



**ALAMEDA BRANCH
2022-23 BOARD**

alameda-ca.aauw.net

LEADERSHIP TEAM

PRESIDENT

Barbara Krummel

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Marilyn Sharron

MEMBERSHIP VPs

Paula Biver & Silver Alkhafaji

PROGRAM VPs

Ellie Barrantes & Karen Kenney

AAUW FUNDS VPs

Mary Oppedahl

FINANCE VP

Susan Myers

SECRETARY

Michelle Pero Igo

HISTORIAN: Beth Sibley

HOSPITALITY

Cynthia Silva, Dorothy
Kerwin & Marilyn Sharon

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, Silver
Alkhafaji, & Shubha Fpanse

WEBSITE COORDINATOR

Jennifer Ayres

Alameda Branch News

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

March 2023

A publication of AAUW-Alameda Branch, chartered 1962 Vol. 60, Issue 7

Education Fund Luncheon



Saturday, March 11, 2023 11:30 AM

Trinity Lutheran Church - 1323 Central Avenue

\$ 25 per person

We are fortunate to have an AAUW Fellowship recipient, Patricia de Nobrega Gomes, as our Ed Fund speaker for the March luncheon. Patricia is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Performance Studies at U.C. Berkeley. Performance Studies is an interdisciplinary academic field that uses performance as a lens and a tool to study the world. Patricia's designated emphasis is in the field of women and gender studies.

The AAUW Fellowship grant will enable Patricia to continue her research for and writing of her dissertation which focuses on contemporary black and indigenous women artists in Brazil whose work draws from intergenerational practices and non-Western bodies of knowledge to express resistance to and liberation from continuing forms of colonization with which today's Brazilians still contend.

Buffet lunch includes Garden Salad, Risotto with Butternut Squash and Pine Nuts, Saffron Risotto with Vegetables, Chicken, Salmon, Focaccia Bread, Almond Biscotti, Decaffeinated Coffee, and Water.

Please RSVP to Ellie Barrantes at esbarrantes@gmail.com. Send your check (write out to AAUW Alameda Branch) to Ellie Barrantes, 1160 Bismarck Lane, Alameda, CA 94502 or you can pay on 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

We're trying a "new" way of communicating with our members—talking! In addition to our wonderful newsletter, created each month by Jennifer Ayres, and our e-blasts managed, by Laura Porter, Board members will be presenting "talking points" at the interest groups they attend. Yes, we're going "old school" with in-person conversation ☺ Board members will present 3 talking points that cover events, AAUW mission and branch Board needs. We would also like to use this as an opportunity to get feedback about how we as an organization are doing. Let our Board members know your thoughts, we want to hear from you!



GET READY FOR THE ACADEMY AAUWARDS!

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

AAUW California will be hosting our Annual Event on April 22, 2023, from 9-4 on Zoom. This year's theme is the *Academy AAUwards!* Come join us for red carpet interviews, listen to inspiring keynote speakers, and watch the Speech Trek and Gov Trek finalists. Cheer on your fellow members and branches for all sorts of AAUW awards, get a public policy update, and meet the board candidates. And, every awards event worth its swag bag has after-parties! Join our Zoom-style parties to hang out with your friends! Look in next month's B2B and on the website for more information soon!

Celebrating AAUW California, its branches, and its members will be the most fun event of the spring! Don't miss out on the *Academy AAUwardson* April 22nd! Get ready to mingle!



Our 2023 camp selection has begun for an in-person camp at Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park, CA, scheduled for June 18-24. **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. In the residential camps, all sleeping, eating, instructional and recreational facilities are located on a university campus where camps are held. <https://www.aauw-ca.org/what-is-tech-trek/>. Every girl attending a Tech Trek Science Camp is on a full sponsorship and was first recommended for the program by her middle school science or math teacher. Local AAUW branch coordinators provide the schools and teachers with guidelines for choosing girls who will be successful at camp. This year we have received 30 nominations from 6 of our Alameda middle schools and we will select 7 girls to attend camp. Recommended girls are contacted, along with their parents, and asked to complete an application and to write a short essay on a chosen subject.

Our AAUW Alameda Tech Trek committee members--Linda Preminger, Ellie Barrantes, Shubha Fanse, Jennifer Ayres, Michelle Pero Igo and Barbara Krummel—review the applications, then interview selected applicants. **We'll keep you posted....**

AAUW PLANT SALE Planning Meeting



WHERE: Kevis Brownson's home

Outside if weather is good or Inside if not.

DATE: Friday, March 17

WHEN: 1:00 PM

Please join the Dirt Divas to plan for this special event. There will be only one location this year at the park across from the farmers market on Webster Street. We need help with setting up, working during the sale, walking around the Farmers Market with posters advertising the event, working at a Children's Art Table, cashier and so much more. We need to create a beautiful and tidy environment to maximize our sales to sell the maximum number of plants. This is our only major fundraiser and we need everyone's support to work and/or shop and to share about it with your friends and neighbors. **The sale will be on Saturday, May 6.** Please mark your calendar for March 17 & May 6. The Dirt Divas are working very hard to grow organic herbs, vegetables, succulents, and flowering plants. Contact Paula Biwer at pbiwer@yahoo.com for more information.

-Paula Biwer



Financial Literacy for Later in Life



Introducing a 5 week program for late life financial goals. During retirement, there are still strategies, open questions and gaps in our planning that can be discovered and addressed by most of us. What do you still need to finish up? Beneficiary planning, charitable planning, what to do with life insurance policies, do you still have any unfinished goals? What questions do you still need to answer?

AAUW member, Mary-Jo Knight, retired several years ago after 36 years in finance, both in Capital Markets and personal financial planning in NYC. She retired as Retirement Planning Specialist. She is offering to host a program to answer your questions as well as cover specific financial topics for the 50 to 85+ year olds among us. Join us for her independent financial advice later in life planning; no pressure, no sales, no agenda, except sharing her experience and knowledge.

For information: Email Mary-Jo P. Knight at moofjo@aol.com.
Date/time: Wednesdays, March 1-29/2023. 2:00-3:30 p.m. in Alameda.
Address upon registration. Limited space.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

AAUW ALAMEDA BRANCH 2023-2024 OFFICER NOMINATION COMMITTEE PRELIMINARY REPORT

As your current President-Elect, it has been an honor to serve as chairperson for this year's Nominating Committee. Other members include Mark Hamilton, Kevis Brownson, Karen Kenney, Mary Oppedahl and Cindy Silva. We met 3 times on Zoom and worked hard having conversations with many members about serving as a branch officer. I am so thankful for such an excellent committed group. In spite of all the hard work, we still do not have a full slate. Here is our Preliminary slate for the 2023-2024 year. Please note that we are presenting 3 or 4 Vice Presidents for 2 offices to spread out the responsibilities needed for those positions.

President - Marilyn Sharron

President Elect - **Still Open**

Membership Vice Presidents - Cindy Silva, Roberta Schwarz, Kay Weinstein

Program Vice Presidents - Barbara Krummel, Kevis Brownson, Paula Biwer, Karen Kenney

Funds Vice President - Mary Oppedahl (Incumbent)

Finance Vice President - Marlis White

Secretary - Virginia Darrow

This slate will be presented to the Board at the March meeting and to all members at the April luncheon when a vote will be taken. We still have our President-Elect position open. Please consider volunteering yourself for this position or suggesting another member. I decided to volunteer as I learned more and more about how our organization fulfills the mission of advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. I grew up in a world where I was blocked from team sports as a girl, had many career options blocked simply because I was a woman and was actually told in a job interview that I would not be offered the job because I might get married and decide to have a family. We have come a long way, but there is still a lot of work to do. If you volunteer for our AAUW branch you will play a part in that continuing work. You can contact me at marilynsharron@gmail.com or call or text me at **215-317-6002**.

-Marilyn Sharron, President-elect

ANNOUNCEMENTS/Future Events

Saturday, March 4, 6:00 pm – **Global Restaurant Dining** – Slainte Pub & Grub

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

Wednesday, March 8 – **Out to Lunch Bunch**

Saturday, March 11, 11:30 am – **March Luncheon**

Monday, March 13, 1:30 pm – **Mah Jongg Group**

Thursday, March 16, 9:30 am – **Museum Group** – Legion of Honor – John Sargent

Friday, March 17, 1:00 pm – **Dirt Divas** – Plant Sale Planning Meeting

Sunday, March 19 – **Cinema Club**

Monday, March 20, 1:30 pm – **Afternoon Books Group**

Tuesday, March 21, 7:15 pm – **Evening Books Group**

Tuesday-Wednesday, March 21-22, 2023 – **Lobby Days**

Sunday, March 26, 6:00 pm – **Global Cooking Group**

Monday, March 27, 1:30 pm – **Mah Jongg Group**

Saturday, May 6 – **Plant Sale**



Women's History Month

March is Women's History Month, a Fitting Time to Observe Transgender Day of Visibility

Each year on March 31, the world observes Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV) to raise awareness about transgender people. It is a day to celebrate the lives and contributions of trans people, while also drawing attention to the poverty, discrimination, and violence the community faces.

We understand how women's history tells the story of misogyny, which is the systemic mistreatment of women, girls, and feminine peoples through forms of physical and structural violence. But we rarely consider how it is linked to transmisogyny, which focuses on the complex intersections between transphobia and misogyny that are faced by trans women and girls, as well as transfeminine and gender non-conforming peoples. It is a term that attempts to capture multiple layers of gender-based marginalization and systemic mistreatment. If misogyny and transmisogyny are not combatted together, then the root of the problem will never truly be eradicated.

Although the past decade has seen a more vocal public push for diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives around gender, the current sociopolitical climate in the United States is not supportive of, and is often openly hostile to, transgender and gender non-conforming individuals. Under this sphere of increased hostility is the explicit targeting of trans women and girls and transfeminine peoples with words, actions, and legislation. It is particularly important for women's organizations who seek to combat gender-based forms of oppression to build coalitions and take a stand against **misogyny and transmisogyny** in all its forms, because misogyny and transmisogyny come from the same place. They both describe gender-based oppression that results from the prioritization of masculinity alongside the degradation of femininity.

Targeted hostility against trans women and girls and transfeminine peoples can be seen not only in the alarming uptick in physical violence against this community, but also in the increasing persistence and intensity of public debates over whether or not trans women and girls and transfeminine peoples are "real women" that belong in "women's spaces," including gender-specific bathrooms, women's sports teams, and locker rooms. These debates prioritize misplaced and misunderstood claims of biological authenticity. They are dehumanizing and cannot be disconnected from other forms of violence as they normalize widespread and explicit marginalization and exclusion.

As a women's organization, the increasingly hostile environment for trans women and girls and transfeminine people should be at the forefront of our collective education and activism - let's help ensure that history doesn't continue to repeat itself. Visit the Public Policy website to learn more.

-Melissa Maceyko, Member AAUW California Public Policy Committee

Branch Interest Groups



Dirt Divas visited the East Bay Wilds Nursery in Oakland. We had a very informative visit with the owner and learned so much about native California plants, trees & shrubs. This is a unique and fascinating nursery to visit. – Paula Biver

Afternoon Books

Afternoon Books will meet at Peet's Coffee in Nob Hill on Monday March 20th at 1:30pm. We discuss whatever we have read, swap books and collect books for the Friends of the Library. Contact Karen Scanlon for more information at yakitt@aol.com or [510-523-6456](tel:510-523-6456).

Cinema Club

Cinema Club meets on Sunday, March 19, 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.

Dirt Divas/Garden Club

We will meet at 1:00 Friday, March 17 for our AAUW Plant Sale Planning Meeting at Kevis Brownson's house. For more information contact Paula Biver at pbiwer@yahoo.com

Evening Books

The Evening Book group meets on Tuesday, March 21 at 7:15 pm. Our book this month is *This Is Happiness* by Niall Williams. 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 .

Global Cooking Group

The Global Cooking Group (GCG) in March has decided to meet on Sunday, March 26th, changing from its usual third Saturday monthly dining occasions. We will meet at Kevis's house for a meatless Indian feast. In this group, we all contribute one dish for a home-cooked meal.

Please contact Dorie Guess Behrstock at dgbintl@gmail.com (or other GCG members) if you have any questions about how we plan and organize our cooking and dining experiences.

Global Restaurant Dining Group

We are dining on March 4, 6:00pm at Slainte Pub & Grub, Jack London Square, 131 Broadway, Oakland. Contact Kay Weinstein for reservations. kayweinstein@gmail.com.

Mah Jongg (American Style)

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

On Thursday, March 16, the Museum Group will go to the Legion of Honor to see the exhibit **SARGENT AND SPAIN**. This is the first exhibition to explore the influence of Spanish culture on John Singer Sargent's (1856- 1925) visual practice. Many of the works are from the artist's personal collection.

Sargent was born in Italy to American parents who settled abroad. Sargent traveled with his parents in his youth. He was accepted into the Paris atelier of portraitist Charles Auguste Emile Durand, known as Carolus-Duran, where he developed his signature loose and flowing brushwork. He quickly established himself as one of the most sought-after society portraitists in Europe and America. He painted many wealthy subjects in the glamour of the Gilded Age.

Encouraged by Carolus-Duran, in 1879 and 1912, Sargent went to Spain to absorb its rich artistic heritage--museums, churches, palaces (notably the Alhambra and Generalife near Granada), gardens, urban and rural landscapes, and the rich cultural tradition of its people. His travels took him to 13 different locations in Spain.

Sargent frequently visited the Museo del Prado in Madrid. He produced a series of early oils after encountering the works of his aesthetic hero Diego Velazquez. During his first trip, Sargent was exposed to Spanish flamenco, which inspired some of his greatest works. Flamenco had its roots in Spanish Roma culture.

Sargent had great facility with watercolors, which he used to paint Islamic archaeological objects. He visited Majorca where he painted stunning landscapes and rich cultural traditions.

Sargent became interested in Spanish religion and spirituality. He captured the sumptuous materiality and spiritual power of the Catholic religious buildings and objects he saw in the cathedrals, crucifixions, and Madonnas.

Those who are interested, please contact JudySparks@comcast.net We will have lunch in the museum cafe. We will meet at the Ross Parking Lot at 9:15 for a 9:30 sharp departure.


Out to Lunch Bunch

The Out to Lunch Bunch meets on the second Wednesday of each month. We travel near and far, trying restaurants new to us, or old favorites! If you are interested or would like more information, call Virginia Darrow, (510) 409-7481.

Calendar

Branch Activities

March 2023

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