



**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*

April 2024

A publication of AAUW-Alameda Branch, chartered 1962

Vol. 61, Issue 8

April Branch General Meeting

Featuring: Katherine Schwartz, LCSW

Executive Director, Alameda Family Services

Join us to learn more about [Alameda Family Services](#), started in 1969 by an Alameda mom, who saw a need for teen services and filled it with “\$500 and a few volunteers.” AFS is now a “fully integrated community-based organization offering premier mental health services combined with early childhood education and family support.”

In the brief business part of the meeting, **we will be voting on the nominated Alameda Branch board members for the 2024-2025 membership year.** Speaking of membership, if you bring your checkbook, you will be able to renew right at the meeting - another task accomplished! Lunch and beverages will be served buffet style, with food (including GF and VG) from Tahina at the Marketplace.

When: April 13, 2024 11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Where: Italian-American League Club House, 2712 Encinal Avenue

What: Social at 11:30 followed by buffet lunch, speaker, and general meeting including voting for our 2024-25 board member slate.

Cost: \$25 by check or credit card (see below).

RSVP: by April 11 by **Either**



1-Email to kevis.brownson@gmail.com and send a check for \$25, made out to AAUW Alameda Branch c/o Susan Myers 3215 Garfield Ave, Alameda, CA 94501.

OR

2-Sign up and pay by credit card online.

Link: <https://square.link/u/WKw3DaDt>

OR

3-Scan the QR code with your phone’s camera to register and pay:

Any questions, please contact Kevis at kevis.brownson@gmail.com or **(510) 463-4966**

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.



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 Biwer, 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: **Open**

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 Committee

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



Cards from the branch were sent to: Penny Washbourn(surgery), Donna Vaughn (surgery), Paula Biwer(Get Well), Roberta Schwarz (surgery), and Laura Porter (Thinking of You).

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, April 1, 6:00 pm -- **Board Meeting** – via Zoom – All Welcome!

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

Tuesday, April 2, 7:00 pm – **Evening Books Group**

Saturday, April 6, 6:00 pm – **Global Restaurant Dining Group** – May Thai Kitchen

Monday, April 8, 1:30 pm – **Mah Jongg Group**

Wednesday, April 10 – **Out to Lunch Bunch**

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

Monday, April 15, 1:30 pm – **Afternoon Books Club**

Thursday, April 18, 9:30 am – **Museum Group** – Rosie the Riveter Museum (March trip was cancelled)

Saturday, April 20 – **Global Cooking Group**

Sunday, April 21 – **Cinema Club**

Monday, April 22, 1:30 pm – **Mah Jongg Group**

Saturday, May 11, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm - **Plant Sale** – See attached flyer

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



PLANT SALE !!!



Please support our sixth annual **AAUW PLANT SALE** by growing plants for the sale, working at the sale, attending the sale and spreading the word to family and friends. Please print a copy of the flyer on the next page to share at your local shopping spots and community events. The more clicks the EVENTBRITE link has moves the event higher up in the daily listings. All questions can be directed to Paula at pbiwer@yahoo.com. Donations can be sent directly to Susan Myers 3215 Garfield AV Alameda, CA 94501.



SIXTH ANNUAL PLANT SALE

SATURDAY MAY 11, 8AM-1PM

ALFRESCO DINING PARK

1435 WEBSTER ST. ALAMEDA 94501



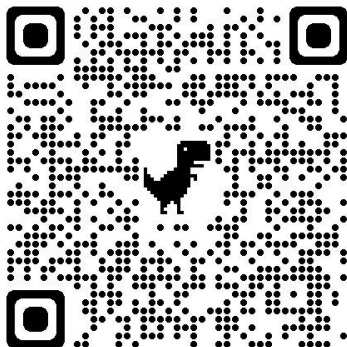
Mother's Day or Graduation gifts? We have a wide selection of beautiful large and small outdoor and indoor plants, pots and arrangements.

Children's art table for your uninterrupted browsing!

All proceeds support AAUW Alameda's project sponsorship for College of Alameda Women Students to attend a national Leadership and Professional Development Program in Washington DC. "

Register on Eventbrite to get tickets for early best selection 8-9am.

<https://6thAAUWPlantSale.eventbrite.com>



Sponsor AAUW Alameda
<https://alameda-ca.aauw.net/>

**Plants lovingly raised by AAUW
Alameda Branch members**

Membership Renewal

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME IS HERE

In early April national AAUW will send out info on how to renew online. I believe they will send three reminders. You will need to know our branch number - CA0128 - Alameda. That is CA zero one two eight.

The quickest way to renew is to send \$115 check to me, Susan Myers, 3215 Garfield Ave, Alameda, 94501. The check should be made out to AAUW - ALAMEDA BRANCH.

Susan Myers - Finance Officer

samsat@att.net

510 326-8955



Membership Report

We welcome two new members to the Alameda Branch!

Patricia Atkinson

Linda Winkler Garvin - I was born in Rhode Island. I did my undergraduate work at Salve Regina University where I received my BSN & then went to The University of Massachusetts, where I received my MSN, along with my Nurse Practitioner Certification.

I did bedside nursing for several years before transferring to Administrative Nursing work at The University of CA. I developed a private Patient Advocate business 20 years ago & am the President of Patient Advocate Bay Area, Inc.

As a survivor of ovarian cancer, I was appointed as an Ambassador & Advocate for The National Clarity Foundation for ovarian cancer, which requires a moderate amount of volunteer work. I provide education on ovarian cancer to medical students at both Stanford & UCSF through the National OCRA- Ovarian Cancer Research Association medical program. In the past, I helped save the Alameda Animal Shelter years ago & recently went to a fundraiser & provided funds for their hospice program.

I am married, have two sons who live in Clayton & have four grandchildren. I moved here over forty years ago. I put together a book club & a movie group years ago & enjoy traveling & knitting.

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



What do you have that Eleanor Roosevelt didn't?

A college degree. You heard that right. No all-nighter study sessions for her. No blue books. No Top Ramen®. No fashion-backward mortarboard. Eleanor Roosevelt—yes, Eleanor Roosevelt—would technically not be able to join AAUW today as she did not earn a traditional degree by attending college. If you think something is wrong with that picture, vote Yes in April on the proposed amendment to National's bylaws to drop the degree requirement for membership. AAUW California supports it and here's **why**. You can support it too by adding your personal endorsement **[HERE](#)**. There are a lot of Eleanors waiting to be invited in.



School Board Project

Last year the AAUW Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek branch said "Yes" to the AAUW California School Board Project (SBP) call to action. In August our branch members started to attend monthly local school board meetings and witnessed attacks by local religious and political extremists on books, curriculum, teachers, librarians and district staff.

Based on social media statements by people who want to "return schools to local control of concerned parents," we believe our school district and adjacent districts are being targeted by groups intent on changing public education in California. As AAUW members we support our state and national public policy priorities of providing honest, equitable, and inclusive, quality public education for all students.

To implement the SBP and work toward these public policy goals, our branch has taken a three-step approach:

Educate our members and the public about the issues facing public education by hosting Issue Programs and, later, Candidate Forums;

Advocate for our public education priorities by speaking up at local Board of Education (BOE) meetings to support board decisions that are consistent with AAUW policies and values;

Collaborate by forming coalitions with local groups to educate the public about the importance of supporting public education and those candidates that believe in honest and equitable quality education for all.

EDUCATE!

We encourage all branches to host an SBP program by inviting local experts to speak about what is happening in your districts. Often, accurate information is not available from local media and we need to hear from people actually engaged in public education to understand the local issues. PTA, BOE members, district superintendents, librarians, teachers and informed parents can provide valuable insights.

ADVOCATE!

We hope all branches attend BOE meetings and have one speaker advocating AAUW values. Board members and school staff have voiced appreciation to AAUW members for speaking up in support of public education. Often AAUW is one of the few voices of reason and civility at these meetings. Our voices can change the tone of the public discussion.

COLLABORATE!

We've learned our Education and Advocacy efforts naturally lead to other people and groups being interested in working together with AAUW to protect public education. We're now working with others in a two-county area to "Lift Up Public Education" by educating the public, advocating for public education, and demonstrating community support for our local school districts. For more information on how we organized our coalition and distributed the workload, visit our website [here](#).

We encourage other branches to support quality public education and promote critical AAUW values by taking these simple steps to build member and community support for Quality Public Education. Remember to let your SBP liaison know when you have attended a school board meeting, and be sure to complete and submit the SB Checklist. You can find your liaison [here](#); you can find the Checklist [here](#).

-Donna Vaughn



Janelle Bitker, Senior Food Editor at the SF Chronicle, talks about her career at the AAUW March Happy Hour at Rhythmix Cultural Works

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 April meeting is on Monday the 15th at 1:30 pm at the home of Ann Chalem. Contact Karen Scanlon at yakitt@aol.com or [510-523-6456](tel:510-523-6456) for more information.

Cinema Club

Cinema Club meets on Sunday, April 21, 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 Books

The Evening Book group meets in person on Tuesday, April 2 at 7:00 pm when we will discuss *The Promise: A Novel* by Daimon Galgut. 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 Cooking Group

The Global Cooking Group meets every two months at a member's home to share a potluck meal of an interesting cuisine from around the world and US. Our next gathering is April 20. To join us or for more information, please contact Kevis at kevis.brownson@gmail.com

Global Restaurant Dining Group

The Global Restaurant Dining Group will meet at the May Thai Kitchen Restaurant at 1319 Park St. at 6:00 pm on Saturday, April 6. For more information please contact Cindy Silva at Cynthia.silva26@yahoo.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, April 18**, 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

April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1- Board Meeting 6:00 PM via Zoom	2-Evening Books 7:00 PM	3	4	4	6- Global Restaurant Dining Group 6:00 PM
7	8- Mah Jongg 1:30 PM	9	10-Out to Lunch Bunch	11	12	13- Branch Annual Mtg 11:30 AM
14	15- Afternoon Books 1:30 PM	16	17	18- Museum Group 9:30 AM	19	20- Global Cooking Group
21- Cinema Club	22 - Mah Jongg 1:30 PM 	23	24	25	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.



Lifetime Member

Gertrude B. Woods

Birth: 1934

Death: 2024

Gertrude passed away peacefully at her home in Alameda on February 20th after a long battle with Alzheimer's Disease. Born in Monterey on August 24, 1934, to Benjamin Boyd and Louise Beall, Gertrude was a descendant of early California settlers. She grew up enjoying the outdoors of the Monterey Peninsula and, following in her father's footsteps, became an accomplished athlete. Gertrude was once called the finest female athlete to come from the Monterey Peninsula in the first half of the 20th Century. She won the 18-and-under Northern California Interscholastic Tennis Tournament in Monterey in 1951, and the national hardcourt doubles the same year. In 1952, she won the California State Junior Women's Tournament and was ranked ninth in the United States. Gertrude played as the only woman on the men's team for Monterey Peninsula College where she is recognized in their Hall of Fame. Gertrude later earned a bachelor's degree in English from the University of California at Berkeley. She married Peter G. Woods in June of 1956 in the San Carlos Cathedral in Monterey. She continued to be a competitive tennis player while raising her four children. The family lived for many years in Alameda, California. There, Gertrude served her community on the Alameda Recreation Commission, the Alameda County Grand Jury, The League of Women Voters, and with over three decades of fundraising for the Friends of the Alameda Free Library. Gertrude is survived by her husband, Peter; sister, Chris Parker; four children, Sean David, Carroll, Alicia, and Robert; eight grandchildren, Peter, David, Evan, Amelia, Olivia, Graham, Ben, and Birgitta; and two great-grandchildren, Tallyn and Noah. A private internment ceremony will be performed at the San Carlos Catholic Cemetery in Monterey.

-From the Monterey Herald



Honora Murphy

Honora (Cunningham) Murphy, passed away peacefully on February 15, 2024, at the age of 95, surrounded by Family. "Nora" as she was often called, was born in [New Castle, Pennsylvania](#) in 1928, the eleventh of 14 children, to Thomas Joseph Cunningham III and Margaret Ellen Boyle. The daughter of a florist and homemaker, she had a life-long love of flowers, books, travel and children.

A graduate of Mercy Hospital School of Nursing in [Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania](#) in 1949, Honora married her husband Charles Murphy in 1950. Married for

70 years, the couple moved to [Alameda, California](#) in 1964 calling the island home for 60 years. Her sisters claimed that on her wedding day she announced her intention to have "a dozen children". One can only wonder what her new husband thought of that; but the couple did eventually exceed her goal and went on to have fourteen children.

Honora was first and foremost a proud wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. The large Murphy brood made the newspapers on many occasions over the years with headlines like this one in 1961 "Pitt to Graduate Father of Eight" and "Childlift of Murphys" in 1963 when Honora flew her eleven children including a one-year-old and infant twins to join Charles in California; and in 1979 "A Mother of 14 Still Has Time for a Busy Civic Life".

What a busy civic life it was! Over the next 50 years Honora was a leader and advocate for the disabled, education and libraries. Starting in the early 1970s, noticing the lack of attention to the needs of disabled youth, by the City Council-appointed school board, Honora and a group (later known as the Brown Baggers) worked to change the system; The result was what we have today, an elected school board that is more responsive to the needs of the community.

Her passion for reading intersected with her advocacy for the disabled, when she tried to take her disabled child to the library and there were no wheelchair ramps. She helped to found the Friends of the Alameda Free Library to raise funds and advocate for a new main library. Knowing Alameda did not have the funds, she led the 1994 parcel tax campaign that was defeated by the voters. Undeterred, a few years later, a meeting in her living room resulted in finally securing local funding for a new main library, as well as library branch renovations. She went on to chair the Library Build Team playing an integral role in the design of the new Alameda Main Library at 1550 Oak St.

In the 1980's Honora resumed her career as a registered nurse and worked many years as the Director of Nursing at South Shore Convalescent Hospital. She was also a member, active volunteer and donor for many local organizations such as: Girls Inc., American Association of University Women, Children's Hospital Garden Branch, Docent for the Alameda Museum, officer in the Alameda Democratic Club to name just a few. She helped form the first parents guild at St Joseph Elementary School and served as President of the PTA Council for many years.

Honora also helped to organize the Alameda League of Women Voters. Her service as membership chair resulted in a national award for membership growth. She was a founder of the Alameda Collaborative for Children, Youth and their Families, served on the Alameda City Disability Commission and served for 20 years on the Board of the Children's Learning Center, now called Phillips Academy, a school for children with special needs.

Described by community members as smart, resilient, warm, enthusiastic, visionary and persevering. She and Charles hosted many events and fundraisers in their large home across the street from Franklin Park. Honora worked on many city and state political campaigns, wrote countless letters of support and wasn't afraid to voice opposition. Honora always credited her success to a very supportive husband and the independence of her children.

She was honored with many awards during her lifetime including City of Alameda Woman of the Year (1998), Assembly District 16 (Alameda County) Woman of the Year (2003) and The Alameda City Council Lifetime Achievement Award (2017).

Preceded in death in 2020 by Charles J. Murphy, husband of 70 years, son James Charles Murphy, sister-in-law, Margaret Murphy, brothers-in-law Thomas and William Murphy, son Daniel Thomas Murphy, son-in-law Paul J Miller, siblings Catherine Kantes, Jane Latsko, Mary Cunningham, Margaret Cunningham, Thomas J. Cunningham, Steven J. Cunningham, Helen Lauster, Ruth Silberman, Frances Martin, Robert Cunningham, Lois Brosky, Sheila Hughes, John Cunningham.

Honora is survived by: 12 children, 14 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren and countless nieces, nephews, grand and great-grand nieces and nephews.

Kathleen (Paul) Miller and partner Bill Maloney, Mary Ellen Holden, daughter-in-law Celeste McMullin (widow of Dan), Eileen (Ron) Neulinger, Joe (Victoria) Murphy, Dr. Loretta (Paul Allen), Laura (David Jaffe), Michael (Joanna Wong), Matt (Maarit Tallila-Murphy), Tim, Bernard, Richard (Tina), Ann (Jesse Daniels); Grandmother of Hugh Holden (Pippa Everard-West), Heather (Todd Speight) Holden, Brian (Bet) Miller, Sara Miller (Eric Gorski), Thomas Neulinger, Natalie (Cameron) Stuart, Steve (Michaela) Hammerson, Cate Jaffe, Fiona Murphy, Kendric Murphy, Cedric Murphy, Patric Murphy, Marja-Inkeri Murphy, Aidan Murphy and Seamus Murphy; Great Grandmother of Yasmine Simone Smith, Layla Foley; Sydnee and Nolan Miller; Alex Jameson; Theodore and Joe Hammerson;

Many thanks to the caregivers from AEC Home Care and the Waters Edge Lodge where Honora resided and continued to read books, two daily newspapers, and work the New York Times Crossword puzzle.