



ALAMEDA BRANCH
2021-22 BOARD
 alameda-ca.aauw.net

LEADERSHIP TEAM

PRESIDENT

Barbara Krummel

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Marilyn Sharron

MEMBERSHIP VPs

Paula Biber, Marilyn Sharron, Silver Alkhafaji

PROGRAM VPs

Paula Biber & Lena Tam

AAUW FUNDS VP

Mary Oppedahl

FINANCE VP

Susan Myers

SECRETARY

Mark Hamilton

HISTORIAN: Beth Sibley

HOSPITALITY

Cynthia Silva, Karen Guthrie Silver Alkhafaji, Dorothy Kerwin, Mark Hamilton

NEWSLETTER: Jennifer Ayres

PARLIAMENTARIAN/Bylaws

Penelope Washbourn

PUBLIC POLICY

Donna Vaughn

PUBLICITY

Elizabeth McGaffey

SUNSHINE: Cynthia Silva

TECH TREK COORDINATOR

Barbara Krummel

FUNDS COMMITTEE CHAIR

Dorothy Kerwin

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

Penny Washbourn

Dorie Guess Behrstock

WEBSITE COORDINATOR

Mark Hamilton

Alameda Branch News

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

January 2022

A publication of AAUW-Alameda Branch, chartered 1962

Vol. 59, Issue 5

Luncheon POSTPONED
 due to Covid persistence and indoor location

(Tentatively rescheduled for April 9)

~~**Holiday Luncheon January 8, 2022 11 - 2**~~
High Street Station Café



COME CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR with AAUW!

Our December AAUW holiday luncheon had to be canceled, but do not despair; we have an exciting event planned to celebrate 2022 on Saturday, January 8 at the High St., Station Café (corner Encinal & High ST) at 11 AM - 2 PM. We will have a complete afternoon tea with creamy Caesar salad, tea sandwiches (egg salad, chicken salad, cucumber and cream cheese) clotted cream with strawberry jam, cream puffs and small cookies. Choice of specialty teas. We will have a voluntary fun post holiday gift exchange (value of \$25 or less). Remember to be creative with your wrapping and wear a tea hat if you have one. **Please send a check for \$40 (this includes the tax and tip) made out to AAUW Alameda Branch to Paula Biber 340 29th AV UNIT 370 Oakland, CA 94601 by Monday, January 3** or call 510-918-8577 if you cannot get the check in the mail on time.

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

Happy New Year and thanks to all of our members for making our Alameda AAUW branch vibrant, engaged and fun! I want to encourage everyone to consider getting involved in our Board leadership. If it seems intimidating or too time consuming (it's not), try the buddy system: team up with another member to fill a position. With an active membership we can continue to grow, educate and engage within our wonderful Alameda community.

Given the spread of the omicron variant and the current lack of clarity around the protection offered by vaccination and boosters, **members should check with interest group leaders concerning in person events planned for January.** Hopefully the next few weeks will bring greater clarity.

- Barbara Krummel, President

-

2022-2023 Officers' Slate Nominations Committee Forming – Volunteers/Suggestions Needed

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

Sunday, January 2 – **Cinema Club**

Monday, January 3, 6:00 pm -- **Board Meeting** – via Zoom -- ALL WELCOME !!

Monday, January 10 – **Mah Jongg Group**

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

Monday, January 17, 1:30 pm – **Afternoon Books Group** - New members welcome!

Thursday, January 20, 9:30 am – **Museum Group** – Legion of Honor – *Color into Line*

Friday, January 21, 12:15 pm – **Dirt Divas/Gardening Club** – Annie’s Annuals & Perennials

Monday, January 24 – **Mah Jongg Group**

Tuesday, January 25, 7:15 pm – **Evening Books Group** – New members welcome!

Thursday, January 27, 1:00 pm — **AAUW National Inclusion and Equity Webinar** -- Allyship – What it is, getting past “performative” allyship, how to be an ally, etc.

The Museum Group at Tyme for Tea & Co. on Dec 16, 2021





AAUW National Inclusion and Equity Committee (IEC) Webinar January 27, 2022, 1:00 pm

The third in a series of five Webinars being hosted by our AAUW-National Inclusion and Equity Committee (IEC), an advisory body to the AAUW National Board of Directors, will occur on **Thursday, January 27, 2022, starting at 1:00 pm, PST.**

The Plug and Play resources in the Association's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Toolkit are meant to be used by local Branches to create programming and events around relevant topics. Each Plug and Play topic includes an explanation of the topic, guidelines for the facilitator(s), and discussion prompts to make the event and conversation as robust as possible. For more information, go to:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/dei-toolkit/plug-play-dei-programming/>

The topic for this January Webinar is Creating Allyship. Activities include getting to know Branch Membership more intimately and determining what shapes us as activists for human and civil rights. Times when we have functioned as allies for groups we do not belong to, along with expanding opportunities to function more effectively as allies are explored.

Two more Webinars will round out the Committee's offerings for this Membership Year:
March 24, 2022, -- Intersectionality – Definitions, how individuals are affected, overall purpose, etc.
May 26, 2022 – Social Justice – Definitions, strategies, effects on other topics and considerations, etc.

Closer to the date of this third Webinar, all Alameda Branch Members who have e-mail addresses on file, along with other potential Guests, will receive, by e-mail, complete details and registration information.

I hope to “see” you all there!

Mark Hamilton,
Alameda Branch Secretary
Member, AAUW National Inclusion and Equity Committee



Women's Reproductive Rights - Where Are We Now?

by Claire Noonan, AAUW CA Public Policy

By January 22, 2022, the 49th anniversary of the Roe v Wade decision, SCOTUS (the Supreme Court of the United States) will have heard arguments on Texas SB 8 legislation banning pregnancy termination after six (6) weeks and Mississippi's legislation (Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health Organization) to ban abortion after fifteen (15) weeks.

What are the issues? For Texas, it isn't about the constitutionality of the legislation, i.e. the fundamental right decided by Roe v Wade. Instead, a decision will be made on the tactics used by the Texas legislature - delegating their enforcement duties to citizens - to preclude lawsuits against the State.

The decision on the Mississippi legislation will be straightforward. One, SCOTUS could overturn Roe v Wade. Two, the court could limit legal standing to challenges on state law, e.g. doctors wouldn't be able to challenge on behalf of patients. Three, new legal standards for the evaluation of abortion regulations may be created so states aren't required to show that the benefits of an abortion ban outweigh the undue burden to patients – reversing Planned Parenthood v Casey. (Women's Health Policy, 11/21/2021)

One hundred six (106) state laws have been passed to restrict abortion in 2021. Activists, like AAUW, are bringing lawsuits before the Supreme Court. AAUW has submitted an amicus brief for Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health Organization as to the constitutionality of the Mississippi law. In addition, the ACLU and others have brought lawsuits against other Mississippi abortion-related legislation like regulations for informed consent, a waiting period before the procedure, and ban on telemedicine visits.

Surveys show that 60-70% of Americans approve of abortion in all or most circumstances. Only 20% think abortion should be illegal in all circumstances. (*New York Times, Upshot* (5/19/2021). AAUW and AAUW California stand with the majority, and the time to act is now. We must pressure the Senate to pass the [Women's Health Protection Act](#). The legislation must become law in this session. Unfair changes in representation have occurred with redistricting. Votes in the 2022 mid-term elections that would elect representatives who would vote for this bill could be suppressed.

Detailed information on the current position for women's reproductive health is available from the [Guttmacher Institute](#).

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 January 2 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 Evening Book group meets on Tuesday, January 25 at 7:15 pm to discuss *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson. 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

Dirt divas rescheduled trip to Annie's Annuals & Perennials Friday, January 21 at 1 PM. Please join us for a private tour of this wonderful nursery. We will carpool from the Ross parking lot leaving Alameda at 12:15 PM. This trip is open to all AAUW members. Please contact Paula at pbiwer@yahoo.com if you have any questions. Also, it is not too soon to begin propagating some of your plants; especially your indoor ones. Now is a good time to check out local thrift shops to purchase decorative ceramic pots for us to resell at our spring plant sale.

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 if you'd like to play in the Mah Jongg Interest Group.

Museum Group

On Thursday, January 20, we will travel to the Legion of Honor Museum and see:

Color into Line: Pastels from the Renaissance to the Present

Color into Line presents a powerful selection of masterpiece drawings done with pastel, one of the most versatile and adaptable media in art history. Spanning from the Renaissance to most recent artistic experimentations—from Rosalba Carriera to Mary Cassatt and Edgar Degas to John Altoon and Wayne Thiebaud—the narrative highlights technical aspects with an emphasis on the design process behind the works.

We meet at South Shore Shopping Center at 9:00 a.m. Carpool leaves from the Ross Parking Lot at **9:30 a.m.,sharp**. If you are interested in going, contact Judy Sparks, judysparks@comcast.net, or call (510)-523-6736 . We meet for lunch in the cafeteria at 11:30 am.

Calendar Branch Activities

January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednes day	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1-New Year's Day 
2- Cinema Club	3- Board Meeting 6:00 PM via Zoom	4	5	6	7	8
9	10- Mah Jongg Group	11	12	13	14	15- Ethnic Dining Group 6:00 PM
16	17- Afternoon Books 1:30 PM 	18	19	20- Museum Group 9:30 AM	21-Dirt Divas 12:15 PM	22
23	24- Mah Jongg Group	25 – Evening Books 7:15 PM	26	27-AAUW Webinar 1:00 PM	28	29
30	31					

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.