



AAUW  
DAVIS

# THE SPOKESWOMAN

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Mission Statement: AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

## **REPORT-** UN Panel

International Women's Day (March 8) was celebrated on March 29 at I House. The United Nations Association, Davis Chapter, set up a panel of three women who spoke about their projects in other countries. I House and AAUW Davis co-sponsored this event.

**Rensie Panda** from Papua New Guinea spoke of her upbringing in poverty and violence, and how she overcame cultural gender negative bias. After gaining self-confidence, she focused on becoming a full human being rather than a woman fighting for gender issues. Ms. Panda is representing her country and working on climate change issues. She is often the only woman at climate conferences.

**Cynthia Kellogg** teaches at UC Davis. She worked on returning refugees from a Davis Sister City in El Salvador to their home from Nicaragua. She noted the results and importance of the UN in providing food, water, and protection for these refugees, many of whom were women and children. In the refugee camp, education was still important. The teaching was done from person to person; as one learned, one taught the next person. The UN negotiated an agreement that refugees could return home. They left, but had to return to Nicaragua for more years of waiting. Ms.

Kellogg feels the UN should help refugees in the United States as well as in war-torn countries.

**Leslie Anastassatos**, a current Davisite, was the third panelist. She has spent her career in non-profit organizations, including Sahaya International. As an active member of the Myanmar Children's Foundation, she met with women in World Learning and Habitat for Humanity. She noted that women talk to other women, and then work to strengthen and educate the family. In doing so, the community benefits. Ms. Anastassatos has also helped construct living quarters for teachers, privacy showers for girl students, and expanding educational opportunities for girls.

**AAUW** members Gail, Juliana, Verena, Elaine, Rhonda, and Estelle listened carefully, as we heard our mission (equal education for girls and women) repeated and put into action by our three panelists in countries other than the US.

### **GOOD WORK**

A big **THANK YOU** goes to Sharon Furtak. She met with a group of Citrus Circuit members and helped them fill out a grant application. They had asked for mentoring in that area.

Another **THANK YOU** goes to Gail Johnson for all her work, time, and energy to organize Tech Trek materials for the schools, to send out and review applications, to make appointments and arrange for interview sites, and in notifying the successful girls after interviewing all with Sharon and Juliana.

Marti West gets a **THANK YOU** for donating a special dish set which we will sell on ebay.

Will we see *your* name here next month?

## **YOUR TURN FOR GOOD WORK**

On April 13<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 pm at the Village Pizza on G Street, please attend the annual business meeting. We will have free pizza and salad outdoors, vote in our officers, and discuss upcoming events.

### **AND....**

AAUW Davis needs you to be **active member** in April and May.

On April 25, we are having a **yard sale fundraiser** Saturday at Rhonda's, 320 I Street. This is for Tech Trek scholarships for the summer of 2016. We need people to work a shift "selling" that Saturday. If you know you can help for a few hours, call or email Juliana with the time slot you prefer.

If you would rather help set up before 7:30 am and/or clean up after 5 pm (loading a van with unsold leftovers), notify Juliana.

If you cannot work Saturday, you can still help by:

- 1) putting up posters around town Wednesday afternoon
- 2) bringing your price-marked donations to Rhonda starting Thursday between 5 pm and 7pm
- 3) taking down all the posters Sunday morning
- 4) making a monetary donation to Tech Trek and/or shopping at the sale

**Tea is for Teachers** is coming in May. Be ready to help spread the word and recommend district teachers, coaches, art and music teachers, mentors and scout leaders.

The **STEM CAREER WOMEN PANEL** needs to have a good audience. Ramona Swenson arranges this always informative and interesting event. We need to get the word out to students 6<sup>th</sup> grade and up. Members are also welcome. Blanchard Room, April 30, time TBD.

**Be as active as you choose, but do stay a member.**

### **Calendar**

April 6, Monday: Board meeting at Chithra's 6:15 pm

April 13, Monday: business meeting 5:30pm at Village Pizza

April 19, Sunday: Celebrate the 19<sup>th</sup> in Winters TBD

April 30, Thursday: STEM career women PANEL, Blanchard Room

Watch for supplemental info.