



ALAMEDA BRANCH
2024-25 BOARD

alameda-ca.aauw.net

LEADERSHIP TEAM

PRESIDENT

Kay Weinstein

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Mary Oppedahl

MEMBERSHIP VPs

Kay Weinstein
& Rose Ann White

PROGRAM VPs

Barbara Krummel, Paula
Biwer & Kevis Brownson

AAUW FUNDS VPs

Mary Oppedahl

FINANCE VP

Mary-Jo Knight
& Susan Myers

SECRETARY

Elizabeth McGaffey

HISTORIAN: Beth Sibley

HOSPITALITY

Dorothy Kerwin & the
Program VPs

NEWSLETTER: Jennifer Ayres

PARLIAMENTARIAN/Bylaws

Penny Washbourn

PUBLIC POLICY

Donna Vaughn

PUBLICITY Open

SUNSHINE: Ann Chalem

TECH TREK COORDINATOR

Barbara Krummel

FUNDS COMMITTEE CHAIR

Dorothy Kerwin

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Dorothy Kerwin

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

RELATIONS

Penny Washbourn

WEBSITE COORDINATOR

Jennifer Ayres

Alameda Branch News

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

May 2025

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Vol. 62, Issue 9



End of Year Brunch & Board Installation

May 17, 2025 10:00 - 12:00

Julie's Coffee & Tea Garden

1223 Park Street

Come join us to install our 2025–2026 officers and to congratulate our volunteers of the year. As always, please know that you may invite a non-AAUW member as your guest— it's good way to show what a great group we are.

We will enjoy a delicious brunch menu at Julie's. Our brunch bar will include bottomless coffee or tea, quiche (GF), stuffed delicata squash(VG), fruit, granola, yogurt, banana bread (GF), zucchini bread (VG), butter, and Devon cream. You may reserve online or by check; the **deadline is a firm Tuesday, May 13.**

Use this link: <https://square.link/u/3huxDVfR>

OR scan this QR code:



OR go to our Square Site at aauw-alameda-ca-branch.square.site

OR send a check for \$50 to AAUW Alameda % Kevis Brownson 1554 Everett Street 94501, followed by an email to kevis.brownson@gmail.com.

Please don't wait -- space is limited. Any questions, please contact kevis.brownson@gmail.com

President's Corner

We had a lovely membership event on Saturday, April 5 at 11:30 at India Palace Restaurant. Parliamentarian Penny Washbourn conducted the election for our 2025-6 Board of Directors. Then it was time for us to serve ourselves a delicious buffet lunch! As we returned to our shaded outdoor seating, VP Program Kevis Brownson introduced our speaker. Herb Behrstock, husband of AAUW member Dorie Behrstock, spoke about his decades of service to the United Nations, and how their history and mission are more important now than ever.

Thanks in advance to VPs Program Kevis Brownson and Barbara Krummel for planning our year-end meeting: A brunch at Julie's Coffee and Tea Garden on Saturday May 17 at 10:00. We will elect any additional Board members nominated since our April 5 election, and we will hold our installation for our 2025-6 Board of Directors. As a reminder: Nominations will remain open until we have candidates for all of the offices. Also, we encourage members to consider volunteering to "shadow" a Board member for the 2025-6 year in a non-elected capacity.

I have enjoyed serving as your president this year, and I look forward to serving as VP Program Coordinator next year. Several of our interest groups meet during the summer, so I will see some of you then!

Happy Summer,

Kay Weinstein, President kayweinstein@gmail.com

******* Most AAUW Membership Renewals Due June 30 *******

In the past, all membership renewals were due by June 30, and that is still the case for most of us. For newer members, the renewal date is the anniversary of the date you joined. A portion of our membership dues go to National, State and Local. AAUW National has increased their renewal rate by \$2. Therefore our dues are now \$74 National + \$20 State + \$23 Local = \$117 Total. If you renew online, you will need to know our branch number: **CA0128**. Renewing online can be difficult, so you are encouraged to bring your check to our May membership meeting, or mail your check to Susan Myers, 3215 Garfield Ave., Alameda, 94501. **Update: CA will increase their dues from \$20 to \$30 on July 1, 2025 (\$127 Total); *Renew by June 30***

Membership Renewal

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME HAS BEGUN!

National AAUW dues have been raised by \$2.00. The total for renewing is now \$117.00

National AAUW will send out info on how to renew online. You will need to know our branch number is CA0128-Alameda. That is CA zero one two eight.

Another way to renew is to send a check for \$117 to me, Susan Myers, 3215 Garfield Ave, Alameda 94501. **The check should be made out to: AAUW Alameda Branch.**

June 30, 2025 is the renewal date for our seasoned members. For those who have a renewal date based on when they joined, the process for renewal is the same.

-Susan Myers, AAUW Finance VP



Thank you for Stepping Up!



-From the minutes of April 5, 2025, AAUW Luncheon Meeting. Those present voted unanimously to elect these candidates to the AAUW Board for the 2025-2026 year.

2025-2026 AAUW-Alameda Board of Directors

President: Mary Oppedahl

President Elect: **Open**

Finance Officers: Mary-Jo Knight and Jennifer McGaffey

Funds Vice President: Mary Oppedahl

Membership Vice President: Kay Weinstein

Program Coordinator Vice President: Kay Weinstein

Secretary: Elizabeth McGaffey



AAUW Alameda Plant Sale Update



After some discussion, it was decided to simplify the plant sale this year. It will be held

Saturday, June 21 from 8am – 1pm in my driveway, 2918 Lincoln, Alameda

Proceeds will support the Peralta Colleges Scholarship Fund.

Plants will be offered in exchange for a free-will donation. Sheri Fenstermacher, Jennifer McGaffey and I are growing and potting the plants. There will also be empty pots for sale. If you have plants, soil, or pots to donate, let me know.

Thanks

--Dorothy Kerwin kerwindorothy@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS/Future Events

Saturday, May 3, 6:00 pm – **Global Restaurant Dining Group** – Bhan Mae Vane

Sunday, May 4 – **Cinema Club**

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

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

Saturday, May 17, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm – **End of Year Brunch and Board Installation** – Julie's
Coffee & Tea Garden

Monday, May 19, 1:30 pm – **Afternoon Books**

Tuesday, May 20, 7:00 pm – **Evening Books**

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

Sunday, June 1 – **Cinema Club**

Saturday, June 7, 10:00 am – **Board Retreat**

Saturday, June 21, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm – **Plant Sale**

Saturday, June 21, 6:00 pm – **Global Cooking Group**

Saturday, August 16, 6:00 pm – **Global Cooking Group**



February Funds Speaker Sparks Both Interest And Generous Donations



Zoë-Miller Vedan, our February Funds speaker, was well received by those who attended her Zoom presentation on birthright citizenship in the U.S. and Canada. As always, our membership was generous, donating \$1210 to the AAUW National's Education and Training Fund.

Thanks to all who attended and those who donated so generously.

-Mary Oppedahl, AAUW Fund VP



Report from NCCWSL committee:

No student from College of Alameda applied this year, in spite of having received several nominations. The committee will hold the Funds for 2026. In person solicitation on the campus will be planned in coordination with the Academic Counselors in the Fall semester. Special thanks to the Committee: Susan Myers, Mary-Jo Knight and Silver Alkhafaji for their work.

-Penny Washbourn , NCCWSL Coordinator



Please click [HERE](#) for the April issue of Public Policy News. Included are two articles for your May branch newsletters - "Public Policy Committee Sets AAUW California 2025 Legislative Agenda" and "Take Action to Help Kids Feel Safe at School". Also included is the launch of our new Take Action spreadsheet, a clearinghouse for ongoing resistance activity that people can follow and join-in based on their passions and preferences.

We ask you to **please share the Public Policy News more broadly**. We want everyone inside and outside of AAUW, including anyone not regularly involved in Public Policy, to have important action tools and updates. You can also share the link to our [Public Policy News Archive](#).

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

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



AAUW 4/5/2025 UN talk

Twenty three AAUW branch members and guests listened raptly to Herb Behrstock's stimulating talk on the history and goals of the United Nations, at the luncheon held at India Palace Restaurant. Because of a missed communication, we did not prepare enough handouts, so we are forwarding the handouts on the UN Charter, and the work of the UN and the UN Association. **Pictured above are the seventeen sustainability goals as icons.** Due to time constraints, we could only gain a small bit of knowledge about this important organization. The Behrstocks encourage you to find out more about the UN Association and maybe even to volunteer for this rewarding work. For more information-

UNA MEMBERSHIP: [<https://unausa.org/join/membership/>](https://unausa.org/join/membership/). Indicate "East Bay Chapter."

Or contact Herb for info, questions, or how you'd like to help support our teamwork:
[510-209-9370](tel:510-209-9370)



The Museum Group visits De Young museum where they saw the early Beatles photos and Matisse's Jazz art

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 May meeting is Monday the 19th, 1:30pm at the home of Kevis Brownson. 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, May 4, for a matinee at the Alameda Theatre followed by a gathering at Cinema Grill or Tucker's Ice Cream for discussion. We will also meet June 1 before recessing for the summer and resuming in the fall on October 5. 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 at 7:00 pm May 20 to discuss *Tell Me Everything* by Elizabeth Strout. In June (date TBA), we will hold our annual dinner and book selection meeting. Over time, members have moved out of the area, and we would like a few more members to join us. We read an eclectic selection of literary fiction, nonfiction, history, and memoirs.

For more information about the group, please contact Penny Washbourn at penelopewashbourn@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 gatherings for the summer will be on June 21 and August 16 for dinner.

To join us or for more information, please contact Jennifer McGaffey at jjmcgaffey@guenean.com.

Global Restaurant Dining Group



Saturday, May 3, 2025 at 6:00pm the Global Dining Group will dine at Bhan Mae Vane. This Lao and Thai Cuisine restaurant was recently featured on "Bay Area Check Please" receiving rave reviews! We are lucky they are on our island home! Located at 1511 Webster St.; the city lot on Santa Clara Ave. is a good bet for parking. Car pools are always wise. **Please RSVP to me by April 29** if you plan to attend. Virginia Darrow, vdarrow41@gmail.com or [\(510\)409-7481](tel:5104097481).

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. **The Mah Jongg interest group will continue meeting during the summer.** Contact Laura Porter at Lrajean@aol.com or [510-912-0385](tel:5109120385) for more information about the Mah Jongg interest group.

Museum Group

Please contact Judy Sparks, JudySparks@comcast.net for more information.

Calendar		Branch Activities				
May 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3- Global Restaurant Dining Group 6:00 PM
4-Cinema Club	5-Board Meeting 6:00 PM	6	7	8	9	10
11 	12- Mah Jongg 1:30 PM	13	14	15	16	17- Branch Meeting 10:00 AM
18	19-Afternoon Books 1:30 PM	20- Evening Books 7:00 PM	21	22	23	24-Global Cooking Group 6:00 PM
25	26- Mah Jongg 1:30 PM 	27	28	29	30	31