



**ALAMEDA BRANCH
2022-23 BOARD**
alameda-ca.aauw.net

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Jennifer Ayres

Alameda Branch News

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

September 2022

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Vol. 60, Issue 1

September Luncheon – Celebrate Tech Trek!

Saturday September 10 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Park Street Tavern 1901 Park Street



This is your once a year opportunity to learn what makes the **AAUW Tech Trek** program such a wonderful experience for young women. **Tech Trek** is a **STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) camp designed to develop interest, excitement, and self-confidence in young women who will enter eighth grade in the fall. It features hands-on activities in STEM-related fields. For our Alameda girls, all sleeping, eating, instructional and recreational facilities happen on the beautiful Sonoma State campus. The girls attend at no cost to them or their families, our branch raises the funds—\$6,000—to send six campers. At our September luncheon, the girls will share their experiences and do some "show and tell" with their camp projects. Please join us for this fun and inspiring presentation and plan to make a donation to support next year's girls.

Our luncheon will be held at The Park Street Tavern, 1901 Park Street., from 12-3 p.m. The scrumptious buffet is \$30 per person, tax and gratuity included, with a no-host bar. **Please RSVP to Ellie Barrantes at esbarrantes@gmail.com no later than Wednesday, August 24.** Checks to be made out to "AAUW Alameda Branch", mailed to Ellie Barrantes, 1160 Bismarck Lane, Alameda, CA 94502 or you can pay the day of the luncheon.

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

Welcome to a new year with our AAUW Alameda Branch! First, I would like to thank all of our amazing members for continuing to make our branch fun, fabulous and friendly. Through your participation in our interest groups and your work and donations to support the AAUW mission, you have created a vibrant branch that makes a difference in our community! Next, a shout out to our hard-working and dedicated Board members (they are listed at the top of this newsletter). At our monthly Board meetings, we plan, organize and strategize to make sure the branch is supporting our mission and our members. Our Board meetings are held the first Monday of the month (except for September which is the last Monday in August) and will continue to be held via Zoom. This means that it's easy for anyone to "drop in" if you're curious. I will ask Donna to send an e-blast each month with the Zoom link. Please consider stopping in to see what the Board is working on and maybe you'll want to join as a Board member in the future...

I would also like to highlight those members who received special recognition at our May luncheon: Michelle Pero-Igo, MaryJo Knight and Ellie Barrantes each received the award for "Outstanding New Member". As new branch members, Michelle stepped up to become Board Secretary; Ellie became the Co-VP of programs (as well as serving on the Tech Trek Committee); and Mary Jo played a huge role in the success of our plant sale. Silver Alkhafaji received the "Volunteer of the Year" award for her ongoing work to help our branch reach a young and diverse audience as Co-VP of membership.

-Barbara Krummel, AAUW Alameda Branch President



We are so happy to report that Tech Trek happened in-person !! Given the ongoing Covid situation, this was a huge accomplishment and the six girls we sent, representing five different Alameda Middle Schools, were thrilled to attend. Here are some excerpts from the thank you notes that the girls sent to us after their week at camp. Jayla: "I've learned to solder a circuit board to make a jiggy bot, build a mobile app, learn about how water goes through the ground, and how to code." Zorana: "It was amazing meeting women in STEM, and I love the way people explained to us seriously and in depth, about their jobs and field specialties." Susan: "I had an amazing time and am truly, truly grateful for this opportunity you have given me." Karishma: "I've felt homesick, but the friends I have made took all the sadness away." Reshmi: "And the food, I've never ate anything more tastier, other than my mom's chicken curry."

Remember, our September luncheon will be your chance to meet our wonderful campers in-person and hear more about their experiences. Please plan to attend and donate to support this incredible program that really does change lives.

Barbara Krummel, Alameda Branch Tech Trek Coordinator



Request for Opportunity Drawing Items !!

To provide quality opportunity drawing items, **please bring any of the items listed to the September, October and November luncheons.**

I would like to tailor the items to the luncheon theme or holiday of the month.

These are some examples of items that I can hopefully create a nice package/basket.

If there are any nice, artsy planters or baskets left from the plant sale, I could make good use of these as well.

I hope to limit the prizes to five per meeting.

Books- Hardback/Paperback

Journals

Candles

Stationery

Unwanted Gift Cards

Boxed Soaps/Lotions

Wine

Scarves

Crochet/ Knitted Items

Picture Frames

Boxed/Packaged Coffee,Tea

Event Tickets

Or any unused gifts received needing a good home.

-Submitted by Cindy Silva

Membership Reminder

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME IS **STILL** HERE

For those who have not yet renewed your membership, there are **two ways** to do this.

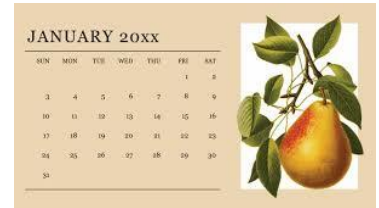
1. **Check** - made out to AAUW Alameda for \$110. Mail it to Susan Myers
3215 Garfield Ave
Alameda, CA 94501.

Or

2. **Online at aauw.org**. Click log in and enter your email address. Click forgot your password. Then you can set a new password and enter all your information again. For problems contact me - Susan Myers, **510 326-8955** or **samsat@att.net**.

-Susan Myers, Finance VP

Request for 2023 Calendars



This time of the year we all receive calendars from the many organizations that we donate to.

At the branch luncheons from September to December, please bring any 2023 excess calendars that you may have. We are accepting both wallet and wall calendars.

The calendars will be provided to the clients of the Alameda Food Bank.

Cindy Silva will be collecting the calendars.
Thank you in advance for your donations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/Future Events

Monday, August 29, 6:00 pm -- **Board Meeting** – via Zoom -- ALL WELCOME !!

Saturday, September 3, 4:00 pm – **Art Walk Group** - Gray Loft Gallery

Saturday, September 10, 12:00 pm – **September Tech Trek Luncheon** – Park Street Tavern

Monday, September 12, 1:30 pm – **Mah Jongg Group**

Wednesday, September 14, 10:30 am – **Out to Lunch Bunch** – New Group! -- Mersea Restaurant

Thursday, September 15, 9:30 am – **Museum Group** – SF MOMA – Diego Rivera

Saturday, September 17, 6:00 pm – **Global Cooking and Dining Group**

Sunday, September 18 – **Cinema Club**

Monday, September 19, 1:30 pm – **Afternoon Books Group** – New members welcome!

Monday, September 26, 1:30 pm – **Mah Jongg Group**

Tuesday, September 27, 7:15 pm – **Evening Books Group** – New members welcome!



When *Women Vote*, We Change the Conversation!

Since 1881, AAUW has been a leading voice promoting education and equity for women and girls. AAUW encourages women voters to get involved in the political process and gain a better understanding of the impact legislative action can have on our lives.

The recent US Supreme Court *Dobbs* decision on abortion has stimulated action in many states across the nation, including California. Our legislature passed and Governor Newsom signed AB1666 which will enable a woman coming into California to receive an abortion to be protected from lawsuits originating in her home state. This bill was co-sponsored by AAUW CA! A further step protecting a woman's right to make personal medical decisions is a Constitutional Amendment, Proposition 1, which will be on the November 8 ballot. It would amend the California Constitution to prohibit the state from denying or interfering with an individual's reproductive freedom in her most intimate decisions, which includes the fundamental right to choose to have an abortion and the fundamental right to choose or refuse contraceptives. AAUW CA supports this Constitutional Amendment.

Congressional races are particularly important this November. Redistricting after the 2020 Census has changed the boundaries of many Congressional districts. In the current partisan climate, we need to be aware of what is at stake in both our national and state upcoming elections. Your current member of Congress may no longer represent you – be sure to become informed soon on the candidates for Congress in your district. As you sort through all this, please reflect on priority issues affecting us, our daughters, and granddaughters, and evaluate candidates' positions on these issues.

If you are a leader in your branch, make your October program a focus on the election. You may want to consider a Candidates Night. Before a partisan election, AAUW branches may host candidate forums to which **all** major-party candidates in that election are invited. AAUW branches with 501(c)(4) status must make a thorough and good faith effort to ensure the participation of at least two candidates for a specific office but may proceed with a forum if only one candidate accepts. AAUW branches with 501(c)(3) status may only proceed with a candidate forum event if at least two candidates have accepted the invitation.

Here are resources to get helpful, non-partisan information:

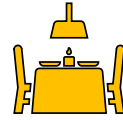
- AAUW CA website: aauw-ca.org Public Policy section will soon have more detail on priority issues and questions to ask of candidates.
- AAUW website: aauw.org/policy/advocacy/tool-kit Ideas for branch activities, C/U partners, and specifics for 501 c 3 and 501 c 4 branches.
- CA Secretary of State website: www.sos.ca.gov voter info, Ballot Initiatives.
- State and County Voter guides – mailed to all registered voters in October.
- www.wedrawthelinesca.org – maps of newly re-drawn congressional districts

Register to vote, if you haven't already! And if you have recently moved you need to update your information with your County Registrar of Voters! Voting is a powerful tool to bring about change!

--Submitted by Amy Hom, Los Altos - Mountain View AAUW, AAUW-CA Public Policy Committe



New Interest Group – Out to Lunch Bunch !



We have a new Interest Group planning to have lunch adventures at Bay Area restaurants the second Wednesday of each month. We will meet at the Ross parking lot, at South Shore, to carpool. The first six people to make a reservation may ride in the van. More people can go if there are volunteer drivers. The meeting time will vary depending on the destination.

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 Karen Scanlon, 510-523-5456, for more information.**

Art Walk Group

The Art Walk group will meet on Saturday, September 3, at 4:00 pm, at the Gray Loft Gallery in Oakland, for the closing reception of the exhibition *Night Vision*. The group has had a hard time getting started because of a lack of events during COVID, but we hope to meet the first or second Friday or Saturday of the month and visit an art gallery hosting a reception on Webster Street, Park Street, Frank Bette Center, Rhythmix, or Jingletown. For more information about the group and to respond for this month, please contact kevis.brownson@gmail.com .

Cinema Club

Cinema Club meets on Sunday, September 18, for a matinee at the Alameda Theatre followed by a gathering at Tucker's Ice Cream for discussion. To join us or for more information about the group, please contact Kevis at kevis.brownson@gmail.com.

Evening Books

The Evening Book group meets on Tuesday, September 27 at 7:15 pm to discuss *Squeeze Me* by Carl Hiassen. We have a great reading year ahead of us, and 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 - There will be no meeting in September.

Our next event will be Friday, October 21, 1pm at Phoenix Commons, 340 29 th Avenue, Oakland. At this meeting we'll learn how to propagate geraniums and other plants from cuttings and also how to plant rooted cuttings such as philodendrons. These newly potted plants will be nurtured and then sold at our May, 2023 plant sale. This planting party is open to all branch members and friends that want to learn how to grow and care for these plants. If interested, participants can take their newly potted plants home to care for them until the sale, or we can have a foster plant parent tend to them. If you'd like to participate in this event, please **RSVP to Paula Biwer** (call or text to **510-918-8577** or email to pbiwer@yahoo.com).

Between now and the plant sale, we are collecting ceramic and terra cotta pots we can sell. If you have any pots to donate in saleable condition, you can bring them to the October meeting, drop them off at Dorothy Kerwin's house in front of her garage (2918 Lincoln Ave., Alameda), or contact Paula to arrange pickup. Finally, you can help by saving small shipping boxes (e.g., from Amazon), Costco produce flats, etc. for the plant sale.

If you are interested in learning more about the Dirt Divas and our activities, please contact Paula.

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 September and June. **For more information, contact Dorothy Kerwin --** kerwindorothy@gmail.com

Mah Jongg (American Style)

Our branch Mah Jongg interest group continued meeting during the summer by an enthusiastic group of players. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Monday afternoon of each month to play American-style Mah Jongg. Beginners are welcome and we can teach you how to play if you'd like to give it a try. Contact Laura Porter at Lrajean@aol.com or **510-912-0385** for more information about the Mah Jongg interest group.

Museum Group

We will be going to MOMA in San Francisco on **September 15**, and we will see *Diego Rivera's* paintings. The most in-depth examination of the artist's work in over two decades, *Diego Rivera's America* brings together more than 150 of Rivera's paintings, frescoes, and drawings—as well as three galleries devoted to large-scale film projections of highly influential murals he created in Mexico and the United States. Rather than surveying his entire career, the exhibition focuses on Rivera's work from the 1920s to the mid-1940s, when he was conceiving a new vision for North America informed by his travels in Mexico and the U.S. Ten thematic galleries are dedicated to places like Tehuantepec and Manhattan that captured his imagination, and to his favorite subjects, such as street markets, popular celebrations, and images of labor and industry.

We meet at South Shore Shopping Center **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](mailto:judy Sparks@comcast.net) or call **510-523-6736**. We will go for lunch at **THE GROVE**, 690 Mission, **11:30 AM**

Out to Lunch Bunch

Our first trip is **Wednesday, September 14**, to **Mersea Restaurant** on Treasure Island. There are great bay views with outdoor seating. We will meet at Ross parking lot at 10:15 and **leave sharply at 10:30**. **To make a reservation call Virginia Darrow at 510-409-7481 by September 9th**. If you like eating out, please join us!

Calendar Branch Activities

September 2022

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|------------------------|---|---|---|-------------------------------|--------|---|
| | Aug 29- Board mtg 6:00 pm via Zoom | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3- Art Walk Group 4:00 PM |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10- Luncheon 12:00 PM |
| 11 | 12- Mah Jongg Group 1:30 PM | 13 | 14-Out to Lunch Bunch 10:30 AM | 15-Museum Group 9:30 AM | 16 | 17—Global Cooking & Dining Group 6:00 pm |
| 18-- Cinema Club | 19- Afternoon Books 1:30 PM | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26- Mah Jongg Group 1:30 PM | 27- Evening Book Club 7:15 PM | 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.