



**ALAMEDA BRANCH  
2022-23 BOARD**

[alameda-ca.aauw.net](http://alameda-ca.aauw.net)

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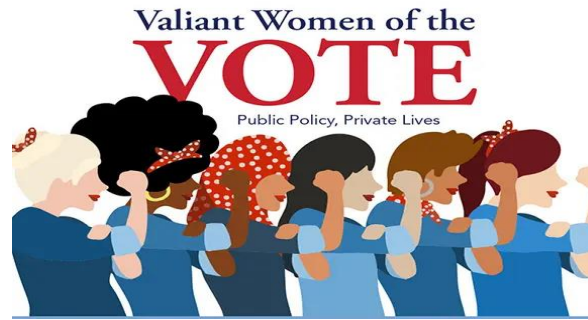
# Alameda Branch News

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

*April 2023*

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## **Election Presentation Luncheon** **Please note the time change for this meeting**

**When: Saturday, April 15, 2023**

**Where: Trinity Lutheran Church, 1323 Central Ave**

**Time: 1:00 p.m. (no early entrance)**

**Lunch: \$23 per person**, includes C'era Una Volta's Panini Sandwiches with Roasted Chicken with Mushroom, Caprese (mozzarella cheese, tomato, arugula & olive oil), and Tuna (capers, celery, mayonnaise, tomato & original special seasoning) accompanied with a green salad and cookies. Coffee and water will be provided.

**Please rsvp to Ellie Barrantes at [esbarrantes@gmail.com](mailto:esbarrantes@gmail.com).**

**Payment:** Send your check (written out to AAUW Alameda Branch) to Ellie Barrantes, 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

## Planning for 2023-24

As President, I will be presenting recommendations to the Board for our appointed officers' positions. These are not voted on by the broader membership. If any of these are of interest to you, we can always use more help! Thanks to all who have agreed to fill these roles that are so essential to our branch.

Public Policy: Donna Vaughn

Tech Trek: Barbara Krummel

Newsletter and Website: Jennifer Ayres

Publicity: Open

Hospitality: Dorothy Kerwin and the Program VPs

By Laws: Penny Washbourn

Parliamentarian: Barbara Krummel

Fundraising Events Oversight Committee: Cindy Silva, Michelle Pero Igo, Dorothy Kerwin

College/University Relations Committee: Penny Washbourn, Shubha Fansé, Silver Alkhafaji

Sunshine: Cindy Silva



## AAUW Alameda Branch Program Survey

Over time, all organizations change in membership and interests. As with many organizations, AAUW Alameda Branch survived through the COVID pandemic with many changes to how meetings, events, and programming is provided. As we head into the future, AAUW Alameda Branch would like to gain feedback from you, the membership, on what to include in our programs. We know your time is valuable so we created a thoughtful and thorough survey, please set aside 15 minutes to share what you love (or don't) about our branch.

The AAUW Program committee (Barbara Krummel, Kevis Brownson, Paula Biwer and Karen Kenney) will review these surveys in our planning for the 2023-24 program year. The surveys are anonymous.

To access the survey, click on this link: <https://forms.gle/Lx49xq8KopyjBAHWA>

Please fill out this survey by April 15. If you have any questions or concerns or would prefer a paper copy, please contact Barbara, [barbarakrummel@comcast.net](mailto:barbarakrummel@comcast.net)

# Plant Sale



**When:** Saturday, May 6

**Where:** Al Fresco Dining Park and Healing Garden  
at the corner of Webster and Taylor Ave., Alameda

**Why:** Raise \$3000 for the Peralta Colleges Foundation  
(Alameda COA Scholarships)

**Purchase:** Beautiful organic plants, succulents, flowering plants,  
indoor plants, herbs, and tomatoes

**Need:** More volunteers to help with sale!

7-8 am set up 8-11 am work 11-1 pm work 1-2 pm cleanup

Donations of ceramic and terra-cotta pots of any size  
with or without saucers can be dropped off at Dorothy  
Kerwin's house

**Contact:** Paula Biber for more information [pbiwer@yahoo.com](mailto:pbiwer@yahoo.com)

We hope to see all of our members at our **PLANT SALE** and encourage you to invite family, friends, and neighbors to attend. This is our major fund raising event and we really need your support to reach our goal. You might consider making a cash donation by sending a check made out to Peralta Colleges Foundation and include AAUW COA scholarships in memo line to Susan Myers, our treasurer.

# NOMINATION COMMITTEE

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE FINAL REPORT

On 3/6 our branch Board voted to approve the final slate of nominees for officers for the 2023-2024 year. WE have a great slate! Thanks to those who agreed to be nominated and to the members of the Nominating Committee, Mark Hamilton, Kevis Brownson, Karen Kenney, Mary Oppedahl and Cindy Silva. The nominees, plus any nominations from the floor, will be voted on by those present at our April 15th luncheon. The nominees are as follows:

President - Marilyn Sharron  
President - Elect - Still Open  
Membership Vice Presidents - Cindy Silva, Roberta Schwarz, Kay Weinstein  
Program Vice Presidents - Barbara Krummel, Paula Biwer, Kevis Brownstein, Karen Kenney  
AAUW Funds Vice President - Mary Oppedahl (incumbent)  
Finance Vice President - Marlis White  
Secretary - Virginia Darrow

Please note that some positions have several names indicating that those nominees have agreed to share the responsibility of the office. The President- Elect position is still open and awaiting someone to volunteer to agree to be nominated. Please contact Marilyn Sharron, telephone **215-317-6002**, text or call or email at [marilynsharron@gmail.com](mailto:marilynsharron@gmail.com) if you are interested.

Marilyn Sharron, Nominating Committee Chairperson

## Membership Renewal

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME BEGINS APRIL 1, 2023

The dues for the 2023-2024 year are \$115.00.

In early April national AAUW will send out info on how to renew online. They will send out three reminders. You will need to know our branch number – CA0128 – Alameda. That is CA zero one two eight.

Another way to renew is to send a \$115 check to me, Susan Myers, 3215 Garfield Ave, Alameda 94501. The check should be made out to AAUW-Alameda Branch.

In October of 2020 the national AAUW Board of Directors voted to increase Individual Member dues for the next three years. The dues rose \$3 for 2021-2022, \$5 for the renewal year of 2022-2023 and will be \$5 more for 2023-2024.

Susan Myers – Finance Officer - [samsatt@att.net](mailto:samsatt@att.net) 510 326-8955



## Gov Trek



Our new state program, Gov Trek, will end with a BANG, not a whimper. After inspiring remarks by Senator Toni G. Atkins, the final competition between teams of high school girls for the best simulated electoral campaign will be Saturday, March 25th from 10-12:30. And YOU can join us to see these talented students' stump speeches and campaign ads, then vote for YOUR favorite. (Disclaimer: Just like the Electoral College, your choice may not match the official judges' decision.) Go to a political rally without the unflattering baseball caps emblazoned with cryptic campaign acronyms by registering [HERE](#).



## Academy AAUWards

Remember to register [HERE](#) to be starstruck by the Academy AAUWards on April 22nd at 9:00 am. For a theatrical trailer, download a few episodes of the 1959 sitcom The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis and try to guess which actor became a political figure who will speak at our event!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS/Future Events

Saturday, March 25, 10:00 am – **Gov Trek Competiton**

Saturday, April 1, 6:00 pm – **Global Restaurant Dining** – Park Street Tavern

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

Monday, April 10, 1:30 pm – **Mah Jongg Group**

Wednesday, April 12 – **Out to Lunch Bunch** – Italian Colors

Saturday, April 15, 1:00 pm – **April Luncheon – Note Date and Time**

Saturday, April 15, 5:00 pm – **Global Cooking Group**

Sunday, April 16 – **Cinema Club**

Monday, April 17, 1:30 pm – **Afternoon Books Group**

Tuesday, April 18, 7:00 pm – **Evening Books Group**

Thursday, April 20, 9:30 am – **Museum Group** – De Young – Ansel Adams

Saturday, April 22, 9:00 am – **Academy AAUWards**

Monday, April 24, 1:30 pm – **Mah Jongg Group**

Saturday, May 6 – **Plant Sale**



## AAUW Annual Conference Seminar Workshop

- Mary-Jo Knight

I am thrilled that my proposal for a workshop AAUW's annual conference for student Leaders (NCCWSL) has been accepted. On June 1, 2023, I will present "**How to Find Your Unique Voice and Thrive On It**" as a topic on Leadership Development at the University of Maryland...and visit my granddaughters that night!

In seminar format, I will be using my own life experiences and stories about finding my own voice. I will guide participants to write down and share their own positive experiences. We'll explore learning through these stories about how positive feedback from teachers, parents, friends and others can help these young women recognize their own inner voices and begin to identify some direction in life. Leadership begins with our own confidence, which grows when we know our own values and have guidelines and constructive help them move us to thrive and become successful. Having found my voice by my mid-to late teens, I was able to navigate my way through a 13-year career on Wall Street in Capital Markets, create a successful financial planning partnership of 17 years, earn a Retirement Planning Specialist Certificate from The Wharton School, earn a B.A. at age 58 from Fordham University.

I have been thriving for 72 years. My goal is to share learned experiences and provide these young women with examples and methods of finding one's voice, learning to trust it and define their success in life on their own terms. Additionally, I want to provide an understanding of tools to get help along the way, i.e., finding mentors, using coaches, writing journals, understanding opinions vs. facts, criticism vs. feedback.

And, I want to thank Barbara and Penny for their encouragement to apply for this honor.



## AAUW California State Public Policy Committee Sets 2023-24 Legislative Agenda

by Kathi Harper, State Public Policy Chair

The State Public Policy Committee, in conjunction with our Public Policy Advocate Kathy Von Osten (KVO), has completed their selection of the 30 bills that the committee and KVO will be working on this year. This year our bills fall into the following categories from the 3 pillars of our Public Policy Priorities:

- 8 "Economic Security" bills
- 11 "Public Education" bills
- 21 "Social Justice" bills
  - 8 "reproductive justice"
  - 5 "healthcare"
  - 5 "freedom from violence" including sex exploitation, DV, stalking
  - 1 "gender-identity protection"
  - 2 "voting rights"

The committee then selected our top 3 priority bills, including at least 1 bill which we will co-sponsor (“A” bills). KVO will spend most of her time working on these bills, including working with the authors’ offices, attending committing hearings, and writing letters of support. These are also the 3 bills members will advocate for in their Lobby Days visits. We then selected 3 next-level bills (“B” bills), which are important but not as resource intensive. The remaining 24 bills will be handled as “C” level bills. Here is a look at our top 3 bills:

**AB1394** – This is our co-sponsored bill. It would allow victims of child sexual exploitation and trafficking to sue a social media platform for between \$1 million and \$5 million if the victim can prove the platform design knowingly, recklessly or negligently facilitated the use of code words for sexual predators to describe the type of child and the type of sexual activity that resulted in the act of exploitation.

**SB287** - Would prohibit a social media platform from using a design, algorithm, or feature that the platform knows, or should know, causes child users to: purchase fentanyl; inflict harm on themselves or others; develop an eating disorder or engage in dangerous dieting; purposely take their own lives; and/or experience addiction to the social media platform. A victim of any of these consequences can sue the platform for up to \$250,000 for each violation.

**AB549** - Requires all state agencies to conduct an evaluation of all their departments to ensure the state does not discriminate against women, and report their findings every 2 years.

## Branch Interest Groups

### **Afternoon Books**

Afternoon Books will meet at Peet’s Coffee in Nob Hill on Monday April 17th 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](mailto:yakitt@aol.com) or **510-523-6456**.

### **Cinema Club**

Cinema Club meets on Sunday, April 16, 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](mailto:kevis.brownson@gmail.com).

### **Dirt Divas/Garden Club**

There will be no April meeting because Paula will be in the French Polynesian Islands. Please continue to take care of your plants and remember to fertilize them. Also, clean the outside of all your pots and top off with fresh soil and deliver them to Dorothy’s house starting at 3 PM on Friday, May 5. If she is not there, place them on the white folding tables outside by her garage. For indoor plants, set them underneath the tables as far away from the direct sun as possible. For more information contact Paula Biwer at [pbiwer@yahoo.com](mailto:pbiwer@yahoo.com)



### **Evening Books**

The Evening Book group meets on Tuesday, April 18 at 7:00 pm. Our book this month is *Speed and Scale: A Global Action Plan for Solving our Climate Crisis Now* by John Doerr & Ryan Panchadsaram. 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](mailto:kevis.brownson@gmail.com) .

### **Global Cooking Group**

Meets Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm. The Global Cooking Group would like to have more members who like to cook global cuisine: we create menus for fun meals emphasizing other countries' specialties. Our members occasionally host 8 to 10 people in their homes and might go to "international" restaurants nearby two times each year. Couples and singles are welcome, men and women who like to cook global cuisine are especially encouraged to check us out. Reminder that males also can become members of AAUW. Please contact Dorie Behrstock at **510 409-7478** or [dgbintl@gmail.com](mailto:dgbintl@gmail.com) for more information.

Please let me or Kevis Brownson or Elizabeth McGaffey or Penny Washbourn or Paula Biwer or Marlis White or Marilyn Sharron know if anyone has any questions.

### **Global Restaurant Dining Group**

We are dining on April 1, 6:00pm at Park Street Tavern, 1901 Park Street. For reservations, contact Virginia Darrow, **510-409-7481** or [vdarrow41@gmail.com](mailto:vdarrow41@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](mailto:Lrajean@aol.com) or **510-912-0385** for more information about the Mah Jongg interest group.

### **Museum Group**

On Thursday, April 20, the Museum Group will be going to the De Young and we will see: **The Ansel Adam Exhibit**. Looking forward and back, this exhibition of more than 100 works by photographer and environmentalist Ansel Adams (1902 – 1984) places him in direct conversation with contemporary artists and the photographers who influenced him. Laid out in seven sections tracing Adams's artistic development, the exhibition features some of his most-loved photographs, including images of Yosemite, San Francisco, and the American Southwest. Adams's works are shown alongside prints by 19th-century landscape photographers, such as Carleton Watkins and Eadweard Muybridge, as well contemporary artists like Trevor Paglen, Will Wilson, and Catherine Opie. Their work engages anew with the sites and subjects that occupied Adams throughout his life — from national parks to the use and misuse of natural resources. Adams's legacy continues to inspire and provoke, influencing how we envision the landscape and serving as an urgent call to preserve our environment.

Those who are interested, please contact [JudySparks@comcast.net](mailto:JudySparks@comcast.net) We will have lunch in the museum cafe. We will meet at the Ross Parking Lot at 9:15 a.m. and leave **9:30 sharp**.

### **Out to Lunch Bunch**

The Out to Lunch Bunch meets on the second Wednesday of each month. This month we meet on April 12th and will travel to Italian Colors in Montclair, Oakland. Reservations must be made by April 6th. Email or call Virginia Darrow, [vdarrow41@gmail.com](mailto:vdarrow41@gmail.com), or **(510) 409-7481**.



# Calendar

# Branch Activities

## April 2023

| Sunday  | Monday                       | Tuesday                       | Wednesday  | Thursday                 | Friday | Saturday  |
|---|------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--------------------------|--------|---|
|   |                              |                               |  |                          |        | 1- Global Restaurant Dining Group 6:00 PM   |
| 2   | 3-Board mtg 6:00 pm via Zoom | 4                             | 5- Passover<br> | 6                        | 7      | 8   |
| 9 - Easter<br> | 10- Mah Jongg 1:30 PM        | 11                            | 12- Out to Lunch Bunch   | 13-                      | 14     | 15- <b>Luncheon</b> 1:00 PM<br><br>Global Cooking Group 5:00 PM   |
| 16-- Cinema Club  | 17- Afternoon Books 1:30 PM  | 18- Evening Book Club 7:15 PM | 19   | 20- Museum Group 9:30 AM | 21     | 22- AAAUWards 9:00 am<br>Earth Day<br> |
| 23<br><hr/> 30  | 24- Mah Jongg 1:30 PM        | 25                            | 26   | 27                       | 28     | 29  |

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.