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Alameda Branch News

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

March 2021

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March Luncheon Update



Saturday, March 13 Bonsai gardening presented by Jonas Dupuich.

Please provide your own lunch and or snacks and come ZOOM with us to find out what is happening in our organization and to listen to a renowned Bonsai expert.

Join us for a presentation on growing and caring for a bonsai tree. Jonas will show examples and demonstrate how to get started with bonsai gardening.

You can learn more about Jonas Dupuich and see some of his beautiful creations at his website: <https://bonsaitonight.com/>

Zoom meeting room opens at 11:00, program starts at 11:30am.

Register in advance - link: [Bonsai with Jonas Dupuich on March 13](#)

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

March 2021

Women's History Month Is Upon Us! Resources and Events Abound!

2021 Theme: Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to be Silenced

These websites contain various resources and announcements for sponsored events that may be of interest as you celebrate the contributions and accomplishments of Women here in the U.S. and around the world. Join, in Solidarity, as we all strive for empowerment and work toward True Equity. It is by no means a COMPLETE list – perhaps your own browser search will produce even more exciting results.

AAUW-California – Women's History Resources: <https://www.aauw-ca.org/category/womens-history-month/>

Library of Congress – Women's History Month website: <https://womenshistorymonth.gov/>

St. Mary's University – Louis J. Blume Library: <https://lib.stmarytx.edu/WHM/2021>

The Smithsonian:

https://www.si.edu/search?edan_q=Women%2527s%2BHistory%2BMonth%2B2021&

history.com: <https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/womens-history-month>

National Today: <https://nationaltoday.com/national-womens-history-month/>

UN Women USA International [Women's] Film Festival: <http://www.throughwomenseyes.com/>

National Women's History Museum: <https://www.womenshistory.org/womens-history/womens-history-month>

National Women's History Alliance: <https://nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org/womens-history-month/womens-history-month-history/>

International Women's Day: <https://www.internationalwomensday.com/>

International Women's Development Agency: <https://iwda.org.au/take-action/international-womens-day/>

Women's Environment and Development Organization: <https://wedo.org/what-we-do/our-programs/>

Play Like a Girl – Women's Leadership Summit: <https://www.iplaylikeagirl.org/summit/>

UC Berkeley Gender Equity Resource Center: <https://cejce.berkeley.edu/geneg>

Compiled and submitted by Mark D. Hamilton, 2020-2021 President, Alameda Branch



AAUW Tech Trek California will be offering a virtual Tech Trek experience for 2021 (there will not be an in-person camp this year). Below is a brief description, and if you click on the “2021 Virtual Camp” link, you’ll find lots of details including volunteer opportunities, dates, schedule, topics and testimonials. Of course, we’re disappointed that we can’t offer an in-person experience again but this camp was offered to a group in southern California last summer and the camp director, Dr. Mimi Isaac, is a dynamic and committed leader.

Our Tech Trek Committee is beginning the selection process to recruit current 7th grade girls who love STEM as well as inviting our 2020 girls to attend.

Virtual Tech Trek is designed to provide campers with exposure to computer science and engineering, along with workshops designed to explore individual STEM specialties more deeply using a hands-on or interactive approach. Hands-on activities, inspirational speakers, and interactive workshops help to make STEM subjects fun as well as educational. Trained instructors and coaching staff including near-peer Tech Trek alumnae, work alongside credentialed teachers, and women in STEM-related careers.

This is a week-long virtual camp for rising 8th grade girls. The camp is centered on a morning project-based robotics/engineering/coding class that meets daily and results in a personalized creation by week’s end. After lunch, the campers hear from inspirational women for an hour, then participate in one or more 90-minute hands-on or interactive science, technology, engineering, and math workshops to encourage fun while learning. They can return for evening workshops with girls from another country, social activities, or even parent sessions.

2021 Virtual Camp Link: <https://www.aauw-ca.org/virtualtechtrek/>

-Barbara Krummel, Tech Trek Committee Chair



Upcoming Plant Sale



Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 1 for our 2021 Plant Sale. We are looking for plant growers, plant buyers and volunteers at the sale. The Dirt Divas and friends are already busy growing several different herbs, a wide range of flowering plants, succulents and vegetables.

If you can help out in any way, please contact Paula Biwer (pbiwer@yahoo.com) or text 510/918-8577. More information to follow next month.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/Future Events

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

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

Monday, March 8, 6:00 pm – **Board Meeting** – ALL WELCOME !! Non-board members may contact Mark Hamilton mdham21@yahoo.com for an Invitation to Register

Saturday, March 13, 11:00 am -- **March Luncheon**– Bonsai gardening presented by Jonas Dupuich. Program starts at 11:30am (details on Page 1)

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

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

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

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

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

Saturday, April 10 – **April Luncheon** – The Writing Experience with Penny Washbourn

Saturday, May 1 – **Plant Sale**

Saturday, May 8 – **May Luncheon** – Jennifer Williams, Alameda School Board

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

Saturday, June 12 – **June “End of Year Celebration”** catered by Julie’s Coffee & Tea Garden

Alameda Unified School District -- Title IX Compliance

We have sent the following letter to the AUSD superintendent and board members:

During the 2017 AUSD summer In-service Program for Principals and Counselors, the AAUW Alameda Branch offered a legal presentation on Title IX laws and implications for District and School-level operations. The importance of designation of specific persons with Title IX enforcement responsibilities at both the District and at School levels was stressed, in order to stay in compliance with federal laws. This includes explicit publicity on District and School websites for Title IX information for the Community.

A recent review of the AUSD website finds no personnel specifically identified as the Title IX Coordinator for the District.

We are asking you to rectify this matter so that AUSD can be in full compliance with Title IX legislation.

NOTE: This issue has now been resolved by AUSD and there is ongoing communication regarding the visibility and accessibility of the information on the District website.

Public Policy News from National AAUW

by Kathi Harper, Public Policy Co-Chair AAUW California

On February 2, 2021, my co-chair Sue Miller and I met via Zoom with AAUW Public Policy Director Kate Nielsen and her assistant Robin Lucas, along with state public policy chairs across the nation, to get updates on changes to the public policy landscape with the a new administration and Congress. Here is a summary of what we thought members would like to know:

1. AAUW Public Policy team sends notice of our priorities for the new year
 - a. Letter to the President, focused on
 - i. Women's Economic Security
 - ii. Education Access
 - b. Letter to 117th Congress
 - i. Passing the Paycheck Fairness Act
 - ii. Passing the Equity in Education Act
 - c. Both found at aauw.org/resources/policy/documents
2. Also outlined Admin and Congressional Priorities
 - a. Biden-Harris in the 1st 2 weeks – 41 Exec orders
 - i. Covid, including student-debt relief and opening of schools
 - ii. Anti-discrimination, including removing barriers, DACA relief and a Task Force to reunite families
 - iii. Protecting women's health at home and abroad, including access to abortions
 - b. Coming Legislation from Congress
 - i. Covid relief – 1.9 Trillion package
 1. Paid sick & family leave extended thru Sept (14 weeks)
 2. Increase min wage to \$15
 3. Assistance to those at risk of losing jobs &/or their homes
 4. \$3B to help women with food relief for their families
 5. \$25B emergency fund for child care providers
 - ii. Raise the Wage Act (\$15 by 2025) – reintroduced Thursday
 - iii. FAMILY Act (emphasis on access to paid leave) – end of this week
 - iv. Paycheck Fairness Act – HR7
 1. AAUW working on since 1997
 2. Reintroduced 2/1
 3. Strong bi-partisan support
 4. Prohibits retaliation for discussing pay
 5. Closes loopholes in Equal Pay Act
 6. Can't use prior salary HX in hiring decisions
 7. Members can help: Toolkit at aauw.org/resources/policy/pfa-toolkit/

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 at 4:00 pm March 7 via Zoom, to discuss the movie *Gorillas in the Mist* (shown on KQED 2/20). 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 March 23 via Zoom, to discuss *A Woman of No Importance* by Sarah Purnell. 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 – Meets virtually every month on the third Friday at 1 PM. Everyone is welcome and we will be preparing for the spring plant sale fund raiser. **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 this month. Please continue to check out the docent art and book lectures sponsored by the Friends of the Alameda Free Library. Look at their website for details. For further information, contact Judy Sparks at JudySparks@comcast.net.

Calendar

Branch Activities	March					2021
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7- Cinema Club 4:00 PM	8-Board Meeting 6:00 PM	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-Virtual Lobby Day	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.