



**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 Fanse

WEBSITE COORDINATOR

Jennifer Ayres

Alameda Branch News

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

May 2023

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End of Year Luncheon Celebration!

When: Saturday, May 13, 2023

Where: India Palace, 737 Buena Vista Avenue, Alameda

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Lunch: \$40 per person (includes food, tax, and tip)

Buffet includes Garden Salad, Mixed Vegetable Pakora, Chicken Tikka Masala, Classic Lamb Curry, Tandoori Roasted Eggplant, Aloo Gobi Masala (Cauliflower and Potatoes), Basmati Saffron Rice, Nan, and Gulab Jamun for dessert. Water and tea provided. There will be a no-host bar for additional beverages.

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.

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

Please plan to join me on Saturday, May 13, for our installation luncheon. Not only will we greet our new leaders but this is an opportunity to thank our outgoing Board members for their service. We will also recognize our past Board Presidents and our current interest group leaders, as well as a presentation from our branch historian, Beth Sibley. But wait, that's not all—we will be presenting awards to some special members for their work on behalf of the branch. If you have anyone you would like to nominate for an award, please email me (barbarakrummel@comcast.net).

When I speak to Presidents of other branches I often hear that they are having trouble attracting members and encouraging participation, especially in leadership roles. That isn't a problem for our branch. We have a robust group willing to run the organization and an enthusiastic and fun membership interested in so many different activities. Let's keep it going for 2023-24.

It has been an honor to serve as President the last two years. I have truly enjoyed learning more about our amazing organization but more importantly, getting to know our fascinating members. You will be in good hands with our new President, Marilyn Sharron.

-Barbara Krummel, President, AAUW Alameda Branch



ANNUAL EVENT

Charment Goehring, *Meetings Planner*, meetings@aauw-ca.org

**LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION! GET READY FOR THE ACADEMY AAUWARDS
COMING ON APRIL 22, 2023, ON YOUR ZOOM SCREEN!**

We have two amazing speakers planned for you amongst all the red-carpet happenings and awards. We will be hearing from AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell. Gloria is also our main representative to the United Nations. Gloria spent 15 years managing our Fellowships and Grants program, awarding over \$70 million in funding to women scholars and programs in the U.S. and overseas. She has worked to increase girls' participation in STEM and to increase AAUW outreach to girls and women of color.

We will also get to meet Secretary Eileen M. Vélez Vega, who is serving as the first woman Secretary of the Puerto Rico Department of Transportation and Public Works. Ms. Velez Vega, an engineer who is a fierce advocate for girls in STEM, has an inspiring story to tell. She is also a colleague of our very own Tech Trek Program Director, Mary Issac.

Get ready for a fun-filled event worthy of a Hollywood red carpet. Join us on April 22nd as we celebrate AAUW California and our fantastic branches and members! Register [HERE](#)



SAVE THE DATE for our Board Retreat: Saturday, June 10, 10 am to 1pm

Each summer our branch Board members (including elected and appointed officers and committee chairs) and interest group leaders hold an extended meeting or “retreat” to review the past year’s accomplishments, discuss goals for the upcoming year and pass information from outgoing to incoming positions. This year, I will be hosting the meeting at my home, and all of our branch leaders are invited to bring a dish to share for a lunch-time potluck. I have not put together an agenda yet and would love to have input. Do you have ideas about community programs we should be aware of; AAUW national goals that we should adopt; better ways to run our meetings; issues we should prioritize? No idea or suggestion is too small so please share yours with me by emailing at barbarakrummel@comcast.net or calling (or texting) **510-846-5887**.

-Barbara Krummel, President, AAUW Alameda Branch

Last Chance to Complete Survey !

Please Complete Our AAUW Alameda Branch Program Survey

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>. If you have any questions or concerns or would prefer a paper copy, please contact Barbara, barbarakrummel@comcast.net

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME HAS ARRIVED

Membership Renewal

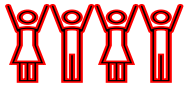
The dues for the 2023-2024 year are \$115.00.

National AAUW may have sent out reminders and info to you on how to renew online. You will need to know our branch number – **CA0128** – Alameda. That is CA zero one two eight.

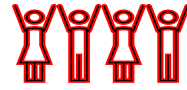
Another way to renew is to send a \$115 check to me, Susan Myers, 3215 Garfield Ave, Alameda 94501. **The check should be made out to AAUW-Alameda Branch.**

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 VP - samsatt@att.net **510 326-8955**



2023-2024 Officers !



Elected Officers' Positions

At our April Board meeting, our branch Board voted to elect the nominees for officers for the 2023-2024 year. **Congratulations and Thank You!**

President - Marilyn Sharron

President - Elect - Still Open

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

Program Vice Presidents - Barbara Krummel, Paula Biber, Kevis Brownstein, Karen Kenney

AAUW Funds Vice President - Mary Oppedahl (incumbent)

Finance Vice President - Marlis White

Secretary - Virginia Darrow

Appointed Officers' Positions

Also at our April Board meeting, I presented the following recommendations to the Board for our appointed officers' positions. These are not voted on by the broader membership. The Board approved my recommendations. 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

By Laws: Penny Washbourn

Parliamentarian: Barbara Krummel

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

Sunshine: Cindy Silva

Committee Chairpersons:

Hospitality: Dorothy Kerwin and the Program VPs

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

-Marilyn Sharron, Nominating Committee Chairperson

REMINDER - AAUW 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 Biwer for more information pbiwer@yahoo.com

Explore: Purchase Tickets with an Early Bird option at
<http://aauw-plant-sale-2023.eventbrite.com>

(Please review the page as well as purchase tickets because it helps with our marketing. More clicks on our event helps our plant sale to be listed as a top event).

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 Finance VP.



We are very excited that Tech Trek 2023 Camp, a one week STEM camp for rising 8th grade girls, is live and in person again this year at Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park!! <https://www.aauw-ca.org/tech-trek/>

Shout out to our Tech Trek committee members, Shubha Fpanse, Jennifer Ayres, Ellie Barrantes, Linda Preminger and Michelle Pero Igo who established and maintained school contacts, reviewed applications and interviewed our applicants. Welcome to new committee member Mary Kay Hardwick. Of course this all wouldn't be possible without the continued support from our membership.

We received 30 nominations from teachers and counselors at 6 local middle schools, reviewed 20 applications, and interviewed 12 girls. It's always so much fun to meet the girls and learn about their enthusiasm and excitement for all things STEM. However, we can only select seven girls from Alameda and here are our campers: Ka'niyah (Academy of Alameda), Lauren (Academy of Alameda), Esther (Encinal Jr. Jets), Maya (Lincoln Middle School), Jaide (Lincoln Middle School), Maria (Nea Community Learning Center), Kylie (Wood Middle School) and Julianne, our alternate (Encinal Jr. Jets). You'll get to meet them all at our September luncheon (put September 16 on your calendar)!

The camp runs June 18-24 and they are always looking for volunteers to help maintain the 10:1 adult:student classroom ratio. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact me.

Barbara Krummel, Alameda Branch Tech Trek Coordinator, barbarakrummel@comcast.net



AAUW Alameda Branch Awards three College of Alameda NCCWSL scholarships.

For the first time in three years AAUW Alameda will be able to award three fully paid scholarships of \$1,500 per student to attend the AAUW National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) at the University of MD in College Park MD. Nickesha Brice, Jaqueline Torres and Xitlalli Macarena Valenzuela were nominated by their counselors, wrote a short essay and submitted an application and attended a Zoom interview. The committee who reviewed their applications and interviewed them were Annette Koch, Susan Myers and Silver Alkhafaji. VP Tina Vasconcellos from COA also was part of the selection process. Special thanks to the Committee for their work and support of the program, are due.

The committee was so impressed by all three students that they recommended the Branch award three scholarships rather than two which had been budgeted. Due to the generosity of two of our Branch members, funds were donated to support all three to attend NCCWSL.

The NCCWSL Scholarship program was initiated at our Branch in 2020, based on the recommendation of Silver Alkhafaji who had attended in 2019 when she was a student at Berkeley. Due to the Pandemic this is the first year the Conference has been conducted in person since 2019.

- Penny Washbourn NCCWSL Branch Coordinator

ANNOUNCEMENTS/Future Events

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

Monday, May 1, 6:00 pm -- **Board Meeting** – via Zoom -- ALL WELCOME !!

Saturday, May 6, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm – **Plant Sale**

Saturday, May 6 -- **Global Restaurant Dining Group** – Shirashoni Restaurant

Monday, May 8, 1:30 pm – **Mah Jongg Group**

Wednesday, May 10 – **Out to Lunch Bunch**

Saturday, May 13, 11:30 am – **May Luncheon**

Monday, May 15, 1:30 pm – **Afternoon Books Group**

Tuesday, May 16, 7:00 pm – **Evening Books Group**

Thursday, May 18, 9:45 am – **Museum Group** – Berkeley Museum – Amalia Mesa-Bains

Saturday, May 20 – **Global Cooking Group** – Dining Out!

Sunday, May 21 – **Cinema Club**

Monday, May 22, 1:30 pm – **Mah Jongg Group**

Saturday, June 10, 10:00 am – **Board Retreat**

Tuesday, June 20 – **Evening Books Group** – Annual Dinner and Book Selection meeti



Meet our New and Upcoming President – Marilyn Sharron !



As the newly elected President of the Alameda branch of AAUW, I want to thank all of you for giving me the opportunity to lead our group in pursuing the mission of our national organization - "To advance equity to women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research". I am truly honored to be chosen for this role.

For those of you who don't know me, I am a widow and retired Clinical Social Worker who moved to Alameda from Syracuse, New York in 2014 to be near my daughter and her family after the birth of my first grandchild. In Alameda I have been an active member of Christ Episcopal Church, AAUW, PEO, and Mastick Senior Center. In my spare time I enjoy painting, reading and spending time with my grandchildren.

In my work on the East coast I encountered many women who were victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse, racial or gender discrimination. I worked hard to support and advocate for them all when I could. I received scholarship help during the 4 years I spent at Bowling Green State University in Ohio for undergraduate school and again when I worked for my Master's degree in Social Work at SUNY Albany. I worked every vacation and during the school year and have never forgotten how much I appreciated the scholarship help I received. It would have been much more difficult without it. It is a real privilege to help other women in the same way. AAUW provides me a way to do this.

We have an outstanding group of elected and appointed officers on our AAUW Alameda branch board for the 2023 year. We will be meeting on June 10th for a retreat to make plans about the programs and efforts for the coming year. My hope is that our membership can grow during this period and become more diverse. I am personally interested in letting you know more about what our national and state organizations are doing during my term as President. It was only after I began actually reading more of the state emails that I was inspired to let my name be put in nomination for an officer role.

You all recently received a survey asking for feedback on what to include in our programs. If you missed returning this, have suggestions about our branch, want to suggest a new activity we should be doing or feel inspired to do more yourself by being on committee or becoming an officer, please let me know. Call or text me at 215-317-6002 or email me at marilynvsharron@gmail.com .

--Marilyn Sharron



AAUW CA Promotes its Priorities with the Legislature, Prepares for a Vote on New Ones

By Ginny Hatfield, Amy Hom and Kathi Harper, AAUW CA Public Policy Committee

If you participated in this year's Lobby Days on March 21st and 22nd, you know it was a whirlwind of activity. Over two jam-packed days, 120 AAUW CA members from 50 branches met with 46 Assembly offices and 23 Senate offices. Most of the meetings took place via Zoom and the majority took place without a hitch. For the first time, some of our members met in person in Sacramento.

While most meetings were conducted with legislative staff we were able this year to schedule 10 meetings with the members themselves - 6 Assemblymembers and 4 Senators. In addition, Kathi Harper, AAUW CA Public Policy Chair, and Kathy Van Osten, our AAUW CA Legislative Advocate, met with the Governor's staff and Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon's office.

We were happy to learn that our organization was known to many of the legislative staff and legislators with whom our members met. Some had spoken to branches in their districts; others were familiar with our public policy priorities and expressed alignment and support for them; and a handful were appreciative of the background we provided about our mission and programs. A sterling endorsement came from none other than Alf Brandt, Policy Consultant for Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, whose mother was an AAUW member in the 1940's in Orange County. He credits her involvement in AAUW "making me the man I am today."

The reception of our "Top 3" bills - AB 1394, SB 287 and AB 549 - was generally favorable, especially the two social media bills. Both staff and legislators could identify with the pervasive problem of having children who are or will be targeted by social media. AB 549 needed a bit more explaining, as some were unfamiliar with CEDAW, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. You can find more information on these and all the bills we are supporting here: <https://www.aauw-ca.org/documents/2023/03/bill-tracking.pdf/>.

During our Lobby Days event, we were able to get our message across to those who make our laws and to highlight AAUW, our mission, accomplishments and the benefits we bring to our communities throughout CA. It was an empowering exercise in advocacy and for those of you who participated, AAUW CA thanks you!

Adding this reminder: it's time to vote on the updates to the Public Policy Priorities for 2023-25. In response to input from 466 members, the state Public Policy Committee has recommended and the Board has approved 11 changes, which can be viewed here: <https://www.aauw-ca.org/2023-proposed-public-policy-priorities/>. Highlighted additions include support for: civics education, access to diverse staff and curriculum, safe infrastructure and access to technology in our schools, gun violence prevention, and a fourth pillar to support women in leadership roles. If you haven't voted yet, a reminder that voting closes May 13th, make sure you make your voice heard!

Branch Interest Groups



The **Out to Lunch Bunch** had a wonderful time in Pleasanton dining at OYO restaurant. It serves exotic South American food, which was delicious, and we all enjoyed the day immensely. We will meet again on Wednesday, May 10th for another dining adventure. **We also will continue to meet through the summer on the second Wednesday of each month.** Call or text Virginia Darrow, [510-409-7481](tel:510-409-7481), for information or reservations.

Afternoon Books

Afternoon Books will meet at Peet's Coffee in Nob Hill on Monday May 15th 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, May 21, 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

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.

May 6 - Work at the AAUW Plant Sale any time (7:00 - 2:00 PM) and attend a celebration party at Laura Porter's house beginning at 2:30 PM.

For more information contact Paula Biber at pbiwer@yahoo.com

Evening Books

The Evening Book group meets on Tuesday, May 16 at 7:00 pm. Our book this month is *They Called Us Enemy* by George Takei, of Star Trek and activist fame. We will meet on June 20 for our annual dinner and book picking meeting for the coming year. Anyone interested in joining the group is welcome to come to either event. For this year's book list, please see our web page <https://alameda-ca.aauw.net/book-club/> . For more information , please contact Kevis at kevis.brownson@gmail.com .

Global Cooking Group

The Global Cooking Group (GCG) members will be dining out together on May 20 and do dine out usually 2-3 times each year. **We will be having monthly dinners featuring other countries' menus together in June, July, August and we will plan our next GCG year in August.** We request our members to entertain at home for 6-8-10 people when it's their turn to host, usually once annually. Our members also travel and therefore monthly numbers sometimes might fluctuate. Women and men, singles or couples, who like to cook and eat international cuisines can join us to enjoy such menus together. We welcome interested AAUW members and their partners/spouses to become acquainted with GCG.

Please contact Dorie Behrstock at dgbintl@gmail.com if you have any comments or questions.

Global Restaurant Dining Group

The next Global Dining experience will be at Shirashoni Restaurant Saturday in May 6. You can reply by email, call or text at +**12153176002** -- Marilyn Sharron

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. **The Mah Jongg interest group will continue meeting twice each month during the summer months.** Contact Laura Porter at Lrajean@aol.com or **510-912-0385** for more information about the Mah Jongg interest group.

Museum Group

The Museum Group will be seeing Amalia Mesa-Bains exhibit at the Berkeley Museum on May 18. **Amalia Mesa-Bains: Archaeology of Memory: is the first retrospective exhibition of the work of longtime Bay Area artist Mesa-Bains. Presenting work from the entirety of her career for the first time, this exhibition, which features nearly 60 works in a range of media, including fourteen major installations, celebrates Mesa-Bains's important contributions to the field of contemporary art locally and globally.**

Those who are interested, please contact JudySparks@comcast.net We will have lunch at a nearby restaurant. We will meet at the Ross Parking Lot at 9:30 a.m. and leave **9:45 sharp.**




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. **We also will continue to meet through the summer on the second Wednesday of each month.** If you are interested, or would like more information call Virginia Darrow, **(510) 409-7481**

Calendar

Branch Activities

May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1-Board mtg 6:00 pm via Zoom	2	3	4	5	6- Plant Sale  Global Restaurant Dining Group
7	8 Mah Jongg 1:30 PM	9	10 – Out to Lunch Bunch	11	12	13- Luncheon 11:30 AM
14- 	15- Afternoon Books 1:30 PM	16- Evening Book Club 7:00 PM	17	18- Museum Group 9:45 AM	19	20- Global Cooking Group
21-- Cinema Club	22- Mah Jongg 1:30 PM	23	24	25	26	27
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.