



ALAMEDA BRANCH
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

February 2022

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Education Fund Lecture February 12 11:00 via Zoom



FASCINATING FEBRUARY SPEAKER

The BOARD has decided, given the current status of Covid, to switch this meeting to a zoom only format.

We are pleased to announce that a recipient of an AAUW 2021

International Fellowship, **Faheema Eissar**, will be our speaker.

Faheema was born and raised in Afghanistan but attended college in the United States. She returned to Afghanistan to work for seven years, returning to the U.S. for graduate school shortly before the U.S. left in August 2021. With her AAUW fellowship, Faheema Eissar will pursue a Master of Science in international development economics, with a focus on development policies and data analytics at the University of San Francisco. She would like to pursue research in utilizing the private sector and the role of women in leading underdeveloped countries toward development. This interest comes from the extensive work experience she has had with the private sector in Afghanistan over the past seven years. She had intended to return to Afghanistan upon receiving her degree but those plans are now on hold indefinitely. We are sure you will find Faheema's story compelling given that she is now separated from her family, all of whom are unable to leave Afghanistan under the new regime. It is not often we are privileged to hear from someone whose life is so directly affected by the news we read in the paper or see on TV.

Each year, the membership has contributed generously to support AAUW's education and training mission. To do so again this year, please **make out your checks to "AAUW" with "Fund 4450" in the memo line.**

Mail your checks to: Mary Oppedahl, 2465 Shoreline Drive, Apt 106 Alameda CA 94501

Register in advance for this ZOOM meeting: [HERE](#)

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

Dear Alameda Branch members,

We are definitely experiencing some health and social challenges once again but hopefully these will be short lived. In the meantime, AAUW Alameda is still meeting virtually and continues to plan for this year and the next. I hope you are all managing to keep on keepin' on and staying safe. Please reach out to a fellow member (including myself) if you need support, we are all here for each other.

From AAUW California - **ANNUAL EVENT**

Charmen Goehring, Meetings Planner, meetings@aauw-ca.org

Join us for our virtual Annual Event on April 30th to hear fabulous speakers like AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell, Policy Rockstar Lisa Maatz, and the Dancing Rocket Scientist Jasmine Sadler! Get caught up on all the incredible work and successes of AAUW California branches from the past year. Hear our Speech Trek finalists. **AND**, there won't be a dull moment when we venture through a series of "open space" sessions in the afternoon, on a variety of topics covering all things AAUW, equity, women, and girls. More details and registration information will be coming soon.

From AAUW National - **13TH ANNUAL ART CONTEST**

Was this the year you finally found time to devote to a painting or art project? If so, you're in luck! AAUW's 13th annual art contest is under way, and we invite members to [submit a high-res image](#) of their original painting, photography, sculpture, collage or other artwork. We're taking submissions through January 31, 2022. Your work could be among the winning entries!

We accept art related to any topic, but we encourage you to consider works that speak to AAUW's mission of advancing equity for women and girls.

Starting in February, AAUW members will select their favorite entries via ranked-choice voting. The winners will be featured on a collection of notecards sent to all members this spring. The back of each card will include the winning artist's biography, a fact about AAUW and a highlight of the artist's local branch affiliation when applicable.

Please spread the word to your state and branch! We know from past years' entries that there is a lot of talent out there!

For more information on submitting artwork or to peruse last year's art gallery, please visit the [AAUW Art Contest page](#).

-Barbara Krummel, President



REMINDER -- 2022-2023 Officers' Slate Nominations Committee Forming

The Article IX, Section 1, Item a of the Nominations and Elections section of our Branch Bylaws state:

“There shall be a nominating committee of at least five (5) members, appointed by the Immediate Past President, who shall serve as the Convener of the Nominating Committee. The current President should not serve on this committee.”

As it is my honor to serve our Branch as its Immediate Past President during this Membership Year, I am seeking volunteers and/or the names of recommended Members for this Committee. All Members are eligible except for the current President, so all Officers, Committee Chairs, and rank-and-file Members are encouraged to participate.

There is no limit to the size of this Committee, except for the minimum number of five (5) participants. **This Committee will, most likely, only be required to meet once or possibly twice (via Zoom)**, after I have appointed the Members who will serve on it.

Please seriously consider volunteering for this important Committee and/or suggesting names of other Members who should be considered for inclusion on the Committee. I may be contacting you, via phone or e-mail, if I think your participation would enhance the Committee's effectiveness and/or diversity.

You can contact me via e-mail, at mdham21@yahoo.com or by phone, at either (510) 749-0738 (land line) or (510) 219-7961 (mobile device).

-Mark Hamilton

Secretary, Immediate Past President, Website Coordinator, Hospitality Committee Member, Ethnic Dining Group Organizer, and Funds Committee Member -- AAUW-Alameda Branch Member -- AAUW-National Inclusion and Equity Committee (IEC)

ANNOUNCEMENTS/Future Events

Monday, February 7, 6:00 pm -- **Board Meeting** – via Zoom -- ALL WELCOME !!

Saturday, February 12, 11:00 am – **February Lecture via Zoom**

Monday, February 14, 1:30 pm – **Mah Jongg Group**

Thursday, February 17, 9:30 am – **Museum Group** – Napa Valley Museum

Friday, February 18, 1:00 pm – **Dirt Divas/Gardening Club** – Art and Planting Afternoon

Saturday, February 19, 6:00 pm -- **Ethnic Dining Group**

Sunday, February 20 – **Cinema Club**

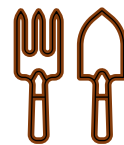
Monday, February 21, 1:30 pm – **Afternoon Books Group** - New members welcome!

Tuesday, February 22, 7:15 pm – **Evening Books Group** – New members welcome!

Monday, February 28, 1:30 pm – **Mah Jongg Group**



February 18



Dirt Divas - Art and Planting Afternoon for All AAUW members

Please join us on Friday, February 18 at 1 PM in Laura Porter's backyard (352 Channing Way) for two fun activities to support our April 30, 2022 Plant Sale. Even if you're not a Dirt Diva, please join us for an enjoyable afternoon and to learn something new with these two outdoor activities:

Help decorate pots: We will be using acrylics to paint nature themes and simple designs on claypots of various sizes. Paint, brushes and pots will be provided. You may bring additional painting supplies and/or clay pots of any size to support our plant sale.

Help propagate plants: NOW is the time to take cuttings from your plants to propagate for the plant sale. We will be learning how to propagate plants from cuttings and how to plant seeds in mini plastic containers. If you have cuttings or seeds that could be propagated into plants for sale, please bring them on Feb 18 or contact Paula to arrange for pickup.

Please RSVP to Laura Porter (LRAJEAN@AOL.COM) if you'd like to participate in one or both of these activities on February 18.

Other Ways You Can Support our 2022 Plant Sale:

1-We need your help to become guardian angels to some of our young outdoor plants that will be potted on February 18 and caring for them until the April 30 plant sale. Please contact Laura (510-912-0385) to arrange a time to pick them up or have them delivered to you.

2-If you can't participate on February 18 and would like to help get plants started for the plant sale, Paula can come to you and take cuttings from your plants. Just text or call her at 510-918-8577. She's had great success with geraniums, succulents, fuchsias, etc.

3-We would appreciate your donations of any clean decorative or ceramic pots in saleable condition. These donations can be dropped off in front of Dorothy's garage doors (2918 Lincoln Ave.).

Thanks in advance for your efforts at gardening, painting, donating pots and caring for plants to support our 2022 plant sale. We support nature and nature supports us!



Childcare: An Overdue and Critical Investment

By Shelley Mitchell and Ginny Hatfield
AAUW CA Public Policy Committee

“It’s past time that we treat childcare as what it is – an element whose contribution to economic growth is as essential as infrastructure or energy...and the single most important thing we can do

to build a stronger economy over the next several decades,” says Janet Yellen, the former Chair of the Federal Reserve Bank and now Secretary of the Treasury.

The state of U.S. childcare is deplorable compared with other developed nations, especially with respect to affordability. This fact has been brought home to us ever more vividly during the current pandemic. Women, who still bear the majority of childcaring, have left the workforce in the millions due to the absence of basic childcare services and the cost associated with it.

Here are some sobering statistics:

- 56% of married families with children under 6 consist of households where both parents work
- The employment rate for single mothers raising a young child is 65%; it's 83% for single fathers who maintain custody
- The average American family with at least one child under 5 uses 13% of their income to pay for childcare
- Less than 20% of children eligible for a low-income federal assistance program are getting the funding
- 50% of Americans live in childcare “deserts” or areas where there are three children per every childcare opening
- In 24 states the average cost for infant full-time daycare exceeds the average cost of rent
- 97% of childcare providers are women, who are disproportionately women of color, making less than a living wage with no guaranteed benefits. In the US, the mean hourly wage for childcare workers is \$12.88, nearly \$3.00 less per hour than parking lot attendants, and \$5.00 less per hour than dog groomers.

This is a textbook example of a broken market, whereby the benefits of providing a service (in this case childcare) are not included in its overall value. Are our children really less important than our cars and dogs?

The consequences of not investing in quality childcare should have most Americans demanding action from their government leaders. Neglecting the care of young children is detrimental to their physical and mental wellbeing; it reduces productivity in the workforce; leads to lost wages and reduced retirement benefits for parents; it adds to the downward pressure on childcare workers, which in turn, impacts the quality and stability of childcare; and restricts future educational opportunities for family members.

There is hope on the horizon! *The Build Back Better Act*, now awaiting action by the Senate would provide universal preschool with high-quality childcare for 3- and 4-year-olds; increase wages for early childhood educators; upgrade existing childcare facilities, especially in high-need areas; and provide a sliding scale whereby parents would pay a reasonable percentage of their overall income to childcare costs.

Whether the legislation is included in the Reconciliation bill or taken up as a stand-alone bill, it deserves passage and your support. Childcare relief remains the top priority of AAUW California this year. Please be sure to contact your Senator and let them know of your AAUW membership and your commitment to ensuring our Nation's future.

AAUW is calling on the 117th Congress to ensure that a permanent paid leave program, childcare funding and the Child Tax Credit are included in the budget reconciliation process.

To find out more or to contact your senators, [CLICK Here](#)

Branch Interest Groups

Afternoon Books

We meet at 1:30 pm on the third Monday to discuss books we are currently reading. **We are looking for more members! Call Kate Quick, 510-523-3612, for more information.**

Bridge Group No meeting this month.

Cinema Club

Cinema Club meets on Sunday, February 20, for a matinee. If COVID precautions allow, we will meet at the Alameda Theatre followed by a gathering at Tucker's Ice Cream for discussion. If not, we will plan a virtual event. 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 Evening Book group meets on Tuesday, February 22 at 7:15 pm to discuss *The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd. We are actively looking for new members for our group. For this year's book list, please see our web page <https://alameda-ca.aauw.net/book-club/> . To join us or for more information , please contact Kevis at kevis.brownson@gmail.com .

Dirt Divas/Garden Club

Please join us on Friday, February 18 at 1 PM in Laura Porter's backyard (352 Channing Way) for two fun activities to support our April 30, 2022 Plant Sale.
Please contact Paula at pbiwer@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

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 at 1:30 PM. Contact Laura Porter at Lrajean@aol.com or 510-912-0385 if you'd like to play in the Mah Jongg Interest Group.

Museum Group

The group will travel to Yountville on Thursday, February 17 to tour the Napa Valley Museum. There is a permanent collection. The featured exhibit will be about "Kitchen Gizmos and Gadgets" Then we will go to the Oakville Grocery Store for lunch. This is a gourmet grocery store where you can purchase sandwiches, salads, and many other items. They have outside seating. We can each place and pay for our own orders. Wear layers to eat outside if the weather is cold. Please contact me at JudySparks@comcast.net if you are interested in going. We meet at the Ross Parking lot at South Shore for a 9:30 pm **sharp** departure.

Calendar Branch Activities

February 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednes day	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1-Chinese New Year 	2	3	4	5
6	7- Board Meeting 6:00 PM via Zoom	8	9	10	11	12-Ed Fund Lecture 11:00 AM
13	14- Mah Jongg Group 	15	16	17- Museum Group 9:30 AM	18-Dirt Divas 1:00 PM	19- Ethnic Dining Group 6:00 PM
20- Cinema Club	21- Afternoon Books 1:30 PM 	22- Evening Book Club 7:15 PM	23	24	25	26
27	28- Mah Jongg Group	1	2	3	4	5

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.