



“Women belong in all places where decisions are being made. It shouldn’t be that women are the exception.” – Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Visit our Website

Bi-Branch Luncheon a Great Success!

The bi-branch luncheon of the Hayward-Castro Valley and Fremont branches on Saturday, February 4th was a wonderful event. Good food, good company and an excellent presenter, Amal ElWardi. Ms. ElWardi, currently an MFA candidate at Saint Mary's College of California, shared her important work in using somatic education to help mitigate the youth mental health crisis in our country. We even got to do a few fun exercises to get in touch, somatically, with our own bodies. A good time was had by all.



Amal ElWardi, Linda Slater, Phie Dai (Fremont Branch President) and Kathy Garfinkle.



A Soup and Salad spread with cookies, coffee and tea. The Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose did a wonderful job.



The Hayward-Castro Valley group (from left to right):

Connie Rusk, Nancy Turner, Pat Macsata, Linda Slater, Liz Bathgate and Helene Victor.

Gov Trek Finale & Competition



You can be in the “Room Where It Happens.”

**Join AAUW California for the final session of the Gov Trek program!
Saturday, March 25, 10 am – 12:30 pm.**

Listen to inspirational remarks from Senator Toni G. Atkins, then watch the final competition between eight teams of smart, talented young women who are exploring careers in public service. They have spent four Saturdays crafting a realistic campaign simulation for this competition. Who will win? Who has the best stump speech, the best campaign flyers, the best voter outreach plan?

You will be able to vote for your choice for the winning team, but just like the Electoral College, the final awards will be awarded by a panel of VIP judges.

[Click HERE to Register](#)

Interest Groups



Drama Reading Group

On **Thursday, March 9, 2023 at 1:00pm** the drama reading group will meet at Liz Bathgate’s home at 22112 Queen Street in Castro Valley.

We will be reading “**The Amen Corner**” by **James Baldwin**. The play addresses themes of the role of a church in an African American family and the effect of a poverty born of racial prejudice on an African-American community. There are multiple parts.

I will serve refreshments during intermission. We will meet inside, and you are welcome to wear a mask if you feel more comfortable.

Please let me know if you can come so I can plan the dessert. Liz 510-581-0461. Questions? Email Liz at elisabethbathgate@icloud.com

Evening Book Group

The Evening Book Group will meet on **Tuesday, February 28, 2023, at 6:30 PM** on Zoom.



This month the Evening Book Group is discussing "**Peach Blossom Spring**" by Melissa Yu. The book is the choice for Castro Valley reads, including a bunch of community events around Asian heritage month and some interesting discussion questions. If you are reading the book and would like to join our discussion, please do so. Everyone is welcome. We are a small, but mighty group.

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84775047316?
pwd=NGIEZ21yVmZhRHl5WTI2WVJINlhyZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84775047316?pwd=NGIEZ21yVmZhRHl5WTI2WVJINlhyZz09)

Meeting ID: 847 7504 7316

Passcode: 970374

Hope to have you join us. Please RSVP to
slaterl@sbcglobal.net.



Dining Out Event

Dear Branch members:

At our December luncheon we enjoyed meeting author Elsa Valmidiano. Elsa read selected passages from her newly published book, "We are No Longer Babaylon". She shared incidents from her childhood in the Philippines and her close ties with her parents and her grandmother.

At our January luncheon, local Castro Valley resident, Lucy Cronin, discussed her techniques to build a family tree using genealogy tools such as church and civic records to supplement internet search engines and applications.

Many of us have family histories with interesting stories of past ancestors. We invite you to share these stories in the format of an informal talk at our next lunch at the end of March. Date to be announced. Your talk can last about twenty minutes and can include artifacts such as photos, maps, etc.

If we attract enough participation, we will offer this opportunity into the Spring. Please email your interest to
patmacsata@gmail.com.

Pat Macsata

President's Message

Your Board

Linda Slater - President
slaterl@sbcglobal.net

Helene Carr - Treasurer
helene.carr@yahoo.com

Liz Bathgate - Recording Secretary
elisabethbathgate@icloud.com

Judy Harrison - Tech Trek
jharrison663@comcast.net

National Women's History Alliance 2023 Theme

Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories

The National Women's History Alliance (NWHHA), which spearheaded the movement for March being declared National Women's History Month, has announced the women's history theme for 2023, "Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories."

Throughout 2023, the NWHHA will encourage recognition of women, past and present, who have been active in all forms of media and storytelling including print, radio, TV,

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Helene Victor - Tech Trek
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Sandy Boswell - IBC
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Nancy Turner - Social Media
hendry-turner@sbcglobal.net

AAUW Hayward-Castro Valley Branch board meetings occur on the first Monday of every month at 6:30 PM on Zoom. Contact Linda for Zoom information.

All branch members are encouraged to attend board meetings.

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

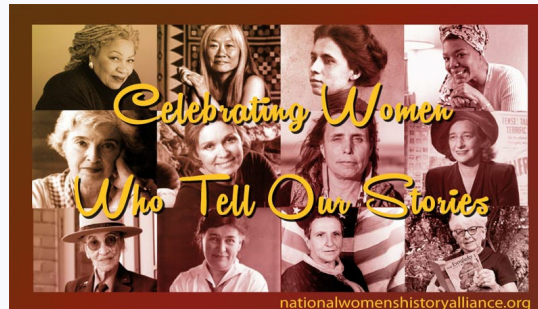
stage, screen, blogs, podcasts, and more. The timely theme honors women in every community who have devoted their lives and talents to producing art, pursuing truth, and reflecting the human condition decade after decade.

From the earliest storytellers through pioneering journalists, our experiences have been captured by a wide variety of artists and teachers. These include authors, songwriters, scholars, playwrights, performers, and grandmothers throughout time.

Women have long been instrumental in passing on our heritage in word and in print to communicate the lessons of those who came before us. Women's stories, and the larger human story, expand our understanding and strengthen our connections with each other.

As in previous years, the Alliance, which is centered in Santa Rosa, California, will encourage local communities throughout the country to use the year's theme to guide their own celebrations.

The NWHHA will popularize national efforts through on-line celebrations, a special magazine and thematic products that recognize and honor these brave, accomplished and influential women who told – and continue to tell – our stories. Today and over the years ahead, their dedication and shared desire to give voice to the voiceless are critical to keeping us informed, entertained and aware.



[Read the National Women's History Alliance 2023 Magazine](#)

Public Policy

March is Women's History Month A Fitting Time to Observe Transgender Day of Visibility

Each year on March 31, the world observes Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV) to raise awareness about transgender people. It is a day to celebrate the lives and contributions of trans people, while also drawing attention to the poverty, discrimination, and violence the community faces.

We understand how women's history tells the story of misogyny, which is the systemic mistreatment of women, girls, and feminine peoples through forms of physical and structural violence. But we rarely consider how it is linked to transmisogyny, which focuses on the complex intersections between transphobia and misogyny that are faced by trans women and girls, as well as transfeminine and gender non-conforming peoples. It is a term that attempts to capture multiple layers of gender-based marginalization and

systemic mistreatment. If misogyny and transmisogyny are not combatted together, then the root of the problem will never truly be eradicated.

Although the past decade has seen a more vocal public push for diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives around gender, the current sociopolitical climate in the United States is not supportive of, and is often openly hostile to, transgender and gender non-conforming individuals. Under this sphere of increased hostility is the explicit targeting of trans women and girls and transfeminine peoples with words, actions, and legislation. It is particularly important for women's organizations who seek to combat gender-based forms of oppression to build coalitions and take a stand against **misogyny and transmisogyny** in all its forms, because misogyny and transmisogyny come from the same place. They both describe gender-based oppression that results from the prioritization of masculinity alongside the degradation of femininity.

Targeted hostility against trans women and girls and transfeminine peoples can be seen not only in the alarming uptick in physical violence against this community, but also in the increasing persistence and intensity of public debates over whether or not trans women and girls and transfeminine peoples are "real women" that belong in "women's spaces," including gender-specific bathrooms, women's sports teams, and locker rooms. These debates prioritize misplaced and misunderstood claims of biological authenticity. They are dehumanizing and cannot be disconnected from other forms of violence as they normalize widespread and explicit marginalization and exclusion.

As a women's organization, the increasingly hostile environment for trans women and girls and transfeminine people should be at the forefront of our collective education and activism - let's help ensure that history doesn't continue to repeat itself. Visit the Public Policy website to learn more.

Melissa Maceyko, AAUW California Public Policy Committee

A Woman Who Made a Difference

Marjory Stoneman Douglas (April 7, 1890 – May 14, 1998) was an American journalist, author, women's suffrage advocate, and conservationist known for her staunch defense of the [Everglades](#) against efforts to drain it and reclaim land for development. Moving to Miami as a young woman to work for *The Miami Herald*, she became a [freelance writer](#), producing over one hundred [short stories](#) that were published in popular magazines.

Her most influential work was the book *The Everglades: River of Grass* (1947), which redefined the popular conception of the Everglades as a treasured river instead of a worthless swamp. Its impact has been compared to that of [Rachel Carson's](#) influential book *Silent Spring* (1962). Her books, stories, and journalism career brought her influence in Miami, enabling her to advance her causes.

Douglas lived to 108, working until nearly the end of her life for Everglades restoration. Upon her death, an obituary in *The Independent* in London stated, "In the history of the American environmental movement, there have been few more remarkable figures than Marjory Stoneman Douglas."



Membership Matters

The Hayward-Castro Valley values you too much to lose you as a member. This vital organization, which



advances equity for women and girls, is strongest when we all join together. Please renew online or make your dues check payable to **AAUW-HCV**:

Renew **BY CHECK**: Mail to Liz Bathgate, membership chair, at 22112 Queen St. Castro Valley, CA 94546. Regular member \$102; Life member \$15; Dual member \$15.

Renew **ONLINE**: Go to [Login - AAUW](#)

Questions? Send an email to elisabethbathgate@icloud.com

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 your branch president, Linda Slater at slaterl@sbcglobal.net.

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