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Alameda Branch News

*Celebrating our strengths and promoting education and equity
for women and girls in our community*

March 2025

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Vol. 62, Issue 6



Two Authors! AAUW Alameda March Meeting

When: March 8, 2025 1:30 - 3:30 PM
Where: The Crow's Nest
Alameda Naval Air Museum
2151 Ferry Point Road Alameda, CA 94501



What: Join us for our meeting featuring two wonderful Bay Area authors!

- **Janet Dawson** 's life of crime began with her long-running series featuring Oakland PI Jeri Howard and the award-winning first novel, *Kindred Crimes*. Jeri has sleuthed her way through 14 books, including the latest, *The Things We Keep*. Along the writing way, Janet branched out to books featuring crime-solving characters Jill McLeod, working on the California Zephyr trains, and Kay Dexter, a geriatric care manager. Janet has also written a standalone suspense novel, *What You Wish For*, a novella, *But Not Forgotten*, and twelve short stories, including Macavity winner "Voice Mail." She is a longtime member of Mystery Writers of America and Sisters in Crime. She blogs the first Monday of every month at Ladies of Mystery.
- **Rebecca Gomez Farrell's** Wings Rising epic fantasy duology is published by Meerkat Press. Her shorter speculative fiction works have appeared over thirty times in outlets such as *Beneath Ceaseless Skies*, *PULP Literature*, and *A Quiet Afternoon 1 & 2*. She has run multiple writer critique and support groups over the years, including the Bay Area chapter of **Women Who Submit Lit**, and was most recently the communications director for the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers Association. Becca also blogs about food & drink at **The Gourmez.com**.

Donations: at the door to help defray AAUW's costs to present this program are appreciated but not required. Light refreshments will be provided. AAUW members are welcome to bring a friend - please put any additional parties coming with you on the line included on the form.

Contact us: at [\(510\) 463-4966](tel:5104634966) or kevis.brownson@gmail.com with any questions you have. Please REGISTER at this LINK: <https://bit.ly/4hWhqcc> or using the QR code:



President's Corner

We said thank you and goodbye to Paula Biwer, VP Program, at a Surprise Going Away Party at the break time during Mah-Jongg on January 27. All best wishes to Paula in her move to Portugal!

We welcomed returning member, **Jennie Taam Wong**, who has moved back to Alameda from San Mateo. A fun fact is that Jennie's family now includes 19 children and grandchildren!

Many of us gathered on February 6 to celebrate the life of Marilyn Sharron, Co-Treasurer and Past President, who died following a short illness. We appreciate all who are helping to fill Marilyn's shoes. The Board of Directors has elected Susan Myers to be Co-Treasurer for the rest of this year. The Board has elected Penny Washbourn to be Parliamentarian for the rest of the year. We need someone to volunteer to lead the Global Dining Group.

Thanks to Mary Oppedahl, VP Funds, for planning the February 13 zoom meeting. Our featured speaker was Zoe Miller-Vedan, an AAUW National Fellowship and Grant Recipient. Currently she is a Doctoral Candidate in Sociology at UC Irvine, and her timely topic was Birthright Citizenship. If you were unable to attend, here is a recording of the meeting:

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/gaUE6PNlvoh_rQKS8tonwTjDJohhAKntpEHGJaRaxy7tFR41trB7yYePwVWs_Zr.hqnvzxX3B7tS3f_T Passcode: 6EYBz=yr

We have a lot to celebrate on International Women's Day. You are all invited on March 8 at 1:30 in the Crow's Nest at the Alameda Naval Air Museum. Thanks to Kevis Brownson, VP Program, for arranging for two local authors, Rebecca Gomez Farrell and Janet Dawson, to speak. See more information in this newsletter.

Happy March into Spring,

Kay Weinstein, President, kayweinstein@gmail.com



*** CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE ON OUR NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE ***

Please join us to nominate members to serve on our Board of Directors for 2025-6.

Help us prepare for our election in April. Contact: kayweinstein@gmail.com



AAUW Alameda Wants Your Opinion, Please

Our branch offers at least eight membership meetings per program year. We try to offer meetings that reflect our mission and correspond to your interests. Your Alameda board would like to know more about what your preferences are for our meetings, so we are offering you an online survey to fill out. It should only take a few minutes of your time and is completely anonymous so you can express yourself freely. We await your response as soon as possible, but the final deadline is March 15.

**Thank you,
Kevis Brownson
Co-VP Program**

Link to survey: <https://forms.gle/nkKMDtfC2BzfrVog8>

Please note - the survey has two pages and you are not finished until you click 'Submit' on the second page. Thank you!



We were fortunate to have **Zoe Miller-Vedan as our Funds speaker** on February 13, 2025. Zoe is a doctoral candidate at UC Irvine working on her dissertation with help from an AAUW Fellowship. She is doing important research into birthright citizenship, negative attitudes toward pregnant mothers and the barriers to health care those attitudes create before and after birth.

Zoe perfectly exemplifies how important the AAUW National grants and fellowships are in helping young women pursue advance degrees. Zoe commented on how helpful her fellowship has been in helping her focus on her research by freeing her from having to get another job.

If you were unable to attend, here is a recording of the meeting:

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/gaUE6PNlvoh_rOKS8tonwTjDJohhAKntpEHGJaRaxpy7tFR41trB7yYePwVWs_Zr.hqnvzxX3B7tS3f_T Passcode: 6EYBz=yr

Please help support future recipients by making a donation now. You may send your checks to:

Mary Oppedahl
2465 Shoreline Drive # 106
Alameda, CA 94501

Please put “Fund 4450” on the memo line of your check.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/Future Events

Sunday, March 2 – **Cinema Club**

Monday, March 3, 6:00 pm -- **Board Meeting** – via Zoom – All Welcome!

Saturday, March 8, 1:30 – 3:30 pm – **Branch Meeting** – Information/register <https://bit.ly/4hWhqcc>

Saturday, March 8, 6:00 pm – **Restaurant Dining Group** – St. Patrick’s Dinner at St. Philip Neri

Monday, March 10, 1:30 pm – **Mah Jongg Group**

Saturday, March 15, 6:00 pm – **AAUW Alameda Survey Deadline!**

Monday, March 17, 1:30 pm – **Afternoon Books**

Tuesday, March 18, 7:00 pm – **Evening Books**

Thursday, March 20, 9:15 am – **Museum Group** – de Young Museum – Eyes of the Storm –
Paul McCartney Photos 1963-64

Monday, March 24, 1:30 pm – **Mah Jongg Group**



State

Please click [HERE](#) for the February issue of Public Policy News. Included is an article for your March branch newsletters "**We Didn't Start the Fire**". The LA Fires are a tragedy. DEI is the solution, not the problem." Also included is **information about Project 2025 becoming a reality**, and what you can do to take action and fight back.

Thank you for everything you do on behalf of women and girls

Amy Hom and Missy Maceyko - Co-chairs, AAUW California Public Policy Committee
publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org



Fremont Branch

California is a national leader in reproductive rights. Medi-Cal, which is the largest payer of maternity care in the country, serves 14.2 million Californians and received \$310.7 million from the federal government for reproductive healthcare in 2024. Last month, on January 27, the White House froze all federal grants.

We invite you to join us and the League of Women Voters of Fremont-Newark-Union City on Saturday, March 1 at 10 a.m. at Niles Discovery Church in Fremont to learn how Planned Parenthood, one of the largest providers of reproductive healthcare services in California, plans to respond to this new executive order.

Stacy Cross, the President and CEO of Planned Parenthood Mar Monte which operates 34 health centers in mid-California and Nevada, will provide an overview of the current challenges and discuss strategies to safeguard access to essential health services, research, advocacy, and community education for all Californians.

Please invite your family and friends, and come prepared with your questions!

See Flyer at the end of the Newsletter.

Branch Interest Groups

Afternoon Books

The Afternoon Book Club meets on the 3rd Monday of the Month in various members' homes. There is no assigned book. We start the meeting with a dessert and then take turns sharing what we have read during the previous month, regardless of genre. It is a great place to get reading recommendations and share physical books. The March meeting Monday the 17th 1:30pm at the home of Karen Scanlon. New members are welcome. For further information contact Karen at yakitt@aol.com or [510-523-6456](tel:510-523-6456) for more information.

Cinema Club

Cinema Club meets on Sunday, March 2, for a matinee at the Alameda Theatre followed by a gathering at Tucker's Ice Cream for discussion. **Please note** - this month we will finish by 4 pm so that we can watch the Oscars that evening. To join us or for more information about the group, please contact Kevis at kevis.brownson@gmail.com.

Evening Books

Evening Books will meet on Tuesday, March 18, at 7:00 PM. Our books for the year are listed at <https://alameda-ca.aauw.net/book-club/>
Please email pwashbou@gmail.com for more information.

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.

Other gatherings this year will be on **Saturdays on April 26, June 21, and August 16**, generally at 6:00 pm. To join us or for more information, please contact Jennifer McGaffey at jjmcgaffey@guenean.com.

Global Restaurant Dining Group

We will meet at St. Phillip Neri's at High street and Van Buren on Saturday March 8 at 6 pm for our St. Patrick's Day dinner and entertainment. Please let Donna Vaughn know if you are coming by March 1. She will pay the \$35 and you can reimburse her when you see her.

Please contact Donna Vaughn at dbvaughn@comcast.net for more information.

Mah Jongg

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Monday afternoon of each month to play American-style Mah Jongg using the National Mah Jongg League card and rules. Beginners and experienced players are welcome. Contact Laura Porter at Lrajean@aol.com or [510-912-0385](tel:510-912-0385) for more information about the Mah Jongg interest group.

Museum Group




On Thursday, March 20, the Museum Group will travel to the de Young Museum to see "Eyes of the Storm" Paul McCartney's Photographs 1963-1964. This is Beatlemania from the eye of Paul McCartney, who took over 250 personal pictures as well as was the subject with the other Beatles of many of the photos. From December 1963 to February 1964, the Beatles performed in concert halls all across England and toured in the US. These photos show the Beatles' journey to stardom from local venues around Liverpool to the Ed Sullivan Show and world-wide acclaim. The Beatles' final concert was held almost 60 years ago at Candlestick Park.

We will meet at the Ross Parking Lot at 9:15 for a 9:30 sharp departure. We will have lunch in the cafeteria. Please contact Judy Sparks, JudySparks@comcast.net if you are interested in going.

Calendar

Branch Activities

March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2-Cinema Club	3-Board Meeting 6:00 PM	4	5	6	7	8- Branch Meeting 1:30 – 3:30 PM Global Restaurant Dining Group 6:00 PM
9- 	10- Mah Jongg 1:30 PM	11	12	13	14	15
16	17-Afternoon Books 1:30 PM 	18- Evening Books 7:00 PM	19	20-Museum Group 9:15 AM 	21	22
23	24- Mah Jongg 1:30 PM	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



Marilyn VanAman Sharron

October 2, 1941 to January 30, 2025

Marilyn VanAman Sharron, 83, passed away on Thursday, January 30, 2025, after a brief illness. Marilyn will be remembered for her warmth, conversation, and faith that people are truly good at heart. She lived her life fully, with a focus on social justice and the fair treatment of all peoples. She held strong opinions on a variety of topics, and did not shy away from letting these opinions be known.

She is survived by her son, Matthew Sharron (Ayasha Williams-Sharron) of Chevy Chase, MD, daughter Meghan Sharron (TJ Modelski) of Alameda, CA, grandchildren Kai (10) and Miles (7) Sharron, and Abigayle (12) and Myla (9) Modelski. She was preceded in death in 2011 by her husband of 47 years, A. Parker Sharron.

Marilyn was born in Canton, OH to Lynwood and Gladys VanAman. She graduated from Bowling Green State University with a BS in Business Administration (Marketing) in 1963. Upon graduation, she traveled to India with World University Service; she was heavily influenced by her work there and pivoted to a career in social service. Through these endeavors, she met her husband whom she married in Philadelphia in 1964. Together, they moved to Albany NY, where she earned a Master of Social Work degree (SUNY Albany) in 1968. In 1976, Marilyn and Parker moved to Syracuse, NY, where she worked as a social worker for Onondaga Pastoral Counseling Center (1978-1993), Upstate University Hospital (1990-2011), and Jewish Family Services (2011-2013). She also maintained a private therapy practice for many years, She was an active member of both Calvary Church and St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral in Syracuse. In 2010, she received the NASW New York State Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2014, Marilyn moved to Alameda, CA to be near family. Here, she was engaged with Christ Episcopal Church, American Association of University Women (AAUW), Philanthropic Educational Organization (PEO), and community art classes. Throughout her life, Marilyn's spirituality was a guiding force; she believed in a higher power, purpose, and call to support her community.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution to Christ Episcopal Church of Alameda <https://christchurchalameda.org/> or the Alameda Chapter of the Philanthropic Educational Organization (PEO), which supports educational opportunities for women <https://www.peointernational.org/make-a-gift/>

League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark, Union City
and American Association of University Women, Fremont Branch
presentation on Reproductive Rights

THREAT TO REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

Saturday, March 1, 2025
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Niles Discovery Church
36600 Niles Blvd., Fremont, CA



presented by

Planned Parenthood Mar Monte
President & CEO Stacy Cross

Stacy Cross is a seasoned health executive with over thirty years of executive and board leadership and entrepreneurial skills in sexual and reproductive health, pharmaceuticals, wellness and management.

For more information, contact League of Women Voters
at 510-794-5783 or lwvfnc.org

