



**ALAMEDA BRANCH
2023-24 BOARD**

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*

May 2024

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May Final Alameda Branch Meeting

Saturday, May 18

Special time 10 - noon for brunch

Julie's Coffee and Tea Garden (outside back garden)

1223 Park St., Alameda

Come join us to install our 2024–2025 officers and to congratulate our volunteers of the year. We will be having a delicious brunch menu at Julie's. Our brunch bar will include coffee/tea, ham/veggie or veggie frittata, yogurt, fruit, salad, scones, biscuits, jam, butter, and Devonshire cream. Gluten-free options are available and if you have special dietary needs, call Julie's directly to discuss with her chef. The cost of the lunch is \$34 per person which includes tax and gratuity.

Please RSVP by Monday, May 13. You can reserve your spot by either sending a check for \$34 made out to AAUW Alameda Branch c/o Susan Myers, 3215 Garfield Ave., Alameda, 94501, pay online, or scan QR code with your phone's camera to register and pay. Please include gluten free in the memo/note section.

<https://square.link/u/f4dkkOX2>



Our program committee is very excited about our last program for the year and hope we have a strong turnout. Please address the questions to Paula at **(510) 918-8577**.

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.



Sunshine Alerts



The board has made donations for members who have died recently:

Honora Murphy - \$50.00 to Tech Trek
Miriam Schiffman - \$50.00 to NCCWSL
Gert Woods - \$50.00 to Peralta Scholarship Fund

Please email Ann Chalem 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 Ann know. The cards sent are of high quality.

-Ann Chalem, Sunshine Chair

ANNOUNCEMENTS/Future Events

Saturday, May 4, 6:00 pm – **Global Restaurant Dining Group** – Saltbreaker

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

Tuesday, May 7, 7:00 pm – **Evening Books Group**

Wednesday, May 8 – **Out to Lunch Bunch**

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

Monday, May 13, 1:30 pm – **Mah Jongg Group**

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

Sunday, May 19 – **Cinema Club**

Monday, May 20, 1:30 pm – **Afternoon Books Club**

Monday, May 27, 1:30 pm – **Mah Jongg Group**

Tuesday, June 4, 6:00 pm – **Evening Books Dinner**

Saturday, June 15 – **Global Cooking Group**



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.

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. Donations may be sent to Susan Myers 3215 Garfield Ave., Alameda, CA 94501. Please write check to AAUW CA SPF and in memo line ALAMEDA NCCWSL. For your information (tax ID 68-0463071).

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

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

Plants lovingly raised by AAUW Branch members





Our Branch Could Ensure AAUW's Future Success

This April, we will again vote on a bylaws amendment to eliminate the degree requirement for AAUW membership. The state board recently voted to support the move because they believe it will help AAUW become the inclusive organization that many of us strive to see. Our branch could join the effort to set AAUW up for success in the coming years.

Many of us have been in the situation of meeting prospective members who are interested in AAUW and share our mission of equity for women and girls. We are then faced with having to ask them about their educational attainment to see if they would qualify for membership. It is difficult to ask and can lead to embarrassment for the prospective member if they don't meet the standard and the loss for us of their passion, skills, and potential contributions.

They cannot join due to a requirement that was established 143 years ago.

Over the years AAUW members have voted to modify the membership requirements to reflect the ever-changing social climate:

- 1949 – Allowed those with approved degrees from sanctioned and accredited four-year colleges or universities to join both National AND branches (which effectively allowed women of color to join AAUW)
- 1963- Admitted those holding degrees, including nursing, education and home economics, from any regionally accredited institution
- 1987 – Extended membership to male college graduates
- 2005 – Relaxed membership requirement to include graduates who hold an associate or equivalent degree from a qualified educational institution

How many potential members are we losing because AAUW has this eligibility requirement?

- We lose younger women and men who meet the education requirement but don't want to join an organization that seems elitist to them.
- We lose women and men who share our vision for the future but because of a myriad of circumstances they were not able to attain a college degree. This did not keep them from having careers or joining other activist organizations. They just cannot join AAUW.
- We lose donations from organizations that support our mission but do not understand why one must have a college degree to work towards gender equity.

Some members object to open membership because they wonder, "What will our name be?" AAUW's name doesn't need to change at all. We have been known as AAUW since the 1920s (two separate organizations merged) and so it has historic value as well as name recognition. We have

allowed men to belong for nearly 40 years and no one felt the need for a change back then. We will be like other long-time organizations who have changed membership requirements over their histories but retained their names (e.g. GEICO, YMCA). When we talk about the organization, we can say “I belong to AAUW and we work for equity for women and girls.” The initials are less important than our wonderful mission and actions.

While AAUW is an organization that fully supports women getting a college education in the field of their choice, we need to recognize that education comes in many forms. In our professional lives, we have worked with many women and men who did not have a formal degree. This is not a measure of intelligence or ability...sometimes it is the lack of opportunity or choices made early in life that are difficult to reverse. According to the 2021 Census, just 34% of Americans aged 25 to 29 years completed four years of college. **We are missing out on many voices that we need in this fight for equity.**

Throughout the past 143 years, AAUW members have never stopped advocating for education while expanding our focus on ensuring effective policies around family leave, reproductive rights, equal pay, and policies against sexual harassment and violence against women. Welcoming those without a degree will not change who we are and what we are working towards- it will enhance our efforts by including anyone who is as passionate as we are about equity for women and girls.

We need every woman and man who supports our mission – empowering women and girls – to join us in the ongoing challenge of achieving gender equity.

Membership Renewal

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME IS HERE

In early May 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 have welcomed five new members this year: Sally McKinney, Marilyn Poor, Pat Atkinson, Linda Garvin and Marna Mitchell.

Patricia (Pat) Atkinson

I was born in San Francisco and grew up in Berkeley during the 1950s and turbulent 1960s. I am relatively new to Alameda and am still finding my way and a community. Currently, I serve on the Community Advisory Board of Rhythmix Cultural Works.

My education includes a B.A. in English/Philosophy from UC Davis, an MA and ABD (all but dissertation) from UCLA in Folklore and Mythology Studies, and advanced study at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland.

I have lived and worked in California, rural Western Massachusetts, Tennessee, and Nevada. My jobs have included directing ocean and mountain summer camps, community economic development, university teaching, writing and editing for university publications, and work on folklife and traditional arts projects. My full-time work culminated with the position of director of folk and traditional arts programs for the Nevada Arts Council, from which I retired at the end of 2019. I was a member of the Board of Trustees for the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress for 12 years and have served on grant panels nationally.

I am a breast cancer survivor. My physical activities have been somewhat limited by post-treatment neuropathy in my hands and feet, but I still enjoy the outdoors, particularly time in and on the ocean. I was a long-time Girl Scout and attend reunions and have adventures with GS friends whom I have known for more than 50 years. I enjoy the arts in all forms, museums, cooking, and sampling the foods of many lands. I have one son, Dave Wells, who is a professional bassoonist, university professor, and open water swimmer. His longest swim to date was the “bridge to bridge” Golden Gate to the Bay Bridge. Currently based in western North Carolina at Appalachian State University, he returns to California several times a year to play with orchestras and chamber groups. He will be in his 6 th season with the Carmel Bach Festival in July.

Marna Mitchell

Marna grew up in San Jose and graduated from SJSU with a B.A. in Political Science/Public Administration. She earned her J.D. from Hastings College of the Law in 1985 and was an attorney at law firms in SF and Oakland for about 30 years. Her professional emphasis was primarily in the fields of insurance defense and public entity defense.

Marna has been married for 35 years to Al Mitchell, also an attorney, and they have made Alameda their home since 1988. They have two daughters, Megan and Drew.

Marna started volunteer activities in her teens as a Rainbow Girl. In Alameda, she was an Art Docent at Bay Farm Elementary for about a decade, and ran the program there for about 6 years. She was a longtime volunteer with Alameda Children’s Musical Theatre (ACMT) as a producer, Board member and President, and was co-President of AHS’s Music Patrons of Alameda (MPAHS). Before the pandemic, Marna and her Golden Retriever, Coconut, volunteered as a therapy dog team in Family Court, schools, nursing homes, hospitals.

Marna’s hobbies include theater, travel, walking, reading, needlepoint.

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

-Kay Weinstein Vice President-Membership



PUBLIC POLICY

By Amy Hom and Missy Maceyko, Co-chairs AAUW California Public Policy Committee

The Public Policy Committee met virtually over a weekend in early March to set AAUW California's 2024 Legislative Agenda. Through a day and a half of discussions, we reviewed 67 bills, considering their merits and potential costs as well as their alignment with our public policy priorities. Then, we went through a voting/ranking process to select the top bills that we will advance as our Legislative Agenda.

Our legislative agenda consists of three "A" priority bills, four "B" priority bills, twenty-nine "C" priority bills, and twelve spot bills that we are watching. Seven of the bills on our legislative agenda are 2-year bills that carried over from last year. All of the bills on our agenda fall under at least one of our four Public Policy Priority pillars; one bill - AB 2349 - falls under three pillars.

Excitingly, our signature "A" priority bill AB 2843 "Health Care Coverage for Rape and Sexual Assault Survivors" was authored by AAUW California. The bill is sponsored by AAUW California and falls under two of our Public Policy Priorities, "Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society" and "Economic Security for All Women". The bill eliminates cost-sharing, including deductibles, from being imposed on any rape survivor seeking medical care following a rape. Insurers will be required to cover the cost of medical care with no copay. AB 2843 ensures that those individuals who wish to report a rape and file charges will have the benefit of a rape kit test and forensic exam to provide evidence to secure more convictions for acts of sexual violence. In addition, they can receive the care they need following a traumatic sexual attack. (See the Lobby Days Talking Points and Bill Text for more details.)

Our second "A" priority bill, AB 2326 "Title IX Oversight and Compliance Act" is also sponsored by AAUW California. This bill falls under our Public Policy Priorities pillar "Equal Access to Quality Education for All Students" and champions something that AAUW California has long supported: Title IX enforcement. AB 2326 requires the Chancellors of the Community Colleges and State Universities and the President of the University of California to provide an annual report of their compliance with Title IX, with the report to be presented publicly and orally to the Senate and Assembly Budget Subcommittees on Higher Education Finance, a move to hold the systems, and their leaders, more publicly accountable.

While we are listing AB 2326 as an "A" priority bill, a large number of Title IX related bills were introduced this year, likely prompted by the 2023 State Auditor's [report Report 2022-109 \(ca.gov\)](#) which concluded that the CSU system's handling of Title IX-related complaints has not adequately addressed allegations of inequity, harassment, and sexual harassment. While a great deal of the introduced Title IX legislation has not yet fully taken shape, we are

watching them, as they will potentially become priority bills. In addition, one of the more fully-formed bills, AB 1790, is listed as a “B” priority bill on our agenda.

Our third “A” priority bill is AB 2099, “Protecting Reproductive Health Clinics”. This bill falls under our Public Policy Priorities pillar “Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society”. The bill makes it possible for the D.A. to file a felony charge for sharing personal information or images of individuals such as reproductive health care providers or patients, with the intent of causing harm or violence against them, if the posting and subsequent action results in bodily injury. With [violence against abortion providers continuing to rise following the reversal of Roe](#), the protection of providers and patients is now more important than ever.

To see our full 2024 Legislative Agenda, please go to our [Bill Tracking Report](#). This report will continue to be updated as the bills move through the legislative process, so you will always be able to see the latest status.



Museum Group at Elizabeth Gambles House



Out to Early Morning Breakfast Bunch at Café 7

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 May meeting is on Monday the 20th at 1:30 pm at the home of Karen Scanlon. Contact Karen Scanlon at yakitt@aol.com or **510-523-6456** for more information.

Cinema Club

Cinema Club meets on Sunday, May 19, for a matinee at the Alameda Theatre followed by a gathering at Tucker's Ice Cream for discussion. In summer, we will venture out of Alameda for events at BAMPFA, Landmark Theatres, and others. 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, May 7 at 7:00 pm when we will discuss *Susan, Linda, Nina & Cokie: The Extraordinary Story of the Founding Mothers of NPR* by Lisa Napoli. On June 4, 6:00 pm, we will hold our annual dinner and book selection meeting, a good opportunity for prospective members to learn about 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, 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 will be on June 15. 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 Saltbreaker Restaurant at 2350 Saratoga St., K11, at 6:00 pm on Saturday, May 4. For more information please contact Chuck Scanlon at 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. **The Mah Jongg interest group will continue meeting twice each month during the summer months.** Contact Laura Porter at Lrajean@aol.com or **510-912-0385** for more information about the Mah Jongg interest group.

Museum Group

Please contact Judy Sparks for more information at 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

May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4- Global Restaurant Dining Group 6:00 PM
5	6- Board Meeting 6:00 PM via Zoom	7-Evening Books 7:00 PM	8-Out to Lunch Bunch	9	10	11- Plant Sale 8 AM -1PM
12	13- Mah Jongg 1:30 PM	14	15	16	17	18- Branch Annual Mtg 10:00 AM - Noon
19- Cinema Club	20- Afternoon Books 1:30 PM	21	22	23	24	25
26	27- Mah Jongg 1:30 PM 	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.