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2025-26 BOARD**

[alameda-ca.aauw.net](http://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*

*January 2026*

A publication of AAUW-Alameda Branch, chartered 1962 Vol. 63, Issue 5



## *Happy New Year !*



# *President's Corner*

I hope all our members had a wonderful holiday season filled with family, friends and good cheer. As we break out new calendars and move into the second half of our AAUW 2025-2026 year, I hope we will keep in mind our core mission to promote educational and career opportunities for women and girls. As there are more and more attacks on years, indeed decades, of hard-won gains to even the playing field for women and girls, it is even more important that we redouble our efforts to promote equity and opportunity.

Our members have always been generous in their financial support of our branch programs, Tech Trek and College of Alameda scholarships, along with support for the grants and fellowships distributed to worthy recipients by AAUW National.

I know you will continue to do so over the next five months and hope to see most of you at our general meetings each month.

- Mary Oppedahl, President AAUW Alameda Branch



## **Membership**

Please welcome new member, **Peg Groening**.

My name is Peg Groening. I moved to Alameda about a year ago, to be closer to my daughter and I have found welcoming folks and fun adventures!

I graduated from Ithaca College in upstate NY with a degree in physical therapy. I also finished a Masters in Public Health from the University of North Carolina. My career and many volunteer opportunities used the skills and knowledge developed in both programs.

I have one daughter, three stepchildren, four step grands and one step great grand. Except for my daughter, we are dispersed across the US and rarely see each other.

Moving, after 40 years in the Philadelphia area, has created the opportunity to downsize and find new challenges! I love gardening and have found new opportunities on my waterfront deck. Thanks to your spring garden sale, I was able to get pots and starter plants. I sew, crochet and knit....always looking for a new project! I love classical music, being outdoors and traveling.

I'm delighted to be here and look forward to being more involved in the Alameda community.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS/Future Events

Saturday, January 3, 6:00 pm – **Global Restaurant Dining Group** – Star Pizza

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

Monday, January 12, 12:30 pm – **Mah Jongg Group**

Thursday, January 15, 9:00 am – **Museum Group** – Legion of Honor – Manet and Morisot

Saturday, January 17, 6:00 pm – **Global Cooking Group**

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

Sunday, January 25 – **Cinema Club**

Monday, January 26, 12:30 pm – **Mah Jongg Group**

Monday, January 26, 1:30 pm – **Afternoon Books**



Dear Public Policy and DEI Chairs and Presidents,

Please click [HERE](#) for the December issue of Public Policy News. This issue contains an article for your January branch newsletters: "AAUW California Public Policy Committee Announces School Board Project Symposium". The issue also includes information on the recent steps taken by the Trump administration to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education, what AAUW has done in response, and what YOU can do to take action.

Thank you for all you do for women and girls. We wish you peace, joy, and renewed strength this holiday season, and we look forward to continuing our work together in the year ahead.

Amy Hom and Missy Maceyko  
Co-chairs, AAUW California Public Policy Committee  
[publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org](mailto:publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org)

*Cc: AAUW California Public Policy Committee, AAUW California Leadership Team, Newsletter Editors*



**December Moonrise in Alameda**

## **Branch Interest Groups**

### **Afternoon Books**

The afternoon book group usually meets on the third Monday of each month at 1:30pm. There is no assigned book. We just talk about what we have read, any genre. The January meeting will be on **January 26<sup>th</sup>** in the Library Friends Café, 1550 Oak St. Please respond to Kay Weinstein, [kayweinstein@gmail.com](mailto:kayweinstein@gmail.com), for more information.

### **Cinema Club**

Cinema Club meets on Sunday, January 25, 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](mailto:kevis.brownson@gmail.com).

**Evening Books**

The Evening Books group meets at 7:00 pm on January 20 with *The Geography of Bliss* by Eric Weiner. We are looking for new members to join our group. We read an eclectic selection of literary fiction, nonfiction, history, and memoirs. Our 2025-26 selections are *Differ We Must* by Steve Inskeep, *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi, *The Glassmaker* by Tracy Chevalier, *The Geography of Bliss* by Eric Weiner, *Crow Planet* by Lyanda Lynn Haupt, *James* by Percival Everett, *Poet Warrior* by Joy Harjo. Our dates and books for the year are listed at <https://alameda-ca.aauw.net/book-club/> . For more information about the group or to join us, please contact Penny Washbourn at [penelopewashbourn@gmail.com](mailto: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 next meeting will be January 17 at 6:00 pm. To join us or for more information, please contact Jennifer McGaffey at [jjmcgaffey@guenean.com](mailto:jjmcgaffey@guenean.com).

**Global Restaurant Dining Group**


AAUW Alameda's Global Dining Group will dine at the Star on Park (Pizza restaurant), 1400 Park St. Alameda, at 6:00 pm on Saturday, January 3. For more information, contact Laura Porter at [510-912-0385](tel:510-912-0385)

**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](mailto:Lrajean@aol.com) or [510-912-0385](tel:510-912-0385) for more information about the Mah Jongg interest group.

**Museum Group**

The Museum Group will travel to the Legion of Honour for the Manet & Morisot exhibit on Thursday, January 15. From the museum write-up: "This is the first major exhibition dedicated to the artistic exchange between French Impressionists Édouard Manet (1832–1883) and Berthe Morisot (1841–1895). Manet was the era's great pioneer of modern painting, and Morisot, the only woman to exhibit under her own name in the original Impressionist group ". We will meet in the South Shore shopping center parking lot in front of Ross and the Willows at 9:00 am for carpooling. To attend, please R.s.v.p. to Kevis at [kevis.brownson@gmail.com](mailto:kevis.brownson@gmail.com), [510-463-4966](tel:510-463-4966).

Calendar		Branch Activities				
January 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednes day	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3-Global Restaurant Dining Group 6:00 PM
4	5--Board Meeting 6:00 PM via Zoom	6	7	8	9	10
11	12- Mah Jongg 12:30 PM	13	14	15- Museum Group 9:00 AM	16	17-Global Cooking Group 6:00 PM
18	19 	20-Evening Books 7:00 PM	21	22	23	24
25-Cinema Club	26- Mah Jongg 12:30 PM Afternoon Books 1:30 PM	27	28	29	30	31

