



**ALAMEDA BRANCH  
2023-24 BOARD**

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

**LEADERSHIP TEAM**

**PRESIDENT**

Marilyn Sharron

**PRESIDENT-ELECT** Open

**MEMBERSHIP VPs**

Cindy Silva, Roberta Schwarz, & Kay Weinstein

**PROGRAM VPs**

Barbara Krummel, Paula Biwer, Kevis Brownson, & Karen Kenney

**AAUW FUNDS VPs**

Mary Oppedahl

**FINANCE VP**

Marlis White

**SECRETARY**

Virginia Darrow

**HISTORIAN:** Beth Sibley

**HOSPITALITY**

Dorothy Kerwin & the Program VPs

**NEWSLETTER:** Jennifer Ayres

**PARLIAMENTARIAN/Bylaws**

Barbara Krummel

**PUBLIC POLICY**

Donna Vaughn

**PUBLICITY** Open

**SUNSHINE:** Cindy Silva

**TECH TREK COORDINATOR**

Barbara Krummel

**FUNDS COMMITTEE CHAIR**

Dorothy Kerwin

**FUNDRAISING EVENTS**

**OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

Cindy Silva, Michelle Pero Igo, &

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*

*September 2023*

A publication of AAUW-Alameda Branch, chartered 1962 Vol. 61, Issue 1

## September Meeting -- Celebrate Tech Trek !



**When:** Saturday, September 16, 11:30am to 1:30pm

**Where:** Trinity Lutheran Community Room, 1323 Central Avenue  
(entrance on Morton St.)

**What:** Lunch will be served at a cost of \$20 per person

**RSVP** by Sept. 12 to [barbarakrummel@comcast.net](mailto:barbarakrummel@comcast.net) or call **510-846-5887**

**We will be serving** a tasty sandwich and salad buffet with cookies, coffee and beverages and the cost will be \$20 per person. We're keeping the price low so that you have \$ leftover to donate to Tech Trek!! **Please RSVP** to Barbara Krummel no later than Tuesday, Sept. 12. Checks to be made out to "AAUW Alameda Branch", mailed to Barbara Krummel, 3258 Liberty Ave., Alameda CA 94501 or you can pay the day of the luncheon. Even if you plan to pay the day of the luncheon, please, please, please RSVP so that we can plan a great event for you and our Tech Trek campers. For more information, see the Tech Trek article below.

**A new option to pay! Via Square link or QR code!** Or you can still just write a check.

<https://square.link/u/PTGPLRIH>



*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 2023-24 year with our Alameda AAUW Branch! Thanks to all of you for helping to support the mission and aims of AAUW through your membership, contributions and hard work. It is only through members like each of you that we are able to help our national and state chapters to advocate for policies that break through educational and economic barriers for women and provide grassroots efforts to provide scholarships and grants locally. Our new Alameda Branch board members have been busy at work this summer preparing for interesting and fun programs for the new year. I hope you will be able to join us for all of them. Our monthly Newsletters will have details. And the small activity groups are also gearing up for the new year. Take time to check out that section of this newsletter. You might find something that really appeals to you. All are open to new members.

Our Branch Board meetings will be on the first Monday of the month at 6 PM on Zoom. Board meetings are open to all members. Please consider joining us on Zoom to see your Board in action. You might even be inspired to consider becoming a new Board member in the future. If you are interested in attending, please email me at [marilynsharron@gmail.com](mailto:marilynsharron@gmail.com) and I will send you the Zoom link.

I also wanted to remind you that this is the 100th year anniversary of the introduction of the ERA, (Equal Rights Amendment). This is the proposed 28th Amendment to the Constitution that guarantees equality, individual rights and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society. AAUW is advocating for the swift ratification and passage. That we have been waiting 100 years for this is almost unbelievable. Please contact your US Congress person and ask them to sign the discharge petition for House Joint Resolution 25, HJ Res. 25, This will allow for the removal of the ratification deadline and allow the ratification of the ERA as a Constitutional Amendment.

Our national organization is now sending me a list of individual donations coming from our branch. From January to June 2023 our branch had 10 donations totaling \$1175 that went to the Education and Training Fund and 8 donations totaling \$155 that went to the Greatest Needs Fund. Thanks so much to all of you who made contributions to these funds.

I am looking forward to serving as your AAUW Alameda President this coming year! Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

-Marilyn Sharron, President, AAUW Alameda Branch

## Membership Renewal-Past Due

**Membership Renewal**

**\*\*\*Deadline June 30, 2023\*\*\***

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

You may renew on-line or by check. To renew on line you need to know our branch number, CA0128 Alameda. To pay by check, please send your check to Marlis White, 307 Laguna Vista, Alameda, CA 94501.

Thank you.  
Membership Committee



Jaide, Julianne, Maria and Ka'niyah

Our branch meeting on September 16 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—\$8,000—to send 8 campers (our largest cohort to date!). 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.**

-Barbara Krummel

## HISTORICAL NOTE

This year marks the 25 th anniversary of Tech Trek which was founded in 1998 by Marie Wolbach, an AAUW California member with the help of an AAUW Community Action Grant. The purpose of the one-week camp was to make STEM fields exciting and accessible to girls in middle school. Currently it operates in about 22 sites around the country and surveys show that Tech Trek alums far surpass the national average in most advanced math and science courses and that the program introduced them to STEM college majors of which they were not previously aware as well as to new STEM careers.

The Alameda Branch began their program in 2001 after receiving a \$250 CA AAUW grant for a first time camper and a \$250 gift from a local software firm. At that time, camps in Northern California were held at Stanford University and Mills College.

-Beth Sibley, Branch Historian



## Patti Heimburger AAUW College of Alameda Scholarship Student Thank You Letters Spring 2023

We would like to share the heartfelt thank you letters from the College of Alameda students who received our transfer scholarships. We will include one thank you letter in this and the next four newsletters!

Five outstanding students received the award:

- **Manal Alssaidi - \$1,000**
- Juliette Breen - \$1,000
- Yujiao Cantu - \$1,000
- Donna Hooper - \$1,000
- Nallely Marroquin - \$1,000

05/14/2023

Dear Patti Heimburger AAUW College of Alameda Scholarship,

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude to you for making the Patti Heimburger AAUW College of Alameda Scholarship possible. I am grateful for your support and was thrilled to discover I was chosen for this honor.

After graduation from the College of Alameda, I plan to pursue a bachelor's degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography. I am putting all my efforts into achieving my ambition. Instead of worrying about making enough money to get my degree, I plan to use this scholarship to continue focusing on my studies to earn a bachelor's degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography. The financial assistance you provided will be of significant help to me in paying my educational expenses, and it will allow me to concentrate more of my time on studying.

By awarding me the Patti Heimburger AAUW College of Alameda Scholarship, you have lightened my financial burden, which allows me to focus more on the most important aspect of school: learning. Your kindness has motivated me to provide a hand to others and give back to the community. As you have helped me, I hope that one day I can help students achieve their objectives.

Sincerely,

Manal Alssaidi

[Manal.alssaidi@gmail.com](mailto:Manal.alssaidi@gmail.com)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS/Future Events

Monday, August 28, 6:00 pm -- **Board Meeting** – via Zoom -- ALL WELCOME !!  
Saturday, September 2, 6:00 pm -- **Global Restaurant Dining Group** – Yellowtail  
Monday, September 11, 1:30 pm – **Mah Jongg Group**  
Wednesday, September 13 – **Out to Lunch Bunch**  
Saturday, September 16, 11:30 am – **September Luncheon**  
Sunday, September 17 – **Cinema Club**  
Monday, September 18, 1:30 pm – **Afternoon Book Club**  
Thursday, September 21, 9:30 am – **Museum Group** – Legion of Honor - Tudors  
Monday, September 25, 1:30 pm – **Mah Jongg Group**  
Tuesday, October 3, 7:00 pm - **Evening Books Group**  
Sunday, October 8, 6:00 pm – **Global Cooking Group**



### Sunshine Alerts



Please email Cynthia Silva if you have knowledge of any life events for any of our members. This can include Get Well, Thinking of You, Sympathy, New Home and Congratulations. The cards are sent to our members on behalf of our local branch. If you know of a need, please let Cynthia know. The cards sent are of high quality.

-Cynthia Silva, Sunshine Chair

## AAUW Food Bank Calendar Project



Last year the 2023 calendar project was a great success, so we are repeating the project. This time of the year we all begin to receive calendars from the many organizations that we donate to.

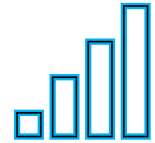
From September to January, please bring your calendars that you wish to donate to the luncheons. We are accepting wallet, square, wall calendars and 18 month term calendars. The calendars are provided to the clients at the Alameda Food Bank. Last year over 200 calendars were collected.

Thank you in advance for your donations. Pick up service of calendars is available. Contact Cynthia. [Cynthia.silva26@yahoo.com](mailto:Cynthia.silva26@yahoo.com)

-Cynthia Silva, Calendar/Recycle Project Chair



## AAUW Program Survey Summary of Findings



By Kevis Brownson

In an effort to find out what members enjoy presently about the branch, and to discover ideas for future branch activities, the Program Committee of Barbara Krummel, Kevis Brownson, Paula Biwer, and Karen Kenney prepared a survey this spring. We appreciate the thoughtful responses we received from thirty three of our members.

Our questions included:

- In what AAUW programs/activities have you attended/ participated in since January 2020?
- Of the existing programs, what are your 5 favorites?
- What new programs would you like to see offered by the Alameda Branch?
- If you would like AAUW Alameda to offer events with a speaker, what format of events would you attend?
- What is the maximum you would pay for any of these programs?
- What motivates you to be a member of AAUW Alameda Branch?
- What would you like to happen with the programs that AAUW provides or could provide?

The responses provided a wealth of information to guide us going forward. We were gratified to find out that members enjoyed a wide variety of activities provided by the branch, from ongoing interest groups to one time lectures or workshops. Of some new activities we suggested, there was interest in starting a new community service project, and in starting a GovTrek program.

One of our primary goals was to find out ideas for the schedule and structure of our branch meetings. Although luncheon meetings as we have done in the past are a popular option, members showed a lot of flexibility about the type of meetings we could have.

The free-form question responses provided feedback on recent programs, and guidance going forward on types of speakers and activities that would further engage members.

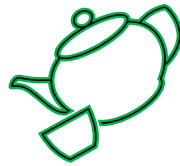
For a complete recap of all the questions and responses, with charts and text answers, please click on this

link: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XoGuMZC FIwQ5ipw8M95oCtRPUvOHVz rCDDMYr7 as/edit?usp=sharing>

If you didn't have time to complete the survey last spring but have ideas about our membership meetings or programs please email Barbara Krummel at [barbarakrummel@comcast.net](mailto:barbarakrummel@comcast.net) .



**Zoom**



## Branch Membership Meetings--We're shaking things up!!

Our Branch By-Laws state that we are to have at least 8 “membership meetings” during the fiscal year. Traditionally we have had our meetings on the second Saturday of the month as a luncheon at a local restaurant or other venue. After reviewing our survey results (see previous article) and anecdotally hearing from members that a Saturday luncheon didn't work for them, our “Program Committee” has decided to schedule a total of 8 monthly meetings with varied meeting days and times with the hope that more members will be able to attend. Please take a look at our plan for this year's membership meetings and add them to your calendar. (If you still crave a regular restaurant outing, think about joining the “Out to Lunch Bunch”.)

Date & Time	Program Description	Venue
Saturday, September 16 11:30a-1:30p	Tech Trek campers presentation	Trinity Lutheran community room
Wednesday, October 18 4:30-6:30p	Happy hour, mingling with branch interest group reps	Almanac Beer Co. (outdoors)
Tuesday, November 14 3-5p	Meet our branch sponsored NCCWSL attendees & CoA scholarship recipients	Afternoon tea, provided by Board members Location TBD
no December meeting		
Saturday, January 13 3:30-5:30p	New Year's celebration tea	Malaya Tea Room
Thursday, February 15 7-9p	AAUW Education Funds speaker	Zoom
March date TBD Weekday 4-6pm	Women's history month themed speaker followed by optional show attendance	K-gallery at Rhythmix
Saturday, April TBD 11:30a-1:30p	Branch Annual meeting with elections & speaker TBD	TBD
Saturday, May 18 10a-noon	Branch Board installation	Julie's Coffee & Tea outdoors



## DIRT DIVAS Update

Our gardening club, Dirt Divas, is ending, but our gardening work continues. Please continue to grow & propagate plants for our Spring 2024 Plant Sale fundraiser. Dorothy is continuing to collect any ceramic/terra-cotta pots in good condition at her house on front steps or in front of her garage. Please direct any questions to Paula at [pbiwer@yahoo.com](mailto:pbiwer@yahoo.com).

Thanks to everyone who has participated in the Dirt Divas Club and to all of the AAUW members & friends, who have worked tirelessly to raise significant funds at our annual plant sales.

*HAPPY GARDENING!*

-Paula Biber

## Branch Interest Groups



Our **Mah Jongg Group** had lots of fun playing throughout the summer. We play American-style Mah Jongg using the National Mah Jongg League card and rules. We meet at 1:30pm on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at members' homes. If you've never played before and want to give it a try, we can teach you how to play. If you've played in the past and want to improve or refresh your skills, or you're an experienced player and you'd like to join us, contact Laura Porter (call or text [510-912-0385](tel:510-912-0385)).



**Afternoon Books**

The Afternoon Book Club meets on the 3rd Monday of the Month at various members' homes. New members are welcome, and there is no "homework". We share what we have read and trade books. Members read all genres, although mysteries seem to be a group favorite. Our September meeting is on the 18th at 1:30 pm at the home of Li Volin. Contact Karen Scanlon at [yaitt@aol.com](mailto:yaitt@aol.com) or **510-523-6456** for more information.

**Cinema Club**

Cinema Club meets on Sunday, September 17, 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).

**Evening Book Group**

The Evening Book group meets on Tuesday, October 3 at 7:00 pm. Our book this month is *The Dictionary of Lost Words* by Pip 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](mailto:kevis.brownson@gmail.com).

**Global Cooking Group**

The Global Cooking Group meets in homes every other month, trying new recipes from around the globe and around the US for a dinner that we share. Our usual date is the third Saturday of the month although sometimes we have to make changes for holidays and other reasons. Our first meeting of the year is October 8 at 6:00 pm. If you would like more information about this group, please contact Kevis at [kevis.brownson@gmail.com](mailto:kevis.brownson@gmail.com). This is a group where partners are welcome to come.

**Global Restaurant Dining Group**

The Global Restaurant Dining Group will meet Saturday September 2, at Yellowtail, 1332 Park Street, at 6:00 pm. For reservations, contact Marilyn Sharron at **(215)317-6002** or at [marilynsharron@gmail.com](mailto:marilynsharron@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. Contact Laura Porter at [Lrajean@aol.com](mailto:Lrajean@aol.com) or **510-912-0385** for more information about the Mah Jongg interest group.

**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**.

## **Museum Group**

On Thursday, September 21, the Museum Group will travel to the Legion of Honor to see the exhibit **the TUDORS--Art and Majesty in Renaissance England**.

England's Tudor dynasty (1485-1603) was ambitious, ruthless, visionary, and magnificent. The dynasty was founded in 1485 when Henry Tudor decisively won the War of the Roses and usurped the throne from Richard III, the last king of the Plantagenet dynasty. With a dubious claim to kingship, Henry VII legitimized his reign and built alliances by marrying his children to foreign royals. Notoriously frugal, he did invest in art as a means of projecting the splendor and generosity befitting a king. An example of this was a cope (clerical vestment) in rich velvet cloth of gold emblazoned with the king's emblems which he commissioned for Westminster Abbey. Henry's reign marked England's transition from the late Middle Ages to the Renaissance.

His son Henry VIII was more confident of his power. He spent extravagantly on the construction of palaces and treasures to fill them. Henry VIII was inspired by the ideals of the Renaissance and desired the English court to rival his Continental counterparts. Many famous foreign artists were attracted to this court. Most notable of these is Hans Holbein the Younger, who painted the Portrait of Henry VIII of England in 1540.

During his later reign, Henry VIII became a tyrant, divorcing or executing four of his six wives, severing ties with the Roman Catholic Church in 1533, and establishing himself as Supreme Head of the Church of England.

The reigns of his three children were markedly different in character. Edward VI, who inherited the throne at age 9, brought radical Protestant reform. The brief reign of Henry's older, fanatically Catholic daughter, and first reigning queen, Mary, reconciled England with the papacy and reintegrated the kingdom with Catholic Europe through her marriage to Phillip II of Spain. Hundreds of Protestants were burned at the stake because of this.

The final Tudor monarch and Henry VIII's youngest daughter Elizabeth pursued a more modest Protestant policy. Encircled by Catholic enemies, Elizabeth achieved an unlikely victory against the Spanish Armada when they attempted to invade England. She never married. With most of Europe against her, she established diplomatic contact with Russia, the Ottoman Empire, and Morocco. During her long reign, English culture and art blossomed. Through art and poetry, the queen cultivated the image of a virgin deity wed to her people. The Hardwick Portrait exemplifies this.

There are many textiles on display as well. Henry VIII was a prodigious collector of tapestries woven in Flanders (Belgium) to display in his palaces.

All the items in this exhibit convey the splendor of the Tudor court, as well as the gradual evolution from the Late Middle Ages to the High Renaissance to the emergence of a national Elizabethan style.


The carpool will leave from the Ross Parking lot at Southshore. Be there at 9:15 for a 9:30 **sharp** departure. We will have lunch in the cafeteria.

Please RSVP if you would like to go to [JudySparks@comcast.net](mailto:JudySparks@comcast.net)

# Calendar

# Branch Activities

## September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Aug 28 Board mtg 6:00 pm via Zoom				1	2- Global Restaurant Dining Group 6:00 pm
3	4  LABOR DAY	5	6	7	8	9
10-	11- Mah Jongg 1:30 PM	12	13- Out to Lunch Bunch	14	15	16- <b>Luncheon</b> 11:30 AM
17-- Cinema Club	18- Afternoon Books 1:30 PM	19	20	21- Museum Group 9:30 AM	22	23
24	25- Mah Jongg 1:30 PM	26	27	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.



(American Association of University Women)



Empowering Women and Girls since 1881

Join a Local AAUW Branch and be a Changemaker!

170,000 Supporters Strong! Tenacious and Trailblazing!

## What does AAUW do?

**Our mission:** To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

- Advocates on Capitol Hill for issues that matter to women.
- Awards funds to women scholars to pursue their studies.
- Provides legal advocacy.
- Offers training in leadership and career advancement.
- Gives you opportunities to act!

Visit [www.aauw-ca.org](http://www.aauw-ca.org)

## What happens in AAUW?

Local branch volunteers may organize such things as:

- Public presentations and forums.
- State programs: Tech Trek STEM camp, Speech Trek contest, or Gov Trek political career series.
- Homegrown programs to meet their community's unique needs.
- Scholarship programs.
- Fundraisers.
- Social groups to share camaraderie, interests, and fun.

## Who is in AAUW?

We are changemakers in our community and country.

- Graduates with a college or AA degree or higher.
- Interesting, diverse, and passionate women and men.
- People who are working, not working, about to retire, retired, or still in college.

*Sound like you?*

## Why join AAUW?

Your membership makes our powerful voice even louder on critical issues affecting women and girls.

- Help break down barriers for women.
- Interact with like-minded people.
- Impact your community with programs that make a difference.
- Network and learn from people with varied backgrounds and skills.
- Share common interests in social groups.
- Make career connections.
- Exercise your mind.

## JOIN US!

ALAMEDA

Local Branch

[alameda-ca@aauw.net](mailto:alameda-ca@aauw.net)

Contact Email



f @aauwca

@aauwca

www.aauw-ca.org