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**2020-21 BOARD**  
 alameda-ca.aauw.net

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Mark Hamilton

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Kerwin, Mark Hamilton

**NEWSLETTER:** Jennifer Ayres

**PARLIAMENTARIAN/Bylaws**

Cynthia Silva

**PUBLIC POLICY**

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**PUBLICITY**

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**SUNSHINE:** Cynthia Silva

**TECH TREK COORDINATOR**

Barbara Krummel

**FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE CHAIR**

Barbara Krummel

**COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY RELATIONS**

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Mark Hamilton

# Alameda Branch News

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

May 2021

A publication of AAUW-Alameda Branch, chartered 1962

Vol. 58, Issue 9

## May Luncheon Update



### Saturday, May 8 11 AM

AAUW-Alameda Branch will host our monthly Virtual Luncheons, featuring Jennifer Williams from the Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) Board of Trustees on the Zoom platform. Ms. Williams, who is also an administrative law judge for the San Francisco Human Services, will update us on how AUSD is dealing with the distance learning and the transition plans from COVID-19 to in-person classroom instruction.

Sign up for the Zoom luncheon [HERE](#)

Find out more about Jennifer and the **May 1 Plant Sale** by looking at the last pages of this newsletter.

- Submitted by Lena Tam and Paula Biver

*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*

May 2021

## **By-Laws Revisions; 2021-2022 Officers' Slate News; Volunteers of the Year Nominations**

Three revisions to our Branch By-Laws were approved by the assembled Members, by a unanimous vote, during our Annual Business Meeting/Luncheon Program on April. 10. The updated By-Laws have been posted on our Branch website.

Our 2021-2022 Slate of Officers was also approved, by a unanimous vote, during the Annual Business Meeting. Since that time, one of our Members has put her name forward to fill the open President-Elect position. The Board will consider and vote on this self-nomination during its May 3 Meeting. As usual, all Members will be invited to attend the Zoom Meeting. The Invitation to Register will be sent out on April 19, with a reminder on or around April 28.

The Board will also consider and vote on a proposed local dues increase of \$2.00, for the 2021-2022 Membership Year, along with a moratorium on any further dues increases until the 2024-2025 Membership Year, at the earliest, during the May 3 Board Meeting.

Nominations are being solicited for our Volunteers of the Year Awards, to be presented during our June Luncheon Program/Membership Celebration. Please send any nominations to Membership Vice President Paula Biwer -- [pbiwer@yahoo.com](mailto:pbiwer@yahoo.com) -- by Friday, May 7.

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

Thank  
you!



As President-Elect, I would like to take a moment to thank our out-going president, Mark Hamilton. for his calm and steadfast stewardship of our organization over the past year. He quickly and painlessly turned our meetings and gatherings to the Zoom platform so that we were able to stay productive but more importantly, connected. It is clear that people are what really matter to Mark and he put that into practice when he organized a phone tree for the Board members to reach out to check in on every branch member early during shelter-in-place. His attitude of gratitude is always present as he frequently and eloquently expresses his thanks to those with whom he works. He doesn't sweat the small things but he recognizes their importance in getting big things done. He has been engaged in all aspects of the organization, from fundraising, to ethnic dining, to serving on state-level policy committees and is committed to our mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. I am so glad and appreciative that Mark will continue to be an important part of our branch as he assumes the role of Board Secretary. Thanks again Mark, you make a hard job look easy!

-Barbara Krummel



Tech Trek goes Virtual this year and Alameda is sending eight girls from our local middle schools. We hope you'll have a chance to meet them at our September luncheon which traditionally features our girls sharing their thoughts about camp. Although they won't have the usual on campus experience, it still looks like an exciting and engaging program—see below for more details:

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 session

[Links for 2021 Camp organization, in case anyone wants to take a peak:](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FffSWVia_xcjW7DyWfOPRr06enbxceWs/view)  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FffSWVia\\_xcjW7DyWfOPRr06enbxceWs/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZjyV3r47IWMQhzS1WpGbqFNUHdqOsmgq/view)  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZjyV3r47IWMQhzS1WpGbqFNUHdqOsmgq/view>

-Barbara Krummel, Tech Trek Committee Chair



## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME IS COMING

May and June are the months for membership renewal. Around the second week in May look for the email from national AAUW on how to renew your membership. Please wait for the email with the directions. Contacting national AAUW directly will not work. In May, I will also send out directions for renewing by mail and email.

-Susan Myers, Co-Vice President for Membership and Finance VP

## Interest Group Spotlight – Museum Group Springs into Action -Judy Sparks and Marlis White



On Thursday, May 13 **The Museum Group** will travel to the de Young Museum to visit the exhibit **CALDER - PICASSO**. This exhibit features 100 items loaned in a collaboration between the artists' two grandsons. Alexander Calder (American 1898 - 1976) created mobiles that animated sculpture. Pablo Picasso (Spanish 1881 - 1973) alternated between representation and abstraction, often in the same work. There were four documented meetings between these two artists. This exhibit attempts to show the commonalities as well as the differences between the two gentlemen.

I also want to remind the group that there is an **art docent webinar** on this exhibit **Calder - Picasso** on Wed. May 12 at 7:00. To register, please look at the Friends of the Alameda Free Library website. This is the most synchronised that we have ever had the lecture and the tour!

## AND

We will be going to the Legion of Honor Museum on Thursday, **June 17**, to see:

### **LAST SUPPER IN POMPEII: From the Table to the Grave.**

In AD 79, the Bay of Naples was rocked by the fiery eruption of Mount Vesuvius. Pompeii and nearby villages and farms were completely buried under pumice and hot ash, which killed thousands in the midst of their daily activities. The exhibition brings us back into this world by focusing on everyday life and especially on food and drink. Along with the pots, pans, and other paraphernalia in the distribution, preparing, and serving food, this exhibition includes glorious works of art, which reveal the splendor and luxury loved by the wealthy Romans who called Pompeii their home.

**If you are interested in going to either or both of these exhibits, contact Judy Sparks at [judy Sparks@comcast.net](mailto:judy Sparks@comcast.net) or call [510-919-5083](tel:510-919-5083) or [519-523-6736](tel:519-523-6736)** We meet at the Ross parking lot in South Shore for a 9:30 a.m. **sharp** departure. We have lunch at the museum at 11:30 a.m.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS/Future Events

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

Saturday, May 1 – **Plant Sale** – Live and in Person! Please wear a mask

Sunday, May 2, 4:00 pm -- **Cinema Club**

Monday, May 3, 6:00 pm – **Board Meeting** – ALL WELCOME !! Non-board members may contact Mark Hamilton [mdham21@yahoo.com](mailto:mdham21@yahoo.com) for an Invitation to Register

Saturday, May 8, 11:00 am – **May Luncheon** – Jennifer Williams, Alameda School Board

Thursday, May 13, 9:30 am -- **Museum Group** – deYoung – Calder-Picasso

Saturday, May 15, 6:00 pm -- **Ethnic Dining Group**

Monday, May 17, 1:30 pm – **Afternoon Books Group**

Friday, May 21, 1:00 pm – **Dirt Divas/Gardening Club**

Tuesday, May 25, 7:00 pm -- **Evening Books Group**

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

Thursday, June 17, 9:30 am – **Museum Group** – Legion of Honor – Last Supper in Pompeii

## Joint Fund Raising and EBCF Grant Distribution Committee Report

The letter below appeared in the Alameda Sun on March 27 and summarizes the work our committee accomplished. Once again, I would like to thank all of the committee members for their time and efforts (We feel that Patti would be proud of our choices): Penny Washbourn, Cindy Silva, Susan Myers, Karen Kenney, Marilyn Sharron, Dorothy Kerwin, Mark Hamilton and Mary Oppedahl.

AAUW-Alameda Branch is proud to announce that we have recently made significant donations to six local Alameda organizations. AAUW has been advocating for women and girls and advancing gender equity through research, education and advocacy since 1881. Our branch has been actively supporting and promoting this cause locally since 1962 by raising funds for college scholarships in education and leadership and providing opportunities for young women to explore careers in STEM.

The funds we have shared are part of a bequest from our long-time and much-loved member and Past President, 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.

In alignment with our mission and Patti's wishes, we shared over \$10,000 total among Girls Inc. of the Island City (for STEM supplies), Alameda Education Foundation (for art supplies), Alameda Girls Softball (for general support), Friends of the Alameda Free Library (for media about girls and women), Alameda Jr. Golf Club at Corica Park and PEO Chapter UN (both for college scholarships).

If you are interested in learning more about AAUW Alameda, please visit our website [www.alameda-ca.aauw.net](http://www.alameda-ca.aauw.net) and mark May 1 on your calendar for our plant sale to support the Alameda Food Bank.

## 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 May 2 via Zoom, to discuss the movie *Inherit the Wind* (shown on KQED 4/17). For more information about the group, please contact Kevis at [kevis.brownson@gmail.com](mailto:kevis.brownson@gmail.com), especially if you are interested in joining us in the fall when we will be meeting at the Alameda Theatre again.

### **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**

The 4th Tuesday Evening Book group meets at 7:00 pm May 25 via Zoom, to discuss *The Yellow House* by Sarah Broom. For more information about the group, please contact Kevis at [kevis.brownson@gmail.com](mailto:kevis.brownson@gmail.com), especially if you are interested in joining us again next year when with any luck, we will meet in members' homes again. For a list of the remaining books this year, please visit link: <https://alameda-ca.aauw.net/book-club/>

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

Friday, May 21 – Meets virtually every month on the third Friday at 1 PM. Everyone is welcome and we will be going on a private Bonsai garden tour in May. **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 go to the de Young Museum on Thursday, May 13 to see the Calder-Picasso exhibit. Then we will have lunch at the restaurant's outdoor space. Please bring your own water. Meet at Ross Parking Lot at South Shore for a 9:30 sharp departure. Please wear a mask. **For more information, contact Judy Sparks at [judysparks@comcast.net](mailto:judy Sparks@comcast.net) or call 510-919-5083.**

**Calendar**

Branch Activities	May					2021
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1-- <b>Plant Sale</b> 
2-Cinema Club 4 PM	3-Board Meeting 6:00 PM	4	5	6	7	8-Luncheon via Zoom 11:00 AM
9-Mother's Day 	10-	11	12	13- Museum Group 9:30 AM	14	15 -Ethnic Dining Group 6:00PM
16	17- Afternoon Books 1:30PM	18	19	20	21- Dirt Divas 1:00 PM	22
23	24	25- Evening Book Club 7:00 PM	26	27	28	29
30	31-Memorial Day 					

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.



# AAUW 2021 Plant Sale



**Saturday, May 1      9:00 - 2:00 pm**

**2918 Lincoln Avenue      and      352 Channing Way (Bay Farm)**

**Advance tickets with priority access to sale 8 am to 9 am [HERE](#)**

Both sites will have similar collections of perennials, annuals, vegetables, herbs, succulents and indoor plants. We are accepting credit cards, cash and checks. All of the money will go to Alameda food bank. Every dollar raised will provide seven dollars worth of food.

Please encourage family, friends and neighbors to support this important fund raising event. Please remember **Mother's Day** is right around the corner and it is always lovely to give a plant to a special family member, friend and/or neighbor.

Our goal is to raise \$3000. If you do not need any plants, but would like to make a donation, please write a check to the Alameda Food Bank and send it to Paula Biver 1804 2nd St., Alameda, CA 94501.

Last chance to donate pots in good condition (clean, no cracks) of any size with or without saucers at either site the week of the plant sale.

Advanced thanks to the Dirt Divas and friends for working so hard to grow and care for over 500 plants. Each of you demonstrates the best in voluntarism. Next month, I will report how much money we have raised and list all of the volunteers.



**Jennifer Kaye Williams** currently serves as an administrative law judge for the San Francisco Human Services Agency. From 1999 to 2012, she was a Deputy City Attorney for the San Francisco City Attorney's Office. She initially served as trial counsel for the San Francisco Human Services Agency, and then became General Counsel to the Agency and served in that capacity for over 10 years. She also handled all appeals and writs generated from the City Attorney's juvenile dependency unit. As General Counsel Ms. Williams provided legal advice regarding the administration of the dependency division, all public assistance programs, including General Assistance, CalWORKS, and Food Stamps, and the San Francisco Adult Protective Services division. She also worked with the San Francisco Board of Supervisors on legislation impacting the populations served under these programs. Ms. Williams began her career in 1994 when she started handling dependency cases in the Riverside County Counsel's office at both the trial and appellate levels. She then worked for the Administrative Office of the Courts under a federal grant to improve statewide compliance with Title IV-E of the Social Security Act. There, she spent time in multiple California counties, working with social services agencies, probation departments, and juvenile courts, improving compliance with federal requirements in juvenile matters. She has argued before the California Supreme Court and on numerous occasions before California Courts of Appeal, and has provided training statewide for agency attorneys handling juvenile dependency matters. She continues to consult on dependency writs and appeals. In 2016, she was elected to a four-year term serving as a Trustee on the Alameda Unified School District Board of Education, and to a second term in 2020. Since 2010, Ms. Williams has been a contributing author to *Seiser and Kumli on California Juvenile Courts Practice and Procedure*. She lives in Alameda, California with her husband and two children.