



“Live each day as if your life had just begun.” —Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe

Visit our Website

## Upcoming Events



Outside Alameda County's Santa Rita Jail. Credit: Pete Rosos

### Help Not Handcuffs: A Day in the Life

March 8, 2022, at 04:00 PM PST

Click [HERE](#) to register for the online event.

"Ernie and Joe: Crisis Cops" A view inside a Texas police mental health unit.

Join the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) for the kickoff of the “**Help Not Handcuffs: A Day in the Life**” series featuring an abbreviated version of the Emmy award-winning HBO documentary “Ernie and Joe: Crisis Cops” followed by a discussion with Ernie Stevens, and Joe Smarro, from the film, and the documentary’s director/producer, Jenifer McShane, moderated by NAMI CEO, Dan Gillison.

Registrants will be given a code for viewing of the full-length documentary accessible for 7 days following the event. For more information about the film, please go to: <http://www.ernieandjoethefilm.com>

### Student Report Mobilizes Coalition for Justice in Our Jails (IJCC)

In December 2021, Sawan Garde, a high school student at the College Preparatory School in Oakland and an intern at the Urban Strategies Council, wrote a report on the Alameda County Behavioral Health Court (BHC). Sawan wrote the BHC report for the Interfaith Coalition for Justice in Our Jails (ICJJ), an affiliate of Faith in Action East Bay.

The summary begins: **Jails are no place for people with mental illnesses**. Yet, with a crumbling public mental health infrastructure, United States’ jails have become the largest providers of mental health treatment in the country. In Santa Rita Jail, people with serious mental illnesses make up nearly a quarter of the inmate population, and the jail is unequipped to offer appropriate mental health resources to those people. The Behavioral Health Court (BHC) of Alameda County is one of Alameda County’s attempts to combat the overincarceration of individuals with serious mental illnesses.



## Alameda County jail's mental health care would be overhauled under proposed lawsuit settlement

Throughout the country, jails and prisons have become the de facto largest provider of mental health care as people without adequate treatment suffer psychological breakdowns that can lead to criminal behavior.

Alameda County has agreed to a massive reform program that will remake how mental health care is provided in Santa Rita Jail. Under the settlement, the Alameda County Sheriff's Office will be required to revamp its policies and procedures, hire new staff at the jail, build a new "therapeutic housing unit," and put new oversight structures in place.

A report released in April 2021 showed Alameda County's system of mental health care violates the 8<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Amendments to the Constitution and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Alameda County Sheriff's Sgt. Ray Kelly, a department spokesperson, acknowledged that the settlement will require substantial changes to the jail's operations. The reforms "will take many years to finish," Kelly said and though it is going to be costly to the taxpayers, at the end of the day we want to make sure we're providing the treatment and care to the people who need it."

[Read the 110-Page Proposed Settlement](#)

## Save the Date! Thursday, March 31, 2022, 6:30 - 8:30 PM District Attorney Candidate Forum Sponsor - Alameda County IBC

You are invited to join the American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Santa Clara County as they celebrate 50 years of Title IX.

**Sat., March 19, 2022, 12 - 1 PM**

Click [HERE](#) to register.

Join us as we celebrate 50 years of Title IX of the Educational Amendments Act, requiring all genders equal opportunity to educational programs, activities, and financial assistance, learn from guest speakers about the impact and ongoing efforts to enforce this law and to help protect students against gender-based harassment, coercion, bias, as well as inequality in athletics and act by recognizing gender-based discrimination in education-based programs and get resources to enforce your rights.



Our Moderator, Danielle Slaton, is an Olympic Medalist in Women's Soccer and Television Analyst with the San Jose Earthquakes.

[Read Panelist Bios](#)

## Interest Groups



## Drama Reading Group

The drama reading group will meet on **Thursday, March 10, 2022, beginning at 1:00 PM. On Zoom.**

The March Play will be the *Rainmaker* by Richard Nash. The play is set in a drought-ridden rural town in the west in Depression era America. The play tells the story of a pivotal hot summer day in the life of spinsterish Lizzie Curry. Lizzy keeps house for her father and two brothers on the family cattle ranch.

Her family worries about Lizzie's marriage prospects more than about their dying cattle. A charming confidence trickster named Starbusk arrives and promises to bring rain in exchange for \$1. His arrival sets off a series of events that enable Lizzie to see herself in a new light.

Drama Reading books will be available for pickup on Liz's porch on Sunday, March 6th. Everyone is welcome.

Please RSVP to [elisabethbathgate@icloud.com](mailto:elisabethbathgate@icloud.com).



## Evening Book Group

The Evening Book Group will meet on **Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 6:30 PM. On Zoom.**

Pat Macsata will be facilitating a discussion of *Coyote America: A Natural and Supernatural History* by Dan Flores. The New York Times best-selling account of how coyotes, long the target of an extermination policy, spread to every corner of the US.

Please RSVP to [slaterl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:slaterl@sbcglobal.net)

Click [HERE](#) to view Dan Flores speak for Project Coyote.

## News of the Month



It appears that residential camps may be occurring this summer depending on the state of Covid. Sonoma State has given us June 19-25 as the potential dates for the residential camp. It will still cost \$1,000 per camper. Anticipated virtual camps fees will be \$500. The virtual camp will take place June 19-24 and July 24-29. All campers will have to provide proof of vaccination or have a negative Covid test before arriving at camp.

We will be using the paperless online process for the application and selection process that was developed for the virtual camp last year. Once campers are selected, we will switch over to a new software program that is being implemented in a few weeks. All forms will be emailed to principals, teachers, campers, and parents. Then they will be electronically returned to me.

I will be notifying the 9-11 middle schools in our 4 districts about Tech Trek and seeking nominations. Girls will be able to choose either the residential camp at Sonoma State or the virtual camp.

Judy Harrison

## Your Board

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## President's Message

March is Women's History Month. What does it mean to you?

For me, Women's History Month means celebrating women's accomplishments and the contributions that they have made to make life better for others. Most women history makers equip, empower, and encourage not only women, but men and the community, to believe they can achieve.



[Read about Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell](#)

## Women's History Month



## Public Policy

### AAUW Advances Equal Pay Day

#### Did you know?

At the current rate of progress, the gender pay gap will not close until 2093. We can't — and won't — wait that long.

[Equal Pay Today Campaign](#)

In 2022, Equal Pay Day will be celebrated **March 15, 2022**. However, equal pay day is not the same for everyone. Here are various equal pay days in 2021.

**Asian Women's Equal Pay Day: February 23**  
**Black Women's Equal Pay Day: August 3**  
**Native Women's Equal Pay Day: September 8**  
**Latina Equal Pay Day: October 21**

Equal Pay Day was originated by the National Committee on Pay Equity (NCPE) in 1996 as a public awareness event to illustrate the gap between men's and women's wages and symbolizes how far into the year women must work to earn what men earned in the previous year.



## **What are You Doing this Year to Mark Equal Pay Day?**

**GINNY HATFIELD and SHELLEY MITCHELL**  
**AAUW CA Public Policy Committee**

**AAUW believes that pay equity and equal employment opportunity are matters of simple fairness. We know that on the average, women earn about 80 cents for every dollar men earn. Started by the National Committee on Pay Equity (NCPE) in 1996, the goal of Equal Pay Day was to raise awareness about the gender wage gap.**

Each year this date symbolizes how far into the year women must work to earn what men earned in the previous year. The date normally moves earlier each year as the wage gap closes, as women's average wages rise faster than men's. Equal Pay Day was traditionally a Tuesday in April, but happily, in 2021, the date was March 24, meaning that things had improved. And this year the news is even better – all women in the aggregate will reach parity with all white men on March 15, 2022. Better, but we're still not there.

On June 10, 2021, the Paycheck Fairness Act, which had passed the House of Representatives and amends the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 by providing more effective remedies to victims of wage discrimination based on sex, was filibustered in the Senate on a 49-50 vote. Now is the time to let your elected officials know how you feel about this failure to codify pay equity.

**AAUW Branches throughout the country have marked this day with activities that highlight the wage gap. Here are some suggestions for things your branch can do.**

- **Write your representatives in Congress to encourage them to support the Paycheck Fairness Act.**
- **Encourage your local city council or county board of supervisors to issue a proclamation in support of pay equity.**
- **Wear Red to symbolize that women's paychecks are "in the red" when compared to men.**
- **Write a letter to the editor of your local paper or offer to submit an op-ed.**
- **Share a timely post on social media to spread awareness.**
- **Hold an event on your local campus and offer cookies to women that are proportionately smaller than the ones you offer to men. Also invite participants to become student affiliate members of AAUW.**
- **Invite community members to an "unhappy hour."**

[Click HERE for Pay Gap FAQ's](#)

[National Committee on Equal Pay](#)

## **Member News:**

If you have news about a member who needs to be congratulated on a special occasion or accomplishment, who needs to be encouraged during illness or difficult time, or to be reminded we are here for him/her, please contact our corresponding secretary, Tammy Tribbles, at [Tammy@thetribbles.com](mailto:Tammy@thetribbles.com)

This is especially important during these pandemic times when we are isolated from our branch friends and not enjoying our usual meetings. Let's show our friends know we care.