



AAUW
DAVIS

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

Report for CELEBRATE THE 19TH

We celebrated on March 20 with taking action. Several members and friends gathered at Ket Mo Ree to write to CA state Representatives Cecilia Agular-Curry and Bill Dodd; Congressional Rep John Garamendi; Senators Diane Feinstein and Kamala Harris.

Postcards were provided so that views could be sent protesting the AHCA (American Health Care Act) that would severely limit a woman's access to health care. Pence made it pass.

Other issues were also presented such as AAUW's position of supporting choice in the determination of one's reproductive life and increased access to health care and family planning services.

Being politically active while enjoying each other's company were: Shahla, Estelle, Laleh, Celida and husband Jason, Nan, Jennifer (an AAUW Fellow recipient), Leslie, Irena Asmundson, and Ramona. Juliana and Rhonda joined the group after finishing their Tech Trek interviews for the day.

REPORT FROM INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY EVENT

On March 26, two Humphrey Fellows spoke at I House sponsored by UNA Davis. AAUW Davis co-sponsored by welcoming attendees (60) and having a presence in the audience

(Estelle, Laleh and her mother, Rhonda, and Juliana). After signing in at I House, participants were able to hear harp playing by Donna Jury before and after the program.

Verena welcomed all, and gratefully acknowledged the Enterprise for its coverage, AAUW for co-sponsoring, and Donna for her music. Verena, President of UNA Davis, expressed her worry about the USA's drastic cuts to the UN funding affecting UNHCR (refugees), UNICEF (children) and the World Peace Program. .1% of US budget for FY 2017 to the UN. This is a very small percentage, and Trump proposes to cut spending to the UN by 30% or more. The U.S. is the world's single largest humanitarian funder. He also proposed ending U.S. funding for UN climate change programs. For those reasons, Verena said that any personal donations would be gratefully accepted.

We heard from Humphrey Fellows Samaneh muuhhyhydd ..from Iran and Itzel Morales Lagunes from Mexico. Samaneh has a PhD from the University of Tehran in Water Resources Management. Itzel is campaign manager of Green Island Environmental Group, with a BSc in Biochemical Engineering and MSc in Climate Change from Heriot Watt University in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Both speakers talked about being women in their home culture and the eye-opening effects of studying abroad. While there are advantages to being a woman (beauty, living longer, having children, showing emotion, and some positive family law), some disadvantages are beauty vs. being smart, having less power, and female babies being targeted to die.

The March 8 date for International Women's Day celebrates or seeks to advocate for social, cultural, and economic improvement for women. In NY, on March 8, 1857, garment and textile workers protested their low pay. In 1907, political rallies were held for and by working women. Clara Zetkin was a major activist. In 2014, the UN discussed the status of women and

affirmed that in business, education, income, and health, equity was still a problem and violence against women was definitely prevalent.

In Iran, February 18th is Women's Day and is celebrated with a festival honoring mothers and wives. Men and women are not equal. In the academic world, she could keep her personal culture in wearing the hijab, speaking with an accent, and being able to apply her knowledge. Americans may think that Iran is a dangerous desert, that the people hate Americans, that women are stuck at home. Not true. There are some negative individuals (as there are everywhere). Iran has forests, water, and bright flowers. Women wear many styles of dress. Most are active and educated.

By contrast, Itzeh said that in Mexico, women are subjected to disrespect, to violence, to being verbally persecuted and judged morally by their clothing or manner. Men who commit crimes against women are often not prosecuted despite laws for gender equity on the books. In 1993, many women disappeared or were killed. There was no government protection or police work done to resolve those murders. There has been no justice for women. The system is corrupt and unfair.

Itzeh went abroad at age 16. She was amazed that there was no harassment or moral judgment based on her clothing. She had a life crisis at 25 because she was not married or had children. After getting her Master's degree and going home to Mexico, she learned about partnerships and expectations based on individuality. She felt strong enough to tell her brother to do his own laundry. She found that in America, many women are activists, sure, confident, and strong.

Samaneh feels free in Iranian culture while following the rules. There is social independency, but there is a definite need for family togetherness. Iran is a mono-culture in contrast to the mixed cultures in America.

Itzel and Samaneh are two-way ambassadors, exchanging opinions, sharing images and feelings between America and Iran and Mexico. Both women agree that one needs goals and they need to make their own decisions.

Refreshments were served after a question and answer period. Each young woman received a special rose bouquet as a thank you.



Itzel, Samaneh, Verena and Sylvia Villalobos, member of Sacramento UNA board

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

We are pleased to welcome new member, Delaine Eastin.
Email: delaineeastin@gmail.com

UNA DAVIS FILM SERIES CONTINUES (from Verena)

International Film Series (*NOW COMPLETING OUR 20TH YEAR!*)

- Shown at International House, 10 College Park, on first and third Friday nights, Sept. - May
- Sponsored by the UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF DAVIS and I-HOUSE
- *There is no charge, but donations are welcomed and gratefully accepted to help raise funds for UNA's Adopt-a-Future campaign in cooperation with UNHCR to build classrooms in refugee camps in Kenya.*
- All costs of DVD rental or purchase, facilities use, cups, plates etc. and the refreshments that are served at 7:30 p.m. are donated. Programs begin promptly at 8.

April 7, 2017 **Fill The Void** (2012, Israel, directed by Rama Burshtein, 90 min.)

Filmed in Tel Aviv's ultra Orthodox Hasidic (Haredi) community ruled by religious law, tradition and the rabbi's word, we enter the household of Aharon (Chayim Sharir) and Rivka (Irit Sheleg) Mendelman and their daughters Esther (Renana Raz) and Shira (Hadas Yaron). Esther, married to Yochay (Yiftach Klein) dies in childbirth; in addition to grieving, the family immediately starts thinking of solutions to the unanticipated dilemma of the baby Mordechai in need of a mother and the widower in need of a wife. When a widow in Belgium appears eager to take on this role, Rivka panics at the thought of losing her first grandchild and begins to urge Shira to marry her brother-in-law. While it is the custom to have their spouses chosen for them, women do have the right to refuse. Shira agonizes over her duty and the close family ties that are critical in her community – but ultimately goes to tell her rabbi that she is ready to marry Yochay. Director Burshtein did not grow up observant, but later became religious and gained the full trust of the Orthodox community. The actors are non-Orthodox Israelis. The film gives us a rare opportunity to observe a Haredi community in amazing detail while also presenting a tribute to the struggles of any family. (#413)

There will be no film on April 21.

A NCCWSL NOTE

The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) unites college women from across the country to address important leadership issues of the day. Attendees have transformative experiences that inspire them to improve their campuses and their communities. Visit www.nccwsl.org to learn more about NCCWSL and the effect it had on past attendees. The conference is May 31–June 3, 2017, at the University of Maryland, College Park. April 30, 2017 is the Final Day to Register. Payments are due in full. Registrants who have not paid in full forfeit their \$100 deposit and are removed from registration.

EQUAL PAY DAY HIGHLIGHTS THE PAY GAP (from State)

AAUW is committed to supporting “fairness in compensation, equitable access and advancement in employment, and vigorous enforcement of employment antidiscrimination statutes.”

Equal Pay Day will be observed this year on April 4, 2017. The date symbolizes how far into 2017 women must work to earn what men earned in 2016. According to national Census statistics released in 2013, women working full-time, year round, make, on average, 78 cents for every dollar a male earns doing the same job. In California, women do slightly better, 85 cents on the dollar. Another year, another wage gap for women and their families. The pay gap is even worse for women of color – for African American women the gap is 64% compared to white men, and Hispanic women 54%. And with our inactive Congress and still-troubling economy, women continue to feel the pinch of the wage gap. AAUW members and our partners can work to help close the gap.

Other equal pay dates have been established for specific groups of women:

- March 7 – Asian American women

- July 31 – African American women
- September 25 – Native American women
- November 2 – Latina women

Action on Equal Pay Day has the objective of raising the awareness of the issue in our communities, with our members, and especially with young women who are under the false impression that pay inequity has been “taken care of”.

NATIONAL CONVENTION IN D.C.

Rhonda and Estelle are planning on attending June 14-17. To join them, or for more information, please go to the AAUW website or ask one of them.

TECH TREK

Gail, Rhonda, and Juliana interviewed 21 young ladies for the 4 slots on the UCD campus for this summer July 23-29. The enthusiasm, interest, and high abilities of the 21 girls made it very difficult to choose only 4 plus an alternate. We wished we had more than 4 openings.

Gail has been a major worker for Tech Trek. Not only is she the main Program Treasurer, but she also obtained school district permission, arranged for the dissemination of information, gave out applications, notified math and science teachers at each of the four junior highs (Holmes, Harper, Emerson, and Da Vinci).

Gail asked former Trekkers to go to each school to encourage teachers to participate. She then arranged the interview rooms, received and organized all the filled applications, and called each home to set up the appointments so that a parent would also come. It took 3 days to interview. After selections were made, Gail sent out the letters notifying acceptance or rejection.

PHEW! Thank you, Gail, for your dedication to the success of our Davis branch program. Thanks also to Rhonda and Juliana for helping Gail with the interviews and selecting. It was VERY difficult to select.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Please join us on April 10 at 5:30 pm at Village Grill and Pizza on G St.. We will be voting in the new (old) officers and Board for 2017-18. We will also ask for feedback from you about issues and directions you'd like AAUW Davis to focus on.

The pizza and salad are free. Drinks other than water or tea are self pay. The company is (as always) friendly and stimulating. If you need transportation, please call Juliana by the 9th. (530) 758-3011 or carwells@thegrid.net

SPEECH TREK MEETING

Dear Members,

This is a reminder to sign up for the AAUW CA Annual meeting on April 22nd at the San Mateo Marriott.

Engage in stimulating conversations with fellow members in the morning and then enjoy a delicious lunch while being thoroughly entertained by the three Speech Trek finalists:

The deadline to sign up is April 7th. Register online [here](#).

Finalists

Roseville-South Placer Branch

Sarah Murphy

Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch

Sabrina Sy

Morgan Hill Branch

Nikhita Gopisetty

Honorable Mentions were awarded to:

4th Place

La Mesa-El Cajon
Jocelyn Tzeng

5th Place

Sacramento Branch
Kathy Le

Meeting agenda

- 8:00 – 8:45 Registration and Continental Breakfast
8:45 – 9:15 Annual Meeting
9:15 – 12:00 Table Talk – What’s on Your Plate?
12:00 – 12:30 Break
12:30 – 2:30 Luncheon
- Speech Trek Competition
 - Branch Program Recognition
 - Introduction of Candidates for State Board
- 2:30 – 3:00 Closing Remarks

Cathy Foxhoven

AAUW CA Speech Trek Coordinator

PAYDAY AND EVENT AT THE CAPITOL (from Sue Miller)

AAUW CA is a member of the **Stronger California** Coalition, which supports legislation that would improve the economic status of low income women. You are invited, as members of AAUW CA , to take part in the rally, lunch, and legislative visits in the afternoon.

Tuesday, April 4: Rally, Lunch, Legislative Visits at the Capitol

- The rally and lunch will take place at Area 33 (a grassy area to the East of the Capitol, in pink on map here.
- We will have Stronger California signs and banners that make us visible.
- 11:30 am: Advocates and community members convene at Area 33 for Rally
- 12 pm: Rally
- 12:30pm: Lunch and legislative advocacy training
- 1:30-4pm: Legislative Visits

You can take part in any or all of the events. If you’d like to attend

RSVP to Sue Miller by Sunday morning at the latest, suellen-aauw@wavecable.com The deadline is short, as food must be ordered.

Stronger California has several bills to bring to the attention of legislators. These will be presented during the lunch hour, and be the focus of the visits to legislator offices in the afternoon.

CALENDAR:

April 4: Equal Pay Day

April 7: Deadline to sign up for Speech Trek Meeting

April 7: I House/UNA Davis Film: *Fill the Void*

April 10: Annual Business Meeting at Village Pizza, 5:30 pm-

April 15: Nationwide Tax March

<http://act.standupamerica.com/Tax-March-CA>

April 22: Speech Trek Meeting

Be as active as you wish, but stay a member. You count.



DAVIS (CA)
BRANCH

Davis Branch

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www.aauwdavis.org

PLEASE SAVE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

Officers for 2016-2017

Co-Executive Officers: Rhonda: 297-0460

Shahla: 304-2844

Estelle: 758-8603

Membership/Treasurer: Gail: 756-1207

Board Members: Parto: 750-2556

Chithra: 759-9621

Leslie: 707-217-7166

Verena: 756-0632

Laleh: 400-8633

Spokeswoman: Juliana: 758-3011