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Alameda Branch News

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

November 2021

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November Luncheon Update

Saturday, November 13, 2021 at 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM

**Dragon Rouge Bistro (Outdoor Patio)
 2337 Blanding Avenue, Alameda**



With a high COVID-19 vaccination rate in Alameda (93%) and declining cases, we are tiptoeing back to in-person luncheons. Continuing the dialogue on diversity, equity and inclusion, Our luncheon speaker, **Serena Chen**, will discuss *Racist Love and Racist Hate*. See the last page of the newsletter more information about Serena.

There are three choices of meals, one of which is vegetarian. The cost is \$20 per meal, which includes an 18% gratuity and California taxes.

Please write a check made out to AAUW Alameda branch by Monday, November 8 and send it to Paula Biber at 340 29th Avenue, Unit 307, Oakland, CA 94601. In the memo section of your check please indicate with a letter your meal choice.

A Dizzy DRAGON ROLL SAMPLER (served with assorted sauces, prawns, chicken, crispy curry potato and crispy pork)

B STEAMED TOFU VEGETABLE CLAY POT

C GARLIC NOODLES WITH BARBECUE CHICKEN

You can order drinks at your own expense. If you cannot get your check to me by November 8, please text or email me so I can include you in the luncheon ([510-918-8577](tel:510-918-8577) or pbiwer@yahoo.com). We can only accommodate 25 members at this luncheon; so please get your reservation in right away to secure a spot to this wonderful event.

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



AAUW California facilitates California branches in meeting the vision and mission of AAUW by providing programs, education and resources.

Here is how we will meet our mission this year.

We will follow AAUW's Strategic Plan.2 <https://www.aauw.org/?s=strategic+plan+2.0> and our California Priorities

			
AAUW National Priorities			
Governance & Sustainability		Leadership	Economic Security
AAUW California Priorities			
GROWTH & SUSTAINABILITY Grow AAUW California branch membership by increasing retention efforts and by attracting new members through relevant programming.	VISIBILITY Broaden the AAUW brand and visibility through strategic marketing initiatives.	LEADERSHIP EXPANSION Provide branches with resources to expand leadership on two fronts: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop new branch leaders• Develop leadership skills in young women	EMPOWERMENT OF YOUNG WOMEN Provide branches with resources to empower young women in their careers.



AskUsFirst@aauw-ca.org has been very successful this past year and we are continuing it. If you have a question about AAUW, Ask Us First. If we don't know the answer, we will find out for you. National staff who are working hard with fewer people these days.

This will help AAUW.

Best wishes for a successful AAUW year!

Be bold, brave and brilliant!

Dianne Owens
AAUW California State President statepresident@aauw-ca.org



TAKE ACTION



Please subscribe to the AAUW Action Network! As a Two-Minute Activist, you will receive urgent e-mail notices when your advocacy is needed most. We'll provide all the tools you need to call or send messages to your members of Congress, write letters to the editor in your local newspapers, contact your state legislators about pressing issues, and more. Last year, our supporters sent federal and state legislators over 200,000 messages! With your help, our Action Network can continue to boost AAUW's influence on Capitol Hill and in statehouses across the nation.

What's next?

- If you're eager for activism right now, check out our [Two-Minute Activist page](#), where you can take action on AAUW's priority issues today with the click of a button!
- Learn how to empower women and girls in your community with our [advocacy how-to guides](#). Whether you're interested in organizing rallies, reaching out to the media, or getting out the vote, AAUW has the answers.
- Get social with AAUW! Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) to stay in-the-know about our newest public policy efforts.

For over 135 years, AAUW has been the nation's leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls – and we don't intend to quit. Together, we can make a difference.

Thanks again for joining our community dedicating to advancing education and equity for women and girls. We look forward to working with you, and we hope you'll invite friends and family to become part of this powerful network!

Sincerely,

The AAUW Public Policy Team

ANNOUNCEMENTS/Future Events

Monday, November 1, 6:00 pm - **Board Meeting** – via Zoom -- ALL WELCOME !!

Sunday, November 7 – **Cinema Club**

Monday, November 8 – **Mah Jongg Group** – NEW Group!

Saturday, November 13, 11:00 AM – **November Luncheon at Dragon Rouge, Outside Patio**

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

Thursday, November 18, 10:00 am – **Museum Group**

Friday, November 19, 12:30 pm – **Dirt Divas/Gardening Club**

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

Monday, November 22 – **Mah Jongg Group**

Tuesday, November 23, 7:15 pm -- **Evening Books Group**



American Style Mah Jongg – Our Branch’s Newest Interest Group

“**ONE CRAK, FIVE BAM, FLOWER**”-- Are you interested in playing American-style Mah Jongg? Our board has approved the formation of an AAUW Alameda Branch Mah Jongg group. This Mah Jongg game differs from the various Asian styles and we will use the National Mah Jongg League card and rules.

If you’d like to know more about this style of Mah Jongg, the Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek branch has this link on their site:

<https://daw-ca.aauw.net/files/2013/02/americanMahJonggRules.pdf>

The group will be meeting on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month. **Contact Laura Porter** at LRAJEAN@AOL.COM or **510-912-0385** if you’d like to play in the Mah Jongg interest group. .



Updates from AAUW California Public Policy Committee



Abortion Justice

Although the constitutionally-guaranteed right to an abortion has been systematically under attack for decades, it is currently in danger of disappearing altogether. As AAUW National recently noted, "Every person should have the ability to make their own informed decisions regarding their reproductive life. It is beyond time for abortion to be secured legally, funded fully, and equitably available for all who need it, when they need it, without shame or stigma." With the recent refusal of the U.S. Supreme Court to intervene in the onerous Texas case, it is clear that we can no longer count on the courts to protect this critical right. Congress must pass the Women's Health Protection Act. Watch for Action Alerts from National, use them to keep pressure on your representatives, and sign-up now for the 2-Minute Activist if you haven't already done so by clicking here <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>.

Be sure to let us know if members from your branch participated in the Rally for Abortion Justice on October 2nd, along with Beach Cities, Palos Verdes, San Fernando Valley, Pasadena, Alameda, Carlsbad-Oceanside-Vista, Los Altos-Mt. View, San Jose and Morgan Hill, and send pictures if you have them to publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org.



Legislative Updates

Our last five priority bills that were awaiting the Governor's signature have been acted on, here are the results

- SB 62 (requires fair pay, instead of "by the piece" payment, for garment workers) **SIGNED**
- AB 367 (free menstrual products must be provided in girls/women's bathrooms in schools) **SIGNED**
- AB 887 (allows domestic violence restraining orders to be filed electronically) **SIGNED**
- AB 123 (increases paid family leave benefits to 65 – 75% of regular pay) **VETOED**
- AB 1074 (requires hotel and janitorial workers who have lost their jobs due the pandemic to be prioritized for hiring as businesses reopen) **VETOED**



Economic Equity

October 21st is Latina Equal Pay Day – the day Latina women, who are paid just 57 cents to every white male's dollar, finally catch up from the previous year. To help raise awareness, our coalition partner Stronger California is hosting a Latina Equal Pay Day & Essential Women Workers Virtual Summit. If you are interested in joining to learn more and hear from iconic civil rights leader Dolores Huerta as well as California's First Partner Jennifer Newsome, click [register](#) to register.

-Kathi Harper, Co-Chair



Climate Forum



Here is an update for our AAUW Alameda Branch members about the October 1st Feeling the Heat Forum sponsored by UN Association USA western regions (CA, OR, WA and Hawaii UN Association USA affiliates) and co-sponsored by AAUW of California and many others such as Sierra Club, UN Women, etc.. Check out the complete list in the link.

The Zoom Feeling the Heat Forum on October 1st included youth advocates, indigenous and female perspectives as well as impactful participants from scientific, government, political and citizen activist sectors. There is now a recording of the entire forum available at the link below and a second recording if you scroll down in this same link. The second is a short one hour video from the previous week briefing on prior 25 years of United Nations global work on climate: The ABCs of UNFCCC subtitled Understanding the UN Climate Conference and Undertaking Actions Together.

<https://www.aauw-ca.org/event/una-western-regions-climate-forum-feeling-the-heat-expectations-for-un-26th-climate-conference-cop26/>
or go directly to <https://www.unawestclimate.org>

Over 21 speakers live and video included Governor Jay Inslee of Washington State, Senator Alex Padillo of California, State Senator Nancy Skinner of California, and Annie Leonard of Green Peace. Nancy Skinner really should be congratulated and thanked for all the work she has done on climate change over the years. Please watch the video and report back to President Barbara Krummel if you agree Nancy Skinner has been amazing and we might want to thank her for all of her climate work for CA.

Our own Ethnic Dining Group participant Herb Behrstock was the spark that created this incredible event with a hard working team of UN Association western region colleagues working together for over 6 months. Two amazing women and Herb moderated the three groups of climate experts involved. Several Alameda Branch AAUW colleagues were among the 275+ Zoom participants. I'm hoping they also learned something they too can share with our members.

-Submitted by Dorie Guess Behrstock



DIRT DIVA NEWS



The Dirt Divas dove into the world of honeybees on Friday, October 15. We were quite brave with the bees buzzing about. We discovered so much about the lifecycle of our local bees and the crucial role they play in our lives. We even sampled some honey comb, which was delicious. If you would like to support one of our wonderful Alameda resources here is his information: Twin Bee Apiaries 650-387-5773. If you want to purchase honey, Andre still has some available. Please mention that Paula sent you from AAUW.

Next month, on Friday, November 19 the Divas will be visiting Annie's Annuals and Perennials in Richmond for a private tour. We are going to carpool from Alameda departing at 12:30 pm. If you wish to join us please contact Paula Biber ([510-918-8577](tel:510-918-8577) or pbiwer@yahoo.com).

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, [510-523-3612](tel:510-523-3612), for more information.

Bridge Group No meeting this month.

Cinema Club

Cinema Club meets on November 7 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 Tuesday Evening Book group meets at a member's home November 23 at 7:15 pm to discuss [*The Fate of Food: What We'll Eat in a Bigger, Hotter, Smarter World*](#) by Amanda Little. To join us or for more information about the group, please contact Kevis at kevis.brownson@gmail.com.

Dirt Divas/Garden Club

On Friday, November 19, the Divas will be visiting Annie's Annuals and Perennials in Richmond for a private tour. We are going to carpool from Alameda departing at 12:30 pm. If you wish to join us please contact Paula Biwer [510-918-8577](tel:510-918-8577) or pbiwer@yahoo.com.

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**

Mah Jongg (American Style)

The group meets on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month. Contact Laura Porter at Lrajean@aol.com or [510-912-0385](tel:510-912-0385) if you'd like to play in the Mah Jongg Interest Group.

Museum Group

On Thursday, November 18, the museum group will travel to the Stanford Museum of Modern and Contemporary American Art. The Anderson museum is free and right next door to the Stanford Cantor museum, which is exhibiting a collection of prints, drawings, and photographs. Art on paper can take on myriad forms and expressions, each work a glimpse into the struggles and beauty of so many different worlds. The carpool leaves at 9:30 **sharp** from the Ross parking lot at South Shore. We will have lunch at the Cantor museum restaurant. Please respond to Judy Sparks at JudySparks@comcast.net if you are interested in going. For more information, contact Judy Sparks: **510-523-6736**.

Calendar Branch Activities

November 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1- Board Meeting 6:00 PM via Zoom	2	3	4	5	6
7- Cinema Club	8- Mah Jongg Group	9	10	11	12	13- Luncheon 11:00 AM at Dragon Rouge
14	15- Afternoon Books 1:30 PM	16	17	18- Museum Group 9:30 AM	19-Dirt Divas 12:30 PM	20 – Ethnic Dining Group 6:00 PM
21	22-Mah Jongg Group	23- Evening Book Club 7:15 PM	24	25- Thanksgiving 	26	27
28	29	30				

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.

Alameda AAUW Budget

AAUW - ALAMEDA BRANCH			2020-2021	2021-2022	2021-2022
			ACTUAL	PROPOSED	ACTUAL
INCOME					
Membership			\$ 1,533.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,304.00
Donations			\$ 205.00		
Drawing				\$ 300.00	
Plant Sale				\$ 2,000.00	
General Fund Supplement				\$ 1,376.90	
TOTAL			\$ 1,738.00	\$ 5,176.90	\$ 1,304.00
EXPENSES					
Insurance			\$ 348.00	\$ 338.00	\$ 338.00
P.O. Box			\$ 190.00	\$ 190.00	
Zoom			\$ 149.90	\$ 162.00	\$ 162.00
Publicity - Alameda Sun			\$ 693.30	\$ 693.60	\$ 693.60
IBC Dues			\$ 55.00	\$ 55.00	
Chamber of Commerce				\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Newsletter Stamps			\$ 75.30	\$ 75.30	
Gifts			\$164.00		
	Past Pres. Pin	\$113.00		\$ 113.00	
	AAUW Funds	\$51.00			
Dirt Divas			\$400.00		
	Ploughshares	\$250.00			
	Bonsai Tonight	\$150.00			
Plant Sale			\$123.74		
	Promotion	\$28.00			
	Pot Labels	\$95.74			
Friends of Library			\$ 400.00		
Book Plates			\$ 28.48		
Membership Expenses				\$ 150.00	
Program Expenses				\$ 900.00	
Peralta Admin				\$ 100.00	
NCCWSL Admin				\$ 100.00	
Tech Trek Admin			\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00	
Tech Trek lunches				\$ 250.00	
Peralta Scholarship				\$ 1,675.00	
Miscellaneous				\$ 100.00	
TOTAL			\$ 2,702.72	\$ 5,176.90	\$ 1,393.60



Serena Chen is president of the Alameda County Asian Pacific American Democratic Caucus and serves on the City of Alameda’s Open Government Commission. She has taught courses at UC Berkeley and Laney College on Asian American history. Undoing racism is our job as parents, caregivers, and educators no matter how uncomfortable it might be for us. It starts with understanding our history.

*“No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.” ~ Nelson Mandela, *The Long Walk to Freedom**