



**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*

*December 2023*

A publication of AAUW-Alameda Branch, chartered 1962

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## AAUW New Year's Tea Celebration

Malaya Tea Room **(Wear a Hat!)**

920 Central Avenue, Alameda

**January 13** Saturday 3:30 - 5:00 pm

**(No December Meeting)**

Come celebrate a new year of fellowship and dedication to promoting women's potential! We will have a complete afternoon tea with tea sandwiches (smoked salmon, chicken salad, cucumber and turkey with Brie and fig jam), clotted cream with strawberry jam, a savory, and assorted desserts. Choice of specialty teas. A vegetarian option is available, but no gluten free (please write veg in memo on check). We will have a voluntary fun gift exchange (value of \$25 or less). **3 ways to pay:** **Send a check for \$50**, which includes the tax and tip, made out to AAUW Alameda Branch c/o Susan Myers 3215 Garfield Ave, Alameda, CA 94501. **OR** scan this QR code to pay online:

**OR** use this link: <https://square.link/u/LqZlkhM2>



**Please act swiftly;** there are only 26 spots in this lovely small tea room, which we will have all to ourselves. Join us for an opportunity to support Alameda and a local woman business owner, Leena Lim. Any questions, please contact Paula at [pbiwer@yahoo.com](mailto:pbiwer@yahoo.com)

*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.*

## Year End Donations to AAUW



Penny Washbourn and Mary Jo Knight with NCCWSL recipients at our November Meeting

If you are considering AAUW among your charitable year- end donations (and I hope you will!) our NCCWSL Branch Sponsorship program could greatly benefit from donations. We will award our \$1,500 scholarships to two College of Alameda women students to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders in May 2024. This NCCWSL fund is set up as a 501(c)(3) Special project and administered by AAUW CA Special Projects Fund. Our Branch selects the students who are nominated by the College of Alameda. We have some funds left in our account but must raise \$1,600 to be able to send our students in May to the conference in Baltimore.

If you are considering making a donation from your IRA for an IRS Required Minimum Distribution, you will need to inform the administrator as soon as possible so it can be processed prior to December 31, 2023. They will need the tax ID on this letter.

### **Two ways to to Donate:**

**Write a check** to AAUW CA SPF

In the memo line write: Alameda NCCWSL

Mail or give to: Penny Washbourn, NCCWSL Coordinator 501 Lagunaria Lane, Alameda, CA 94502

Donations over \$250 will be acknowledged by AAUW CA Special Projects Fund; under that amount will be acknowledged by the Alameda Branch NCCWSL project.

The Tax ID is 68-0463071; CA Charitable Trust ID #127807

### **OR**

**Donate directly** via Pay Pal or Credit card on the website:

<https://specialprojectsfundca.aauw.net>

1. Go to DONATE on the menu bar.
2. Put in your donation amount,
3. Select AAUW Branch Projects/Scholarships
- 4 Select AAUW Alameda College of Alameda NCCWSL Sponsorship (#2010)
5. Click donate via Paypal,
6. Select pay by Pay Pal or Credit card and fill in your information.
7. The receipt will be sent to you via email.

Questions: Penny Washbourn [pwashbou@gmail.com](mailto:pwashbou@gmail.com) or call **925-949-9791**

Thanks so very much! Every donation helps us reach our goal.

Penny Washbourn, NCCWSL Coordinator and Selection Committee:  
Susan Myers, Annette Koch, Silver Alkhafaji, VP Tina Vasconcellos,  
College of Alameda.



## 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

5/24/2023

Dear Patti Heimburger AAUW CoA Scholarship Committee,

I would like to thank the scholarship committee for acknowledging my hard work and dedication to my education. Words cannot fully express the profound impact your support has had on my life and educational journey. Thanks to your belief in me and your financial assistance, I am now able to pursue my dreams of higher education without the burden of overwhelming student debt. Your scholarship has not only lightened my financial load but has also served as a constant source of motivation and encouragement. It has inspired me to work diligently, excel in my studies, and embrace every opportunity that comes my way. I truly appreciate being chosen to receive this award.

Sincerely,

Donna Hooper

## AAUW 2024 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Plant Sale



**Saturday, May 11, 2024 (7:00 – 2:00 pm)**  
**at the Al Fresco Dining Park**  
**1435 Webster Street Alameda (across from Farmer's Market)**

**Let's all dig in to make this year's plant sale a blooming success! Here is how:**

- 1. Host a planting party**
- 2. Start plants from seeds (herbs, flowers, vegetables)**
- 3. Provide a variety of plant cuttings (succulents, philodendrons, geraniums, etc)**
- 4. Invite friends & neighbors to share plants/cuttings**
- 5. Care for plants**
- 6. Donate ceramic and terracotta pots in good condition of all sizes (drop off at Dorothy's house)**
- 7. Set up & manage our EVENTBRITE listing**
- 8. Head up our PR team for the sale**
- 9. Spread the word through your social media connections**
- 10. Transport plants to the sale site**
- 11. Work the day of the sale**
- 12. Shop at the sale**
- 13. Host a post plant sale party**
- 14. Transport any unsold plants after the sale**

**100% of the money raised will support AAUW Branch Projects/Scholarships.**

**Please contact Paula at [pbiwer@yahoo.com](mailto:pbiwer@yahoo.com) to volunteer and/or ask questions.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS/Future Events

- Saturday, December 2, 6:00 pm – **Global Cooking / Restaurant Dining Groups Holiday Party**
- Monday, December 4, 6:00 pm - **Board Meeting** – via Zoom – All Welcome!
- Tuesday, December 5, 7:00 pm - **Evening Books Group**
- Wednesday, December 8 – **Out to Lunch Bunch**
- Monday, December 11, 1:30 pm – **Mah Jongg Group**
- Sunday, December 17 – **Cinema Club**
- Monday, December 18, 1:30 pm – **Afternoon Books Club**
- Thursday, December 21, 9:30 am – **Museum Group** – De Young – Open Exhibit – Bay Area Artists
- Tuesday, January 2, 6:00 pm – **Evening Books Group** – Zoom Meeting – Current/Former members



### 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 December to January, please bring your calendars that you wish to donate to the monthly meetings. 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 California has a new leadership program for high school junior and senior women called GovTrek. The program's inaugural year was 2023, and it was a transformational program for those who participated. We hope that this year we might have some participation from Alameda high schools. Alameda Branch does not have to do any fundraising for students to participate in this program, but we can individually contribute using this link: <https://www.aauw-ca.org/gov-trek/> or the QR code below, or by writing a check.

We are also looking for a branch coordinator for the program - if you are interested, please contact Kevis Brownson at [510-463-4966](tel:510-463-4966) or [kevis.brownson@gmail.com](mailto:kevis.brownson@gmail.com).



## Introducing Gov Trek

2023 - 2024

AAUW California's leadership program for girls in their junior and senior year of high school is designed to address the paucity of women in the halls of power and to help young women consider careers in public service and elected office.

**90%**

of students who completed the program indicated they were inspired to pursue careers in public service.



### Students benefit by...

- Engaging in career exploration
- Gaining access to local and state women legislators and leaders
- Conducting a political campaign simulation
- Gaining Access to internships
- Learning teamwork skills
- Meeting peers from across California
- Sharpening public speaking skills
- Writing speeches
- Designing political ads
- Conducting audience analysis for voter outreach
- Making college applications stand out

One of the priorities of AAUW's core mission is to inform and empower girls in an effort to close the gender gap in traditionally male-dominated fields.



Increase Representation of Women in Elected Office & Public Service

### Inspiring Past Gov Trek Speakers.

- Speaker Emerita: Nancy Pelosi
- Congresswomen: Anna Eshoo
- California State Treasurer: Fiona Ma
- And more!

Support us through PayPal contributions





**MAKE AN ENDURING IMPACT. GIVE TODAY!**



Or make check out to: AAUW California SPF and write Gov Trek in the memo field.

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

 (951) 480-8300

 Mail to: AAUW California Gov Trek  
729 Greenery Cir. Oceanside, CA 92057

 [govtrek@aauw-ca.org](mailto:govtrek@aauw-ca.org)



## Our Branch is Good at Spending Money – But How do We Raise Money?



A Fundraising Oversight Committee has been created to give guidance to possible fundraising ideas and pursuits. Fundraising is important to our branch because we dream big. We currently raise funds in support of Tech Trek campers, College of Alameda transfer sponsorships, the College of Alameda Study Abroad program, and NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders), a three day conference that includes leadership training, inspiration, and networking. Tech Trek, thanks to generous donors, has been largely self-supporting in the years we have participated. The College of Alameda transfer program, which began in the mid-1990s, awards stipends to COA graduates who transfer to a 4 year college. The College of Alameda Study Abroad program is our newest venture, delayed by the pandemic. This year we sent 3 students to the NCCWSL conference.

The Fundraising Oversight committee is looking for fundraising proposals that can support these ambitious goals.

Please contact Dorothy Kerwin at [kerwindorothy@gmail.com](mailto:kerwindorothy@gmail.com) or Cindy Silva at [cynthia.silva26@yahoo.com](mailto:cynthia.silva26@yahoo.com) for an application to help us continue the good works of the branch.

## Branch Interest Groups



The **AAUW Museum Group** went to the Stanford Cantor Museum and enjoyed a great lecture tour of Morris Hirshfield paintings given by curator Richard Meyer.

### **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 December meeting is on Monday the 18th at 1:30 pm at the home of Rose Ann White. 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, December 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, December 5 at 7:00 pm. Our book this month is *Good Omens* by Terry Pratchett & Neil Gaiman. Also, on January 2 at 6:00 pm, we will have our third annual Zoom meeting for current and former members of the group. 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, and to be on the list for January 2, please contact Kevis at [kevis.brownson@gmail.com](mailto:kevis.brownson@gmail.com).

### **Global Cooking Group**

The Global Cooking Group meets Saturday, December 2, for an evening gathering featuring holiday appetizers from around the world. To join us or for more information please contact Kevis at [kevis.brownson@gmail.com](mailto:kevis.brownson@gmail.com).

### **Global Restaurant Dining Group**

The Global Restaurant Dining Group and the Global Cooking Group are getting together for a holiday party at the home of Chuck and Karen Scanlon, Saturday evening December 2nd at 6pm. It will be a casual evening with hors d'oeuvres and drinks and good conversations. If you are interested in joining either the Restaurant Dining or Cooking group this would be a great chance to learn more about us. For more information please contact Karen Scanlon at **510-523-6456**.

### **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.

### **Museum Group**





The MUSEUM GROUP will go to the deYoung on Thursday, December 21, to see THE DE YOUNG OPEN 2023 exhibit. The DeYoung Open 2023 is the largest and most complex exhibition ever hosted by the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, with 7766 works submitted and 883 artworks accepted and installed "salon style." The exhibition draws entirely on artworks created in the past three years by Bay Area artists and is organized into thematic groupings in the installation. Rose Anne White's nephew has a piece in the exhibition.

The carpool will leave from the Ross Parking lot at South Shore. Be there at 9:15 for 9:30 sharp departure. We will have lunch at the museum restaurant. Please RSVP if you would like to go to [JudySparks@comcast.net](mailto:JudySparks@comcast.net)



**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				
December 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2- Global Cooking/ Restaurant Dining Group 6:00 PM
3-	4-Board Meeting 6:00 PM	5-Evening Books 7:00 PM	6-Out to Lunch Bunch	7 	8	9
10	11- Mah Jongg 1:30 PM	12	13	14	15	16
17- Cinema Club	18- Afternoon Books 1:30 PM	19	20	21- Museum Group 9:30 AM	22	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.

