



**ALAMEDA BRANCH
2023-24 BOARD**

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*

March 2024

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**March Membership Meeting Happy Hour--Bring a friend!
Featuring the Senior Editor of The Chronicle's Food+ Wine**



When: Friday, March 8, Happy Hour, 4 to 6 pm

Where: Rhythmix Cultural Work's K-Gallery, 2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda

What: Mingle, check out the art exhibit in the gallery and enjoy drinks & small bites followed by our speaker

Cost: \$10 cash, check or Square at the door, or pay in advance with this link:
<https://square.link/u/on69FX8W?src=sheet>

RSVP by March 6: barbarakrummel@comcast.net

Our March meeting will be in the first-floor art gallery at Rhythmix Cultural Works, a fabulous place for the arts in Alameda. We will have the space to ourselves and will get to enjoy their new exhibit of Buddhist art. There is plenty of street parking and a few spots close to the entrance. This would be a great opportunity to bring a friend.

Our speaker, Janelle Bitker, is Senior Editor of The Chronicle's Food + Wine. She joined the newspaper in 2019 as a food enterprise reporter, covering restaurants, food tech, local food production and more. Her writing has been recognized by the California Newspaper Publishers Association and Association of Alternative Newsmedia. Janelle grew up in Alameda and graduated from Alameda High School.

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

AAUW OPEN MEMBERSHIP

AAUW National is proposing a Bylaws Amendment to eliminate a college degree as a requirement for membership. AAUW California Board of Directors has also approved a statement of support for this Bylaws change. In early April we will all be asked to vote whether we want this change or whether we want things to stay the way they are with a college degree being required for membership. This vote has come up in the past with only 25 percent of our membership voting. Not enough to indicate how the total membership feels about this issue.

Our organization was founded in 1881 to advance opportunities for women and to work toward equal treatment with men. Over the years this focus has expanded to advocate for women in education, the workplace, sports, healthcare, minority women and those in poverty communities. We have worked hard to fight for equity for all women, not just those with degrees. It only seems logical that we should be welcoming ALL women to become members of our group. And, if we get new members it provides more hands to work and more funds to do our important work. These are the main reasons behind the proposed Bylaws change. However, there are also those on the other side of the fence who say, "I worked hard to get my degree and felt it was an honor to be part of AAUW" or "I don't want to let just anybody into our AAUW group". Many members have strong feelings about this. Whether you are on one side or the other, please use your power and vote! We need to have more than 25 percent making decisions for our organization. More details about voting will be coming out soon. I will try to keep you all posted!

-Marilyn Sharron, AAUW Alameda Branch President



Branch Leadership Election Information for 2024-2025

As Past President, I was tasked with convening a nominating committee whose job is to prepare a slate of officers for 2024 -2025. I had the honor of serving on the committee with Paula Biber, Mary-Jo Knight, Penny Washbourn and Kay Weinstein. **The results of our efforts are below.** The slate was approved by the Board at our February meeting. The general membership will vote on the elected positions at our April meeting. When you see one of our leadership members, **please take a moment to thank them for stepping up** to ensure that our branch stays vibrant and relevant.

Elected positions:

President: Kay Weinstein

President Elect: Mary Oppedahl

Membership Vice Presidents: Roberta Schwarz and Rose Anne White

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

Funds Vice President: Mary Oppedahl

Finance Officers: Mary-Jo Knight and Marilyn Sharron

Secretary: 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: Ann Chalem

Tech Trek Coordinator: Barbara Krummel

College/University Relations: Penny Washbourn

-Barbara Krummel, Nominating Committe

AAUW Food Bank Calendar Project UPDATE -



251 CALENDARS WERE COLLECTED! THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATED!!!!

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 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS/Future Events

Monday, March 4, 6:00 pm -- **Board Meeting** – via Zoom – All Welcome!

Tuesday, March 5, 7:00 pm – **Evening Books Group**

Friday, March 8, 4 – 6 pm – March Membership Meeting - Happy Hour at Rhythmix Cultural Works

Saturday, March 9, 6:00 pm – **Global Restaurant Dining Group / Global Cooking Group** –
St. Patrick's Irish Social – St. Philip Neri

Monday, March 11, 1:30 pm – **Mah Jongg Group**

Wednesday, March 13 – **Out to Lunch Bunch**

Sunday, March 17 – **Cinema Club**

Monday, March 18, 1:30 pm – **Afternoon Books Club**

Thursday, March 21, 9:30 am – **Museum Group** – Rosie the Riveter Museum

Monday, March 25, 1:30 pm – **Mah Jongg Group**

Tuesday-Wednesday, April 2nd – 3rd – **Lobby Days**

Saturday, April 13, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm – **Branch Annual Meeting** – Vote on 2024-25 branch officers

Saturday, May 11, 7:00 am – 1:00 pm - **Plant Sale**

Saturday, May 18, 10:00 am – Noon – **Branch Meeting** – Installation of new officers and thanking our outgoing officers



Membership Report

We currently have two prospects for membership. Please invite prospects to our monthly meetings and interest groups to share the experience in learning about our branch members and the mission of AAUW.

If you have any referrals for membership, please contact Kay Weinstein or Roberta Schwarz.



The Role of California School Boards

By Seena Trigas, Member AAUW California Public Policy Committee School Board Project

AAUW California is concerned about the censorship of classroom material, the heightened enforcement of board policies rejecting diversity, and providing discriminatory policies against gay and minority students. This concern now leads me, as a former school board member, high school teacher/department chair and adjunct college professor, to reflect on the role of school boards in California and their limitations.

The State Board of Education (SBE) is the controlling structure for K-12, and is the governing and policy-making body of the state for public education. Among its duties is the adoption of statewide academic standards for content and of curriculum frameworks. These inform and guide the local school boards in the development and implementation of specific curricula for K-12 students, and serve as the basis for the adoption of instructional materials. School board members represent districts within the school district boundaries.

In 2023 AB1078 was passed, which requires the California State Department of Education to assess if school boards are in compliance with state laws requiring public schools to provide diverse and comprehensive education. It requires local school districts with insufficient instructional materials to correct this and authorizes the department to purchase (at district expense) adequate curricula if the district restricts students from learning about important topics like racism, sexism, and gender-based marginalization.

AAUW branch members play a critical role in ensuring all California school boards are governed by board members who will follow AB 1078, and who oppose policies that infringe on the civil rights of LGBTQ+ students.

AAUW Morgan Hill members are attending meetings of the Morgan Hill Unified School District board to monitor both the board and the public for threats to AB 1078 and the rights of all students to an equitable education. If you would like to join the public policy team to attend MHUSD meetings, contact Public Policy Chair Susan Rife.



Members getting plants ready for the May Plant Sale



Museum Group at the Legion of Honor to view the Boticelli drawing exhibit

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 March meeting is on Monday the 18th at 1:30 pm at the home of Linda Lowens. Contact Karen Scanlon at yakitt@aol.com or **510-523-6456** for more information.

Cinema Club

Cinema Club meets on Sunday, March 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.

Evening Book Group

The Evening Book group meets on Tuesday, March 5 at 7:00 pm when we will discuss *The Paper Menagerie and Other Stories* by Ken Liu. 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

Global Restaurant Dining Group/Global Cooking Group



St. Patrick's Irish Social

The two dining groups will join together in March to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. The dinner will be Saturday, March 9 at 6:00pm at the Monsignor O'Brien Hall at St. Philip Neri. For reservations contact Cindy Silva (restaurant group) Cynthia.silva26@yahoo.com or Kevis Brownson (dining group) kevis.brownson@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 or **510-912-0385** for more information about the Mah Jongg interest group.

Museum Group

On Thursday, March 21, we will travel to the **Rosie The Riveter Museum!** We will explore and honor the efforts and sacrifices of American civilians on the WWII home front. Find out how diverse neighbors lived, worked, and interacted. Many faces, many stories, many truths, weave a complex tapestry of experiences from this time of opportunity and loss.

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 Assemble Kitchen.

Please RSVP if you would like to go to 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

March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4-Board Meeting 6:00 PM via Zoom	5-Evening Books 7:00 PM	6	7	8- Meeting at Rhythmix Cultural Works 4-6 PM	9- Global Restaurant Dining/ Cooking Group 6:00 PM
10 <i>Daylight Savings Begins</i> 	11- Mah Jongg 1:30 PM	12	13-Out to Lunch Bunch	14	15	16
17- Cinema Club 	18 - Afternoon Books 1:30 PM	19  <i>Equinox</i>	20	21- Museum Group 9:30 AM	22	23
24	25- Mah Jongg 1:30 PM	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.