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2021-22 BOARD
 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

October 2021

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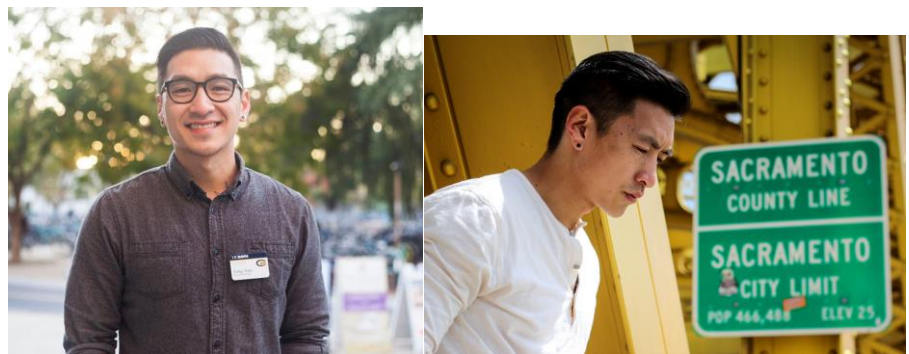
October Luncheon Update

Saturday, October 9, 2021 at 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Via Zoom

Register via the Zoom link [HERE](#)

We are opening up this lecture to other nonprofit organizations to promote collaboration and to share information about AAUW to our community. This event is limited to 100 participants so please sign in by 11:15 AM to secure your spot.



AAUW - Connections through Equity and Inclusion

Let's start the diversity and inclusion discussion at AAUW Alameda in 2021. As Maya Angelou said, "In diversity, there is beauty and there is strength." The October 9, 2021 program will feature **Fong Tran**, a poet and activist that one of our youngest member, Silver Alkhafaji, believes can help inspire the celebration of equity and inclusion. For videos of our presenter, go to www.fongtran.com.

Fong has a Masters degree from UC Davis in Community Development and a Bachelors in Social Welfare from UC Berkeley. Fong is a higher education professional and previously served as the Director of Student Activities at the College of Alameda and the Program Coordinator at the UC Davis Cross Cultural Center. He currently serves as a specialist for the American River College Transfer Center. Throughout his career, he's been able to incorporate his spoken word poetry as a part of his pedagogy and community building process.

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

Well, our new year has begun and we kicked it off with a lovely luncheon on Saturday, September 11, held outdoors at Girls Inc. of the Island City. Approximately 30 members attended and enjoyed a delicious deli lunch from Santoro's here in Alameda. Thanks to Paula Biwer and Lena Tam, our Program VP's and our Tech Trek Committee for making it happen.

Next up is our monthly Board meeting scheduled for Monday, October 4, starting at 6:00 pm. Since these meetings are now being held via Zoom, I'd like to continue to extend an invitation to any of our members who are curious about leadership in our organization. Use the link below to register and drop in to say hello and learn about the Board and our decision making process.

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.

When: Oct 4, 2021 06:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for the October board meeting:

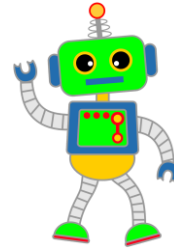
<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAuc-GprT4jHNE5KqdMmlfGfs7ZIYtb2I2G>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



Career Talk: A New Volunteer Opportunity for our Members

Are you interested in sharing your education and career experiences with younger women? We have the opportunity to work with a group of high school girls who have questions about education and career decisions. AAUW Alameda-Branch Member and current School Board member, Jennifer Williams, suggested that we recruit a group of members who would be interested in working with Alameda high school girls to talk about education and career opportunities, challenges and personal experiences. Jennifer has a contact in the school district who will select a group of girls interested in learning from the experiences of our members. Now we just need some members who would be like to participate. The initial format will be five members meeting in a group with 5 to 10 girls via Zoom for about an hour once a month with a goal of meeting in-person next year. To join the group, please email Barbara Krummel at barbarakrummel@comcast.net We already have members who are interested, so don't wait to claim your spot!



Thanks so much to everyone who attended the September luncheon which featured four of our Tech Trek campers and their “wearable tech” creations. The girls did a great job talking about their virtual camp experience, then went table to table to describe in detail the projects they created during the robotics and coding portion of their camp experience. We also heard a recorded interview from 2019 camper, Luisa Barrantes, conducted by her mother and Tech Trek Committee member, Ellie Barrantes. Luisa’s candid descriptions of how her Tech Trek experience helped her grow into a more confident, strong and STEM-loving young woman brought some of our members to tears! We are going to try to figure out how to share the interview on our website and eventually a larger audience.

Thanks to our Tech Trek committee members, Linda Preminger, Shuba Fpanse, Carolee Ziegenhagen, and Jennifer Ayres for their help this year and welcome to new committee member Ellie Barrantes. Also a quick shout out to new branch member, Michelle Pero-Igo for her help with the luncheon.

This annual luncheon also serves as a fundraiser for Tech Trek and we collected \$755 thanks to the generosity of our members and guests. If you weren’t able to attend the luncheon, you can still show your support by going to the Tech Trek section of our website, scroll down and follow the instructions or you can send a check. Checks must be made out to **AAUW CA SPF** and can be mailed to Barbara Krummel, 3258 Liberty Ave., Alameda, CA 94501. Tech Trek is a 501c3 nonprofit so donations are tax deductible. You will receive a thank you letter with the Tech Trek tax ID number. The cost for each girl is \$1,000 so we have to raise \$5,000 to \$6,000 each year and the branch members are major supporters!

-Barbara Krummel, Tech Trek Coordinator

ANNOUNCEMENTS/Future Events

Sunday, October 3 – **Cinema Club**

Monday, October 4, 6:00 pm - **Board Meeting** – via Zoom -- ALL WELCOME !! See President's Corner for an Invitation to Register for non-board members.

Saturday, October 9, 11:00 AM – **October Luncheon**

Friday, October 15, 1:00 pm – **Dirt Divas/Gardening Club**

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

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

Thursday, October 21, 10:00 am – **Museum Group** – de Young – Judy Chicago Retrospective

Tuesday, October 26, 7:15 pm -- **Evening Books Group**



Membership update



Silver Alkhafaji and I are focused on increasing and diversifying our AAUW Alameda branch membership. Karen Scanlon hosted a July welcome gathering for our members who have joined in 2021 and also interested guests. The event was a wonderful opportunity for several existing members to share with our new members and to socialize. It was gratifying to see our new members at our September Tech Trek Luncheon. Silver will be hosting a series of small group chats at local cafés to attract a younger and diverse group of women.

If any new member has any question about our organization, you can contact me at **(510) 918-8577** or pbiwer@yahoo.com. I really encourage your active participation in our wonderful organization. Finally, I encourage all of you to think about family, friends and neighbors who may be interested in finding out more about our mission, our goals and our activities. A luncheon, lecture or a workshop is an excellent way to invite someone to find out more about us. You can share a monthly newsletter or zoom link with your guest. Make sure she registers and/or you can do that for her.

-Paula Biber



Sunshine News and Blues



The Sunshine chair has many reasons to recognize our members in time of need, support or recognition.

Please notify Cynthia Silva if you are aware of a member who is ill, hospitalized, had a death in the family or just needs a support message. A card will be sent to the member on behalf of the branch membership.

Please email cynthia.silva26@yahoo.com.



2020-21 Legislative Session Winding Down – How Did AAUW California-sponsored Bills Fare?

Not particularly well, as it turns out! We started the year off with 39 bills we selected for varying degrees of support. We chose one bill to co-sponsor, AB 92, with four additional bills for top-priority attention (“A” level bills), five bills for “important” status (“B” level bills), twenty-two bills for low- (“C”) level attention, and seven bills to “watch.”

Over-all, 28 of our 39 bills have been designated “2-year” bills, which means they are dead for this year and likely will be taken up again in 2022. Our advocate, Kathy Van Osten, has explained that this is because Senate and Assembly leadership set a limit of just 12 bills that a member could move to the second house, so members had to pick and choose what would they wanted to move forward.

Some of our bills did not make the cut. Four of our five “A” bills, along with our co-sponsored bill, and four of our five “B” bills, did not make it through. These include AB 22, AB 92, AB 737, AB 966, AB 1361, and SB 245. However, several of them were converted into the Budget and Budget “trailer bills,” which will provide funding for childcare. Although we were not entirely successful in getting AB 92 passed (establishing a sliding scale for family fees for childcare through 2023), the state budget includes \$60 million for one year of relief for all families using subsidized childcare, increased reimbursement rates for childcare providers, and funding for 206,000 new childcare slots.

We are pleased that several bills have passed and been sent to the Governor, and we are working hard to secure his signature on these bills: AB 62 and AB 367, as well as 3 of our “C” level bills: AB 123, AB 1074, and AB 1461.

Thanks again to all our members who participated in Lobby Day and/or weighed in at critical junctures on social media. For descriptions of each of these bills and/or more information on their status, visit our Bill Tracker on the AAUW California website, Public Policy/Legislative Advocacy/Bill Tracking. - **Kathi Harper, Co-Chair Public Policy, AAUW California**

Interest Group Spotlight – Museum Group



On Thursday, October 21, the museum group will travel to the de Young museum to see the exhibit **JUDY CHICAGO: A Retrospective**.

Throughout her career, the 82-year-old artist has been both celebrated and maligned for her work. She has always been an activist for women's rights. In 1970, Judy announced that she had divested herself from the birth name of Cohen and the married name of Gerowitz to become Judy Chicago, named after the city in which she lived. She rejected male social dominance.

In 1970 Judy founded the first feminist art education program in the U.S. at Cal State University in Fresno, which culminated in the establishment of the Feminist Studio Workshop as part of the Women's Building in Los Angeles. This workshop nourished the creative recognition and growth of women artists around the world.

The topics of her work show her interests. The Dinner Party showed how women had been erased. Another topic was the Birth Project. The Holocaust Project stemmed from her Cohen family name going back to Aaron, the first rabbi. She worked on this project with her husband Donald Woodman, a photographer.

Judy Chicago asked women volunteers to participate in her art projects. Some of these were done in art forms like textiles, embroidery, and porcelain, mediums that have often been dismissed in patriarchal art as merely feminine "crafts".

This exhibit was scheduled to coincide with the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in the United States in 2020.

The carpool leaves at 9:30 **sharp** from the Ross Parking Lot at South Shore. We will have lunch at 11:30 at the museum.

Please respond to JudySparks@comcast.net if you are interested in going.

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 on October 3 at the Alameda Theatre. After the movie, we will discuss it at Tucker's Ice Cream. To join us or 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. *We will be meeting in person, with masks and as socially distanced as possible, 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 on October 26 at 7:15 pm to discuss *The Dutch House* by Anne Patchett. To join us or for more information about the group, please contact Kevis at kevis.brownson@gmail.com.

Dirt Divas/Garden Club

DIRT DIVAS will take a field trip on Friday, October 15 at 1:00 pm to Andre Kruglikov's Beehives in Alameda. We will discover about bee keeping, honey and how bees benefit our environment. We will be able to purchase organic honey at this time. Please contact **Paula at (510) 918-8577 or pbiwer@yahoo.com** if you would like to join in this activity.

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

On Thursday, October 21, the museum group will travel to the de Young museum to see the exhibit **JUDY CHICAGO: A Retrospective**. The carpool leaves at 9:30 **sharp** from the Ross Parking Lot at South Shore. We will have lunch at 11:30 at the museum. Please respond to JudySparks@comcast.net if you are interested in going. For more information, contact Judy Sparks -**[510-523-6736](tel:510-523-6736)**

Calendar

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

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.