Group**

Monday, January 18, 1:30 pm – **Afternoon Books Group**

Tuesday, January 26, 7:00 pm -- **Evening Books Group**

Saturday, February 13, 11:15 am -- **February Luncheon**

Wednesday, March 24 – **Virtual Lobby Day** -- See article above

### **College/University Relations – Good News!**

At its December Meeting the Board voted to approve FREE College/ University Student Affiliate AAUW Alameda memberships for all previous Branch scholarship awardees , such as Tech Trek, College of Alameda Scholarships, and NCCWSL. This includes membership in AAUW national,

California and Branch levels for students enrolled in an accredited institution and allows access to valuable resources for academic and career development.

Susan Myers , Membership VP will process all student member applications. [samsat@att.net](mailto:samsat@att.net) ,510 326-8955 .Get out the word to TechTrek Alumna and COA graduates.

--Penny Washbourn

## 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 January 3 at 4:00 pm to discuss the movie *Twelfth Night* (shown on KQED 12/19).

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.

### **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**

4th Tuesday Book Club has no meeting in December and resumes January 26 at 7:00 pm to discuss *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean.

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/>**

### **Dirt Divas/Garden Club**

– Dirt Divas Meeting (Branch Gardening Club) – Learn about container gardening from Jeff Bridges, Nursery Manager at Ploughshares Nursery, via Zoom. All are welcome and information on how to participate will be provided.

**Contact Paula Biwer [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**

The Museum Group will **not** have a planned activity in January. We tried to schedule an in-person visit to the de Young to see the Frida Kahlo exhibit on Nov. 19. Although we secured tickets and had a group of 7 planning to attend, people were nervous about riding in cars in groups of three or four and were insecure about visiting the museum in person. In the end, all canceled. Now museums are closed again. Please continue to look at the Friends of the Alameda Free Library website for docent lectures on Zoom that are planned.

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

**Calendar**

<b>Branch Activities</b>	<b>January</b>					<b>2021</b>
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3– Cinema Club 4PM	4 – Board Meeting 6PM via Zoom	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 —Human Trafficking Awareness Day Webinar 1:00pm --Title IX Webinar 7:00 PM	12	13	14	15-Dirt Divas 1PM	16 -Ethnic Dining Group 6:00PM
17	18-Afternoon Books 1:30PM	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 – Evening Book Club 7PM via Zoom	27	28	29	30
31						

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.