



**ALAMEDA BRANCH  
2023-24 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*

*October 2023*

A publication of AAUW-Alameda Branch, chartered 1962 Vol. 61, Issue 2



## October Meeting Gov Trek Participant Alaina Noguera

The AAUW Alameda October branch membership meeting features Gov Trek participant Alaina Noguera as our speaker. Alaina was a participant in the inaugural Gov Trek program in 2023. From the AAUW California website introducing Gov Trek: "This virtual program for high school junior and senior girls is designed to elevate the next generation to pursue careers in public service and elected office." Girls in middle and high school participate in six sessions in February and March, with activities culminating in a mock campaign for office.

AAUW Alameda Branch does not yet sponsor a Gov Trek program but we hope to start a program in the future. We look forward to Alaina describing her experience to us.

Also on the program for the meeting, activity group leaders and committee chairs will have a chance to explain their groups to the membership. Prospective group members will be able to get their questions answered in person about all that AAUW Alameda Branch has to offer. This meeting would be a good one to bring your friends who are not yet AAUW members.

This meeting will be our first one as a weekday happy hour event. It's time to be happy! **October 18 is the date, from 4:30 to about 6:30. We will meet at an outside table at Almanac Beer Company Taproom, 651B W. Tower Avenue, Alameda.** Drinks - either craft beer or non-alcoholic beverages- will be no-host. AAUW Alameda will bring trays of appetizers and so we need a rough count for the food. **We would appreciate a donation of \$5-\$10 for the food trays.** Please bring cash for a donation to the food, or if you would like to pay by credit card, we will offer Square. Any donations in excess of what is needed for the food will go back into AAUW as a donation to program needs.

**In order to get a count for the food, please respond to Kevis at [kevis.brownson@gmail.com](mailto:kevis.brownson@gmail.com) or 510-463-4966 by Saturday, October 14** to let us know if you are attending and whether you are bringing any friends.

*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

I hope you are all enjoying the beautiful fall weather we have been having in Alameda. By now most students are back in school and from what I observe from my drives around town, soccer is in full swing at several parks. This is also a time, as we begin a new AAUW year, to begin to educate ourselves about all the efforts your state and national AAUW organizations are making to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. When I first joined AAUW I often just scanned the headlines on the multiple emails I got from California and our National organization and didn't really read any them fully. At some point an article piqued my interest and I actually read that whole article and went on to several others. I was amazed at how much I learned about continuing inequities for women in this country and how much AAUW is doing to correct this. I strongly encourage you to do the same. In an interesting AAUW Washington Update I received in my email on 9/7 there was a link to a fascinating study by the Rand Organization about "The State of Public Education Right Now". I learned about growing teacher burnout and the fact that a significant percentage of high school Math teachers are skipping over important content. Important information.

There was also an Article about a new AAUW free program called STEMED. This is an online support program for high school girls and their parents/caretakers to learn more about STEM jobs, subjects and resources. If I have piqued your interest, I hope you will take the time to look up that email, read the state and national emails, or go to AAUW.org to find out about all of the National programs, and to support them financially if you are able.

-Marilyn Sharron, President, AAUW Alameda Branch



## Meet Alaina Noguera, Gov Trek Participant



Greetings, I'm Alaina Noguera. This year, I had the incredible privilege of participating in AAUW Gov Trek, where I collaborated with a group of young women to orchestrate a campaign. This experience facilitated profound discussions and exposed me to inventive campaign strategies, significantly boosting my confidence and fueling my ambition to pursue a college career in political science. Our dedication and hard work paid off as we emerged victorious, earning me an exciting position on the AAUW California Public Policy Committee.

This journey left a lasting impact on me, reinforcing the belief that women's representation in politics is of paramount importance.



Thanks so much to everyone who attended the September luncheon which featured our **EIGHT** (this is the most we've ever sponsored) Tech Trek campers: Ka'nyiah (Academy of Alameda), Lauren (Academy of Alameda), Esther (Encinal Jr. Jets), Maya (Lincoln Middle School), Jaide (Lincoln Middle School), Maria (NEA), Kylie (Wood Middle School) and Julianne (Encinal Jr. Jets). The girls did a great job talking about their camp experience, then went table to table to describe in detail some of the projects they created.

The ongoing themes expressed by the girls were an awakened enthusiasm for STEM, renewed confidence, and gratitude to our membership. TechTrek continues to change lives!

Thanks to our Tech Trek committee members, Linda Preminger, Shuba Fanse, Ellie Barrantes, Roberta Schwarz, Michelle Pero Igo, and Jennifer Ayres for their help this year and welcome to new committee member Mary Kay Hardwick.

This annual luncheon also serves as a fundraiser for Tech Trek. **If you weren't able to attend the luncheon, you can still show your support by going to the Tech Trek section of our website, scroll down and follow the instructions or you can send a check. Checks must be made out to AAUW CA SPF and can be mailed to Barbara Krummel, 3258 Liberty Ave., Alameda, CA 94501.** Tech Trek is a 501c3 nonprofit so donations are tax deductible. You will receive a thank you letter with the Tech Trek tax ID number. The cost for each girl in 2023 was \$1,000 but the cost will be increasing next year so we really need your help as our branch members are major supporters!

-Barbara Krummel, Alameda Branch Tech Trek Coordinator



## 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 are including one thank you letter per newsletter!

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

May 30, 2023

AAUW Scholarship Committee

Greetings,

I am writing to thank you for the generous award of the Patti Heimburger AAUW College of Alameda Scholarship. I am honoured to receive this scholarship and beyond grateful for the generosity of the AAUW organization.

I moved alone to the US at age 19 and have worked 2 jobs through college to financially support myself and send some money to my family. After 3 challenging years, I am proud to have been offered a spot to transfer to UC Berkeley to study cognitive science with a minor in data science. With this award, I will be able to purchase my own laptop as I have been renting one through a program at the college for the last few years. Having my own laptop will greatly support my studies at Cal and also boost my confidence.

Thank you very much again. I commit to pass this generosity forward as I progress through my career, and to work to empower women within the field of tech after I graduate.

Sincerely,

Juliette Breen

[juliettebreen00@gmail.com](mailto:juliettebreen00@gmail.com)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS/Future Events

Monday, October 2, 6:00 pm -- **Board Meeting** – via Zoom -- ALL WELCOME !!

Tuesday, October 3, 7:00 pm - **Evening Books Group**

Saturday, October 7, 6:00 pm -- **Global Restaurant Dining Group** – Speisekammer

Sunday, October 8, 6:00 pm – **Global Cooking Group**

Monday, October 9, 1:30 pm – **Mah Jongg Group**

Wednesday, October 11, 9:45 am – **Museum Group** – US Potomac

Wednesday, October 11 – **Out to Lunch Bunch**

Sunday, October 15 – **Cinema Club**

Monday, October 16, 1:30 pm – **Afternoon Books Club**

**Wednesday, October 18, 4:30 pm – October Meeting – Almanac Beer Company Taproom**

Monday, October 23, 1:30 pm – **Mah Jongg 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 October 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

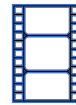


## Support California Bill AB 933 !

AB 933, one of the bills on AAUW California's support list, is a beacon of hope for survivors of sexual assault, harassment, and discrimination. In the wake of the MeToo movement, we've seen the unsettling rise of legal threats and intimidation against survivors. AB 933 pushes back. It ensures survivors have adequate protections against retaliatory and baseless defamation lawsuits and are entitled to relief in the form of reasonable attorneys' fees and damages for prevailing against baseless lawsuits.

Please take action and ask your friends to do the same. Ensure survivors have the right to share their experiences without fear. [Encourage Senators to support survivors](#) by voting **YES on AB 933!**

-Donna Vaughn



### Branch Interest Groups

#### **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 October meeting is on the 16th at 1:30 pm at the home of Karen Scanlon. Contact Karen Scanlon at [yakitt@aol.com](mailto:yakitt@aol.com) or 510-523-6456 for more information.

#### **Cinema Club**

Cinema Club meets on Sunday, October 15, 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, October 7 at Speisekammer, 2424 Lincoln Avenue, at 6:00pm. For reservations, contact Chuck Scanlon at **(510)523-1259** or [CoachYell@aol.com](mailto:CoachYell@aol.com)

**Mah Jongg (American Style)**

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Monday afternoon of each month to play American-style Mah Jongg. Beginners and experienced players 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 Wednesday, October 11 the Museum Group will Tour the USS Potomac in Jack London Square.

The cost of this tour is \$10/person.

The USS Potomac was built in 1934. It was commissioned in 1936 and served as Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Presidential yacht until his death in 1945. During the sultry days of summer, a cruise on the Potomac gave FDR a much-needed respite from the cares of governing the United States during the Great Depression and World War II.

The carpool will leave from the Ross Parking lot at South Shore. Be there at 9:45 for a 10:00 **sharp** departure. We will have lunch at a local restaurant to be announced.

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

# Calendar

# Branch Activities

## October 2023

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