



AAUW
DAVIS

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

INSTALLATION LUNCHEON SUCCESS!

Our annual installation luncheon took place on Sunday, June 11, at 11:30. We met at SEASON'S, 102 F Street, Davis. We were given a wonderful powerpoint presentation by Funke Aderonmu and Marlene Amador from their College Leader Conference in Washington, DC. (See additional article, *Women College Leadership Conference.*)

We met the new trekkers' mothers and our new campers, Nithmi Jayasundara, Alicia Joo, Jenna Kieffer, and Isabella Yan. Gail had each girl speak about what they most looked forward to, and gave each a Tech Trek bear. Sophia Castigliani, a former Trekker who excelled in sports and academics also spoke of her wonderful experience as a camper and her plans to attend college in Portland this Fall.

Shahla welcomed everyone and Rhonda gave outgoing board members a special flower as a thank you. Estelle brought the quilt sewn and donated by Marti Abbott, and encouraged the sale of raffle tickets.

Other members attending the luncheon were Leslie, Juliana, Elaine, intern Stephany, student chapter members Annie, and Michelle and new member, Kathleen Rouse. Annie presented outgoing Seniors Michelle and Funke with special AAUW graduation robe cord with tassels. Stephany took photos which may be found on the website.

UNA LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

By Laleh

Two dual members of AAUW and Davis United Nations Association of the US (UNA) chapter, Verena Borton and Laleh Rastegarzadeh along with another member of the Davis UNA chapter, Ray Borton, traveled to Washington, DC to attend the UN Association Leadership Summit June 11-13. The focus of the meeting was to urge members of Congress to support full US funding for the UN.

On Tuesday, June 13, these Davisites joined several hundred members from UNA chapters across the nation to advocate on Capitol Hill for strong US-UN engagement.

On Wednesday, the 14th, some of the members met with Diane Feinstein. Senator Feinstein shared the sad news of the shooting at the congressional baseball practice and emphasized the importance of gun control to avoid these incidents. She also briefed the group on the main issues she is currently working on, including the health care bill, budget proposal, and Russian investigation. The Senator encouraged her constituents to be more active on issues that concern them, and to contact their representatives and bring awareness to others.

Laleh describes her trip as an inspirational experience to meet with people who pursue global issues by being locally proactive. "I learned more about the UN organization and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by world leaders in 2015." Over the next 15 years, the SDGs, also known as Global Goals, will be used to universally tackle issues such as poverty, gender inequality, health and wellbeing, peace and injustice, and climate change.

"I believe there is a great opportunity for AAUW and UNA to collaborate and raise awareness and promote actions on issues such as gender inequality, the refugee crisis, education, and health care, especially for women and children





AAUW NATIONAL CONFERENCE

AAUW National Convention AKA Estelle and Rhonda's Excellent Adventure!

Our adventure started with a “red eye” flight from Sacramento Via San Diego to Baltimore Airport, then a short AMTRAK hop to Washington DC. (Did you know that Estelle has served on a national AMTRAK citizens advisory board? Needless to say she is an ace at train travel!) When we arrived on Wednesday we had the opportunity to check in with some new faces and familiar friends we had seen other conventions, and the IBC meetings. When the program started officially, we started with a briefing on what issues we would be talking about with our congressional Representatives and Senators the next day on Capitol Hill. We focused on 2 key issues: Title IX and Student Debt.

Our Messages: Title IX: it's more than just Athletics! It's an important law that ensures equality in our educational system; protection from bullying and sexual harassment; and opportunities for both boys and girls. The current Administration is proposing to cut funding for the Office of Civil Rights which oversees enforcement of Title IX. We were urging our Congressional delegations to vote against any cuts to the Office of Civil Rights for that reason.

We were also lobbying on the issue of student debt. While women now represent 57% of the bachelor's degrees from American colleges and universities, because of the gender based Pay Gap it takes women years longer than a man to pay off the

same amount of debt. Student debt is an even greater problem for students who do not complete a degree. This is clearly an issue of equity for women.

BUT – Before we hit the hill, the Opening Speaker at the Wednesday evening dinner was Judy Woodruff, Co-anchor and Managing Editor. What a treat! She had amazing stories to tell. As to what will happen on the political news front these days: It's anyone's guess, but hold on to your hat, 'cus we're in for interesting times like we've never seen before.

Thursday: We had an invigorating day on the hill. You can see photos from those experiences on our Facebook page and I encourage you to do so. We had a brief glimpse of Dianne Feinstein from the Atrium of the Senate office building, and met with her staff, and staff from Kamala Harris, as a large California contingent.

Estelle and I were joined by Alicia Hetman in our chat with Rep. Garamendi's staff. He was called to a vote as we arrived, but we did get to meet with him shortly before we left (photo Proof!) Thursday dinner was on our own so we had empanadas and other Cuban delicacies at "Cuba Libre", a restaurant just up the street.

Friday's Plenary featured 2 pollsters Linda DiVail (republican) and Celinda Lake (Democrat), interviewed by Anne Hedgepeth (Interim VP for Public Policy). The discussion was eye-opening, and enlightening, and good to hear the pollsters talk frankly about the present lack of confidence in polling results since the election. After lunch was a Town Hall session where our new COE Kimberly Churches was introduced. See more about her at: <http://www.aauw.org/article/introducing-kimberly-churches/> . Also discussed at the Town Hall was the future of national conventions. A survey of past attendees had been done. An interesting fact was that all attendees felt Convention registration was very expensive. However, they provided figures that showed registration fees cover less than half of the expense of putting on the convention. No decision was made on how to address this at this time, but it was decided that the next national convention would be held in 2020, to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment addressing Women's Suffrage. This is a year later than the normal rotation which would have scheduled the next national convention for 2019.

Workshops and sharing sessions to help with Branch programs and organization, were interspersed through the convention days.

The **BANQUET** Friday night offered an unbelievably memorable opportunity to meet Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, who was honored with the 2017 AAUW Achievement Award. She enchanted the audience while answering pointed questions from our new chief executive officer Kim Churches. Additionally, Tereria Trent, Ph.D. was awarded the 2017 AAUW Alumnae Recognition Award Trent was a 2001-2 AAUW International Fellow from Zimbabwe and is now a scholar, humanitarian, and educator. Her story of how she acquired an education, in spite of it being "impossible" for a girl is captured in her children's book: *The Girl Who Buried Her Dreams in a Can*.

National Convention is also the time for elections to the Board of AAUW, for votes on bylaws changes and Public Policy platform. Did you vote? Patricia Fae Ho, of Hawaii, completed her term as President and Julia Brown was elected as her replacement. The new Board of Directors can be found here:

<http://www.aauw.org/who-we-are/leadership-and-staff/board-of-directors/> . The

proposals to drop the degree requirement for membership and to create an associate (non-voting) member category with no degree requirement both did not pass.

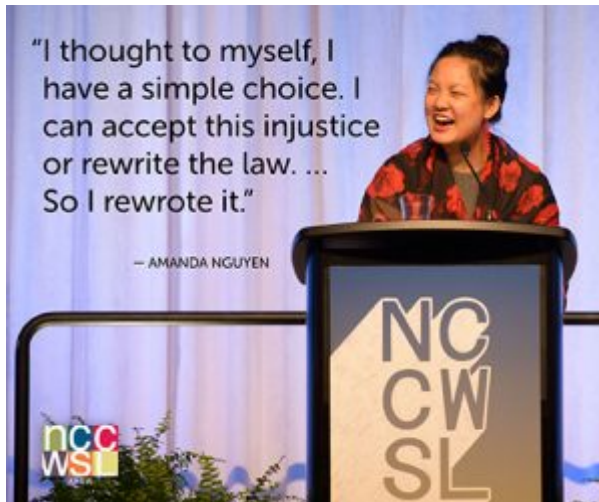
Watch for the results on line or in the next issue of Outlook.

The trip to Convention was awesome! Estelle is a great travel partner and I encourage all to consider the opportunity to attend a state or National Convention to get a much clearer idea about how strong we are as the group. I was also encouraged by the increase in younger members and college students and a diversity of women and men helping move our mission forward. Here's to a bright future!

WOMEN COLLEGE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) unites college women from across the country to address important leadership issues of the day. Two of our students attended and spent an extra day touring. They heard inspiring speakers, have people to network with, and had a taste of the many places to see in Washington, DC. like the Lincoln Memorial, Whitehouse, and Smithsonian. Speaker info follows:

The Women Who Defy Expectations, and Other Lessons from the Women of Distinction



Not everyone can say they knew in college exactly what their dream job was. [Danielle Feinberg](#) knew as soon as she saw the “magic” of Pixar’s animated short films. “The idea that STEM could create worlds and characters that I loved felt transformational to me.” Today, she’s the director of photography and lighting at Pixar, where she helped produce films such as *Brave* and *Finding Nemo*.

Feinberg took the stage with three other awardees, Amanda Nguyen, Rosie Rios, and Crystal Valentine, for the 2017 Women of Distinction Awards at the [National Conference for College Women Student Leaders \(NCCWSL\)](#). Each of the four women shared personal stories and advice to a room of nearly 1,000 student leaders.

Feinberg's eighth grade class in lawnmower construction taught her a lesson in self-confidence and embracing her differences. "Doing the thing that made me different had great rewards," she told the audience. It's a hard lesson to learn, either as an eighth grade girl in an all-boys class or as a college student facing a field like [computing](#) that is dominated by white men. Today, Feinberg continues to pass on the lesson during her regular teaching gig at AAUW of California [Tech Trek](#) summer camps for middle school girls.



World-ranked slam poet [Crystal Valentine](#) remembers facing skepticism when she told her high school guidance counselor she wanted to go to New York University for poetry. A passionate and hardworking student, she ignored the counselor's advice and made her dream happen anyway. "People are gonna say no all the time. But once you start saying no to yourself is when they win," she said. People have told Valentine that they find her performances powerful, wonderful, and "a little bit scary." She half-joked that women who defy oppression and expectations *should* be scary. "You are brilliant and terrifying in your brilliance," she told the audience.

Sometimes, events centered on advice for young people seem condescending, lauding the audience's "future" selves rather than focusing on where they are right now. All of the 2017 Women of Distinction, however, addressed the crowd of college women as powerful agents in the present.



"I'm betting on millennials and postmillennials to change — structurally change — what our future looks like," said [Rosie Rios](#), who was the 43rd treasurer of the United States and recently founded a women's history nonprofit. She cited women's underrepresentation in Congress (just 20 percent) and on [S&P 500 corporate boards](#) (also 20 percent). Diversity of thought, she urged, is [crucial to progress](#), and it's a gift that the rising generation seems to embrace effortlessly. "You don't think about race and gender and orientation the same way that my generation thinks about it; you think about people for people," said Rios. She urged the attendees to remember that talent and continue "seeing people" throughout their lives.

[Amanda Nguyen](#) reinforced the power of people — particularly students — "to change our country and to change the world around us." She reminded the audience that her organization, Rise, started with an email to a group of college students. That email brought together a community of coders, artists, lawyers, and activists determined to improve civil rights laws for sexual assault survivors. "I thought to myself, I have a simple choice," she said, after she was sexually assaulted in college and faced a traumatic reporting process. "I can accept this injustice or rewrite the law. So I rewrote it."



The organization she founded, [Rise](#), has helped pass no fewer than nine sexual assault survivors' bill of rights laws in seven months.

Nguyen is a rape survivor, but she emphasized that there are many other parts of her identity, including aspiring astronaut. "You can absolutely do whatever it is you want to do," she told the NCCWSL attendees. "I want to write civil rights laws, and I want to go to space after I'm done."

The 2017 Women of Distinction ended the night by meeting NCCWSL attendees at a reception. And the awardees weren't the only inspiring speakers the student leaders were hearing from at NCCWSL. Scholar and thought leader [Melissa Harris-Perry](#), Ph.D., and body-positivity advocate [Jessamyn Stanley](#) were also on the agenda.

Both Funke and Marlene were thankful and proud to have represented us at the conference. They felt it was a very beneficial experience.

CELEBRATE THE 19TH

By Celida

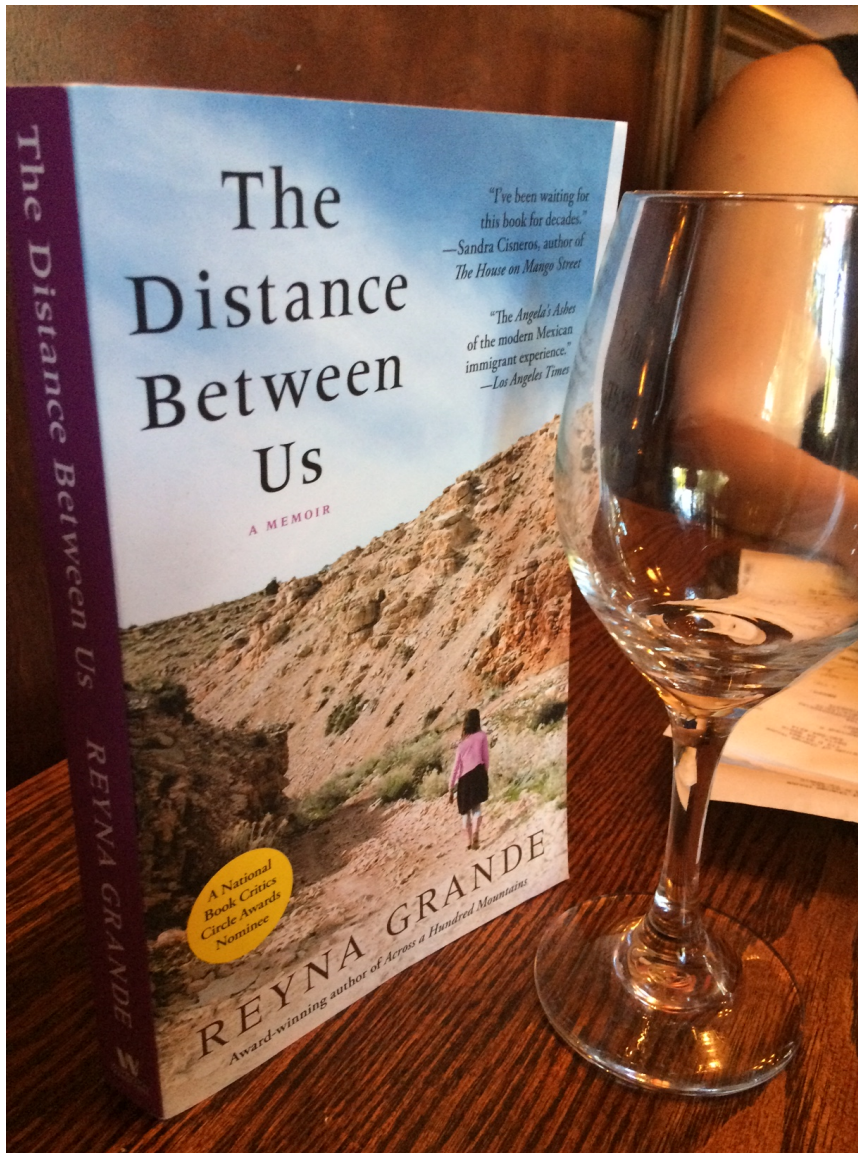
In celebration of the 19th, a small group of AAUW members, including Juliana, Gail, Leslie, Rhonda, Shahla, Laleh, and Celida met at Winds of Change restaurant on D Street in downtown Davis on Tuesday, June 20th. Over some delicious appetizers and refreshments, Rhonda talked about her trip to the AAUW National Convention in Washington, DC. Everyone was thrilled to hear about her introduction to Supreme Court Justice Sonya Sotomayor and the experience of listening to such an inspiring woman speak. Laleh shared about her trip to DC as well, and of her experience hearing Senator Diane Feinstein speak.

The group also discussed Celida's ideas for a summer reading interest group and talked about several possible books. The group agreed that the first book to be read will be *The Distance Between Us* by author Reyna Grande. According to the L.A. Times, this is "a book that deserves to be celebrated for its candor and for the courage of the woman who overcame so many obstacles to write it." Any interested members, and their friends, are invited to the first meeting on Tuesday, July 18, at 7 pm at Rhonda's home where the book will be discussed.

Following this first book, the group will read *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood and *The Last Days of Café Leila* by Donia Bijan. To learn more about the new AAUW reading interest group, please contact either Rhonda Reed at salmonlady@sbcglobal.net or Celida Johnson at cgjohnson@ucdavis.edu.

NEW INTEREST GROUP FORMED

At the Celebrate the 19th gathering on June 20 at the Winds of Change Restaurant, Celida Johnson (new board member), suggested we get together to discuss a book along with our Celebrate get-together. The book chosen this month is *The Distance Between Us*, a memoir, by Reyna Grande.



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR YOUR GENEROSITY for the renewals. If you have questions, email or call Gail. Gejohnson08@comcast.net or 756-1207.

NEW MEMBER

Welcome to our new member, Kathleen Rouse.

Rouse.kathleen@gmail.com. Estelle recruited her. She and Rhonda have grown our membership by train ridership and friendliness. Thanks to both of you.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Barbara Bower who has retired from UCDavis after almost 19 years. She made her exit to this new phase of her life with co-workers, family and friends at a celebration hosted by her co-workers. Here she is, posing with her daughter, Erica. Best wishes, Barbara, from your AAUW friends.



CONDOLENCES

Our sympathies go out to Ramona Swenson, whose father just passed away.

SURVEY REPORT

This will be sent separately later.

CALENDAR:

July 18- Celebrate the 19th at Rhonda's , 320 I St. 5:30-7:00pm

July 18- Book Reading Interest Group at Rhonda's at 7:00 pm

July 23-29: Tech Trek camp at UCD

July 23- Tech Trek registration ***Volunteer 1:45-5:30**

July 25- Tech Trek Budget simulation ***Volunteer 6:00-9:00 pm**

July 27- Tech Trek Visitor Day 9:00am-noon. *You may join the Trekkers for lunch if you self-pay

*RSVP to Leslie lesliefayrubin@gmail.com

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



DAVIS (CA)
BRANCH

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PLEASE SAVE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

Officers for 2017-2018

Co-Executive Officers: Rhonda: 297-0460

Shahla: 304-2844

Estelle: 758-8603

Membership/Treasurer: Gail: 756-1207

Board Members: Ramona: 297-5673

Celida: 707-540-4663

Leslie: 707-217-7166

Verena: 756-0632

Laleh: 400-8633

Spokeswoman: Juliana: 758-3011