

Alameda Branch News

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

February 2026

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ALAMEDA BRANCH
2025-26 BOARD

alameda-ca.aauw.net

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THE MURDER OF ROGER ACKROYD

Agatha Christie



FEBRUARY MEETING

The AAUW Alameda Branch Evening Book Group invites you to our regular monthly meeting on **February 17 at 6:30 PM**. We will follow our usual format – first we gather for coffee, tea, and dessert, then we will discuss Agatha Christie's novel - *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* - breaking into groups of 8 for the discussion. We are meeting in the home of an Evening Book group member. Kindly read the book before the meeting so we can have a great discussion.

The Murder of Roger Ackroyd, published in June 1926, was voted the best crime novel ever by the British Crime Writers Association in 2013. Agatha Christie (1890-1976) wrote 66 detective novels and 14 short story collections over the course of her career.

The novel is widely available online, in libraries and in bookstores, as an eBook or audiobook. It's available free in various electronic forms here on Project Gutenberg: <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/69087>.

Please register online for the meeting at the link:

<https://AAUW-Meeting-February17.eventbrite.com>

Or use this QR code:



Questions? Please call Kevi at [510-463-4966](tel:510-463-4966)

President's Corner

It's a new year and we are turning the corner into the second half of the Branch's 2025-2026 year. Therefore, it is time again for the branch to begin the nomination process for Branch officers. I know a lot of our members have previously served on the Board and feel they have done their duty while some of our newer members may be reluctant to take on responsibilities for an organization they just joined. But we have a vibrant Branch that both helps the women and girls in the community in which we live and provides us with a rich panoply of activities from Mahjong to book clubs. With that in mind, I humbly request that each of you consider joining the Board so we can keep all of this going for our members' benefit and that of the women and girls we support. Moreover, it is always a good idea for any organization for new people to take on leadership roles to introduce new ideas and different perspectives.

It would be great if a couple of you would agree to take on a Board position when the nominating committee contacts you in February. None of the positions are extremely demanding nor is the time commitment huge. There are nine monthly Board meetings on the first Monday of the month at 6:00 PM on Zoom, which seldom last more than an hour to an hour and one-half. In addition, we hope the Board members will be able to attend most of the nine monthly general meetings. And finally, we have a half-day retreat during the summer to plan for the upcoming year. Depending on the Board position, the responsibilities may require another couple of hours a month for board business. I can also say from personal experience that it is also kind of fun and quite satisfying to be on the Board. One has an opportunity to get to know the other Board members organically over time while working for a common goal. Thanks in advance for considering expanding your role.

- Mary Oppedahl, President AAUW Alameda Branch



Membership

Please welcome new member, **Deb Kleinfeld**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/Future Events

Monday, February 2, 6:00 pm -- **Board Meeting** – via Zoom – All Welcome

Saturday, February 7, 6:00 pm – **Global Restaurant Dining Group** – Park Street Tavern

Monday, February 9, 12:30 pm – **Mah Jongg Group**

Monday, February 16, 1:30 pm – **Afternoon Books**

Tuesday, February 17, 6:30 pm – **February Meeting** - Hosted by Evening Books

Friday, February 20, 10:45 am – **Museum Group** – Floating Art Museum

Sunday, February 22 – **Cinema Club**

Monday, February 23, 12:30 pm – **Mah Jongg Group**

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



Dear Public Policy and DEI Chairs and Presidents,

Happy New Year! Please click [HERE](#) for the January issue of Public Policy News. This issue contains important information about Lobby Day 2026. The issue also includes information about the ongoing assault on K-12 education and actions YOU can take, including attending the School Board Project Virtual Symposium on January 31, 2026.

Thank you for all you do - onward with hope and purpose.

Amy Hom and Missy Maceyko

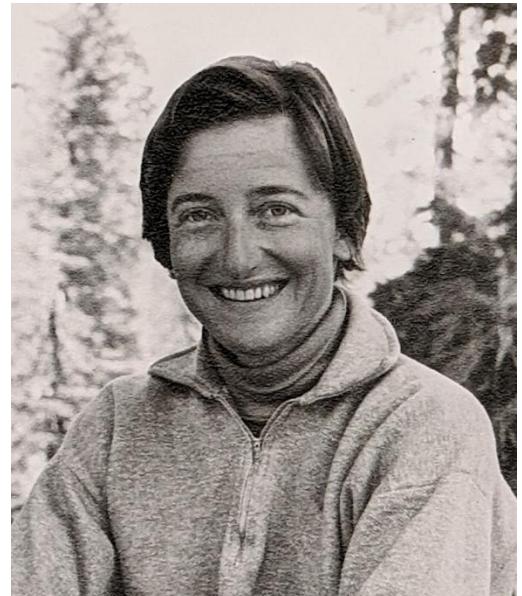
Co-chairs, AAUW California Public Policy Committee

publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org

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



In Memory



Sally Faulhaber

Sally Faulhaber of Alameda, CA has passed away at the age of 96. An engaged citizen with a deep interest in her community, social justice, and nature, she was active until her last days, and was kind and generous to the end.

Sally grew up in Iowa, and after dabbling in teaching in the US and Guatemala, she moved to Berkeley, where she earned a PhD in Zoology from the University of California. She studied genetics in the 1960s, and at a time when women in science were much less common than they are today. She met her future husband, Bill Faulhaber, on the Dipsea trail in Marin County. The two shared a passion for the outdoors as well as intellectual curiosity and a love of science. They moved to Alameda where they raised two daughters, while continuing to hike, ski and camp in Sierras whenever they could find the time. Even as a stay-at-home mom, Sally was active in the League of Women Voters and various local organizations, and pursued creative endeavors such as pottery and music. Once her daughters were grown, she returned to science and worked briefly in the private sector before settling into a role at UC Berkeley as a lab technician.

In retirement, she travelled internationally, including to Machu Picchu and Central Asia. At home, she continued to pursue her interest in pottery, creating designs that adorned her home and that she gave away as gifts. Through volunteer work and donations, she continued to stand up for her beliefs, and to lend a hand where she was able.

Branch Interest Groups

Afternoon Books

The afternoon book group 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 February meeting will be on **February 16th** in the Library Friends Café, 1550 Oak St. Please respond to Kay Weinstein, kayweinstein@gmail.com, for more information.

Cinema Club

Cinema Club meets on Sunday, February 22, 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 Books group **hosts** the AAUW Alameda members for a joint meeting at 6:30 pm on February 17. We will be discussing *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* by Agatha Christie. 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.

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 March 21 at 6:00 pm. To join us or for more information, please contact Jennifer McGaffey at jjmcgaffey@guenean.com.

Global Restaurant Dining Group

AAUW Alameda's Global Dining Group will dine at the Park Street Tavern, 1901 Park St. Alameda, at 6:00 pm on Saturday, February 7.

For more information, contact Kay Weinstein at kayweinstein@gmail.com

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

The Museum Group will travel to the Floating Art Museum at 2517 Blanding Avenue in Alameda on Friday, February 20. We will meet in the South Shore shopping center parking lot in front of Ross and the Willows at 10:45 am for carpooling. To attend, please RSVP to Kay Weinstein at

kayweinstein@gmail.com

Calendar**Branch Activities****February 2026**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2--Board Meeting 6:00 PM via Zoom 	3	4	5	6	7-Global Restaurant Dining Group 6:00 PM
8	9- Mah Jongg 12:30 PM	10	11	12	13	14 
15	16-Afternoon Books 1:30 M 	17- February Meeting hosted by Evening Books 6:30 PM	18	19	20- Museum Group 10:45 AM	21
22-Cinema Club	23- Mah Jongg 12:30 PM	24	25	26	27	28