



**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**

Susan Myers

**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*

*February 2024*

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## Branch Meeting

**FEBRUARY AAUW SCHOLARSHIP AND GRANT FUND EVENT**  
**Thursday, February 15, 2024 7:00 PM Via ZOOM**

**(Watch for upcoming e-blasts that will have  
the Zoom link and speaker details)**

**Again** this year, our February Branch meeting will highlight AAUW's Ed Fund. We will be fortunate to have one of the California recipients of National's scholarship and grant program as a speaker. We have an amazing array of accomplished young women pursuing advanced degrees with help from AAUW from which to select our speaker. We are confident that this year's speaker will, as in years past, make an interesting and compelling presentation outlining her area of study, and how she hopes to advance the interests of women and girls upon completion of her education. To make it easier for one of these busy young women to join us, we have made this a Zoom event. We hope that the format will encourage as many of you as possible to attend as well. And don't forget to put your checkbook next to your computer so you can support this important work going forward with a generous donation. There is nothing like seeing these wonderful women in person (or virtually in person) to underscore the doors we help open for them and the lives they will touch in the future.

-Mary Oppedahl, Alameda Branch AAUW Funds VP and Barbara Krummel, Kevis Brownson and Paula Biwer, Program VPs

*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.*



## 2024-2025 Branch Leadership: Step Right UP!

Did you resolve to be more engaged and involved in 2024? Here's your chance, we would love to have you join our branch leadership. As Past President, I am tasked with convening a nominating committee whose job is to prepare a slate of officers for 2024 -2025. The open positions are listed below along with those that already have someone who has stepped up to help keep our branch vibrant and relevant. Please contact me if you have any questions or are interested in volunteering (barbarakrummel@comcast.net). As you can see, many of the positions are shared so grab a friend and step right up! Joining the leadership team will ensure that we continue to thrive as an organization.

-Barbara Krummel, Nominating Committee

### **Elected positions:**

President: **open**

President Elect: **open**

Membership Vice Presidents: Cindy Silva and Kay Weinstein

Program Vice Presidents: Barbara Krummel, Paula Biwer, Kevis Brownson

Funds Vice President: Mary Oppedahl

Finance Vice President: **open**

Secretary: Elizabeth McGaffey and Virginia Darrow

### **Appointed positions:**

Fundraising Oversight Committee: Dorothy Kerwin and Cindy Silva

Hospitality: Dorothy Kerwin

Newsletter Editor/Website Coordinator: Jennifer Ayres

Publicity: **open**

Public Policy: Donna Vaughn

Sunshine: **open**

Tech Trek Coordinator: Barbara Krummel

College/University Relations: Penny Washbourn

## ANNOUNCEMENTS/Future Events

Saturday, February 3, 6:00 pm – **Global Restaurant Dining Group**

Sunday, February 4, 3:00 pm – **Mary Church Terrell and the Fight to Integrate AAUW – via ZOOM**  
Sign up [HERE](#)

Monday, February 5, 6:00 pm -- **Board Meeting** – via Zoom – All Welcome!

Tuesday, February 6, 7:00 pm – **Evening Books Group**

Monday, February 12, 1:30 pm – **Mah Jongg Group**

Wednesday, February 14 – **Out to Lunch Bunch**

Thursday, February 15, 9:30 am – **Museum Group** – deYoung Museum – Fashioning San Francisco

**Thursday, February 15, 7:00 pm – AAUW Scholarship and Grant Ed Fund Event – via ZOOM**

Saturday, February 17, 6:00 pm – **Global Cooking Group**

Sunday, February 18 – **Cinema Club**

Monday, February 19, 1:30 pm – **Afternoon Books Club**

Monday, February 26, 1:30 pm – **Mah Jongg Group**

Tuesday-Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> – **Lobby Days – Sign Up [HERE](#) by February 15**

Saturday, May 11, 7:00 am – 2:00 pm - **Plant Sale**

**AAUW Food Bank Calendar Project -**



**210 CALENDARS WERE COLLECTED. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATED!!!!**



## NEW COMMUNITY PROJECT - GREETING CARDS AND STATIONERY

We are now collecting greeting cards and stationery for the Central American Refugee Committee. Many of you provided greeting cards (all holidays) and stationery along with calendars last year.

Packages of these items were prepared and provided to low income families. They are greatly appreciated. We will collect the greeting cards and stationery year round. Contact Cindy Silva at [Cynthia.silva26@yahoo.com](mailto:Cynthia.silva26@yahoo.com) for more information

-Cynthia Silva, Calendar/Recycle Project Chair



## 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



## Is There a Hidden Agenda Behind the “Parents’ Rights” Movement?

By Kathi Harper, chair AAUW California Public Policy School Board Project Committee

We members of the AAUW California Public Policy School Board Project sub-committee frequently come across materials from groups advocating for book-banning, curriculum censorship, and policies which negatively impact the lives of LGBTQ+ students, in the name of “Parents’ Rights.” For example the House of Representatives recently passed H.R. 5, the “Parents’ Bill of Rights Act.” Eight governors have signed legislation with similar titles.

H.R. 5 establishes the rights of parents to, among other things: review curriculum; inspect the books and other reading materials in the school library; be advised of policies that permit transgender girls to compete on female athletic teams or use bathrooms or lockers designated for females; and provide consent before a school may use their child’s chosen name or pronouns on forms, or change the child’s sex-based accommodations. Many of the state laws noted above require the removal of “inappropriate” materials upon the objection of a single person.

AAUW California recognizes that not all our members will find these policies objectionable. And to be sure, most of our members would agree with this statement from PEN America, a human rights and free expression organization: “There is no question that parents deserve a say in shaping their children’s educations; that they have a moral and legal responsibility for their children, and the freedom to make fundamental decisions for their families.” (Suzanne Nossel, PEN America CEO, Time Sept. 20, 2022.)

However, legitimate questions are raised when one parent’s “right” to control what their child reads and learns collides with another parent’s right to ensure their child has access to a broad and diverse range of educational materials. Or when a parent’s “right” to know if their child confides to a teacher regarding a sexual identity unknown to the parent collides with the student’s right to privacy. Or when one parent’s “right” to ensure her daughter doesn’t play on the same

team as a transgender girl collides with that girl's right to partake in all the same activities as other girls, or to feel safe in the campus environment.

AAUW California advocates for a diverse curriculum in our schools, as well as the protection of all forms of gender identity and expression. It is a cause of concern when the rallying cry of "parents' rights" is, as stated by PEN America, "wielded to do far more than give parents their rightful voice; it is turning public schools into political battle grounds, fracturing communities, and diverting time and energy away from teaching and learning." Additionally, according to the National Education Association (NEA), H.R. 5 "ignores the breadth of parental engagement" that already exists, "disregards educator experience and expertise" and "inserts the government into local decisions."

PEN America worries that the current emphasis on working with schools for the betterment of the child has been replaced with a parental focus on wanting to impose their personal beliefs – moral, religious, and/or political – on the entire education system. As an organization founded on the principal of expanding educational opportunities we might all heed Suzanne Nossel's final words in her Time article: "The phrase 'parents' rights' may have a nice ring to it, but the agenda now afoot in its name should sound alarms for all those who care about the future of public education."



**Members enjoying the January New Year's Celebration at the Malaya Tea Room**



## 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 February meeting is on Monday the 19th at 1:30 pm at the home of Donna Vaughn. 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, February 18, 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, February 6 at 7:00 pm when we will discuss *Shrines of Gaiety* by Kate Atkinson. 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 every two months at a member's home to share an interesting cuisine from around the world and US. Our next gathering is February 17. 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 will meet at 6:00 pm on Saturday, February 3. For more information please contact Penny Washbourn at [pwashbou@gmail.com](mailto:pwashbou@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 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 travel to the deYoung Museum to see the exhibit **FASHIONING SAN FRANCISCO: A CENTURY OF STYLE** on Thursday, February 15. This exhibit explores the city's history through the lens of fashion as drawn from the Museum's collection of twentieth and twenty-first-century women's high fashion and haute couture. It features 100 works of daywear, suiting, eveningwear, and footwear by Gabrielle Chanel, Callot Soeurs, Christian Dior, Madame Gres, Christian Lacroix, Alexander McQueen, and Yves Saint Laurent.




The exhibit features the fabulous gown "Spellbound" designed by Edwin Oudshoorn and worn by his muse Davis Bohem, to the 2020 San Francisco Ballet opening-night gala. This green silk satin gown with gold embellishments was made to flow with the wearer's movements, supposedly translating the spirit of each wearer. There is a small bejeweled "Queen Bee" at the waist.

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				
<b>February 2024</b>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 	3- Global Restaurant Dining Group 6:00 PM
4-Mary Church Terrel Webinar 3:00 PM	5-Board Meeting 6:00 PM via Zoom	6-Evening Books 7:00 PM	7	8	9	10
11	12- Mah Jongg 1:30 PM	13	14-Out to Lunch Bunch 	15- Museum Group 9:30 AM; <b>Ed Fund February Meeting via ZOOM 7:00 PM</b>	16	17-Global Cooking Group
18- Cinema Club	19 - Afternoon Books 1:30 PM 	20	21	22	23	24
25	26- Mah Jongg 1:30 PM	27	28	29		
<p>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.</p>						

**Application form** to help standardize fundraising in the branch. Please use this form for any proposed fund-raising activity.



ALAMEDA (CA)  
BRANCH

AAUW - ALAMEDA BRANCH  
APPLICATION FOR PROPOSED FUND-RAISING ACTIVITY

Title of Activity: \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose of Funds: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email / Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**We expect that fund-raising efforts will support our mission  
and increase our community presence.**

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.

12/4/2023