

THE SPOKESWOMAN

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STEM PANEL SUCCESS



What a wonderful night! 49 girls were actively engaged in listening to and asking questions of each woman professional. Lisa and Alfreda from Explorit!, Leslie from AAUW, and Tyler Millsap, principal of Da Vinci worked long hours in preparing for this event held at the Da Vinci campus. Most attendees preregistered, which gave us an accurate way to arrange seating, groups, and time spent for each activity. After registering, Jenna Kieffer, a former Tech Trekker, Verena Borton, and Juliana Wells checked the girls in, wrote nametags, and directed each girl to a group. Leslie moderated the welcome, explained the procedure, and informed parents of their part in the program.

The girls sat in a circle in each group, while parents stood in the back of the multi-purpose room. After all the speakers introduced themselves and spoke of her accomplishments, each went to one group and encouraged questions or comments from the students. During the “speed dating” mode consisting of a speaker moving to a new group (there were six) every ten minutes, the 43 parents retired to another room on campus.

There, they got a little more background on the evening's sponsors. Rhonda Reed presented AAUW- our mission and actions that we are engaged on at a national, state, and local level. She also gave a pitch for Tech Trek and explained how the Women in STEM event that evening was actually an outgrowth from Tech Trek's Professional Women's Evening.

Tyler Millsap, Principal, gave a presentation on the Da Vinci Academy program, and especially some new coursework they are developing in Coding and Computing. Interestingly, he cited that the Coding course they are now offering has 44 students, only 4 of which are girls. There is similar representation in their engineering offerings, so he was very supportive of what we were trying to accomplish this evening.



Ramona Swenson, a long-time Explorit! supporter, stepped in and presented the Explorit! slides for the parents. Most of the parents indicated that they had taken their kids to Explorit! when they were younger. She really connected with the parents of those young teenagers, however, when she asked how many had taken their kids there recently. Few had, which gave Ramona the opening to point out the great volunteer opportunities Explorit! offers for teens. She then shifted the focus to an open Q&A and sharing session among the parents, with the sponsor representatives as a resource.

Tanya was in the audience because she had brought her daughter (and 2017 Tech trekker), Isabella. After a disclaimer that she was not a plant, she very generously shared that Tech trek had made a huge difference for her daughter, especially the experience of being around a group of girls who really shared her interest in science.]

We had a wonderful surprise when ABC 10 arrived to cover the event. The film played that night at 11 pm plus segments on the Thursday morning show. This is the link: <http://www.abc10.com/mobile/video/news/davis-event-brings-together-young-girls-and-women-in-stem-fields/103-2900317>.

The professional women speakers were: Allison Goodman, principal engineer at INTEL; Paulina Zielinska, DVM, MPVM, MPH, Director of the Office for Global Programs UCD School of Veterinary Medicine; Alfreda Wei, Ph.D. Education Specialist, Explorit! Science Center; Cecilia von Beroldingen, Ph.D. Laboratory Director, CA Department of Justice DNA Lab; Dalia Ghanem, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Agriculture and Resource Economics, UCD; Nkechinyere Chidi-Ogbolu, Biomedical Engineering Ph.D. student, UCD.

Students (mostly 7th-9th graders) were from Da Vinci Charter Academy, Montgomery, Birch Lane, Chavez, Korematsu, Patwin, Harper, Emerson, Montessori, North Davis, Pioneer High School, Holmes, Willett, Davis Sr. High, Science and Technology Academy, and Sagan Academy.

Former Tech Trekkers Isabella, Jenna, and Tate mingled and were a positive presence. For their participation we are also grateful to Estelle, Kathleen Rause, Melissa Kieffer, Shahla Farahnek, Tanya Noda, Gail Johnson, Stephany Arroyo, Marlene Amador, and Barbara Bingley, ABC10 reporter.





Women's History Month

The annual luncheon will be held on Thursday, March 8, at the Woodland Community and Senior Center on [2001 East Street](#) from 11-1. The cost is \$25. Make the check to Women's History Month and send it to Women's History Month, PO Box 711, Woodland CA 95776.

The speaker this year is AAUW Davis member, Martha West, Professor of Law Emerita, UCD School of Law. Her topic is "Nevertheless she persisted: Honoring Women Who Fight All Forms of Discrimination Against Women".

You may also reserve online by visiting the website.

Women's March

In Hawaii, on Molokai, ten of Juliana's tour group joined 80 locals for their march.

Although organizing a group was discussed, no one took the lead due to busy schedules. AAUW branches from the Sacramento region marched, but the Davis branch did not participate with the group. Several of our Davis members attended on their own however. Marlene attended with the most organized group of three students including Tara, who attended the Plates luncheon. Students had much fun attending this year, marching with supporters for causes we are also

passionate about. Pictured are: Alianna Sanchez, Marlene Amador, and Tara Alsaidi.



Shahla attended the march. I heard that Laleh and Verena had planned to attend and were going to listen to speeches at the end of the march.

While touring the City of Mt. Shasta, Estelle's family of 10 (including in-laws, nieces, nephews, and spouses) spontaneously joined the tail end of a spirited Women's March attended by about 400 women, men, and children. My favorite sign in the march said, "What Oprah Said".

Celebrate the 19th

We will meet at Crepeville restaurant in downtown Davis at 5:30pm. After and during dinner, the book, "Lilac Girls" will finally be discussed and a new book chosen.

PLATES Luncheon



a second year grad student at UCD pursuing a Master's degree in Viticulture and Enology. For more info about her, please contact Juliana or Estelle.

At the silent auction, we raised a total of \$770 with our offering of a weekend at the Cardey house at Sea Ranch donated by Char and Juliana, a hand-woven scarf made of bamboo made and donated by Verena, and a set of Fostoria goblets donated by Marty West.

The AAUW Funds Luncheon on January 27 was very well attended. We had 5 students from the campus chapter: Tara Saldi, Jennifer Figliozi, Monica Vazquez, Stephany Arroyo, and Marlene Amador. Speaker Zawadi Ahidiana, doctoral candidate at UCB, was unable to present. Kara Leong, UCD student doing genetic research on grapes, gave an enthusiastic talk, was well received and explained her subject matter well. The Nevada County and Auburn branches were Kara's local area sponsors of her Career Development Grant. She's



Student's View of the Plates Luncheon –

This year five students attended the Plates Luncheon thanks to our Davis Branch sponsors. New students to AAUW were Jennifer Figliozi, Tara Alsaidi, and Monica Vazquez. Stephany and Marlene also attended. Estelle and Sharon Furtak did an excellent job briefly introducing AAUW to the students. The food was delicious, including Tara and Jennifer's shared vegan dish. We were inspired on many levels by the AAUW Graduate Scholarship Recipient Kara Leong as she shared her life story leading to her current research at UC Davis's Viticulture and Enology Department. Meeting many people from the greater Sacramento area, we were also inspired by the generational work that had been done before us, and we were filled with enthusiasm to continue to carry the mission forward by committing to restart the student organization together. We are thankful for the support and opportunities that come

with the mentorship of the AAUW Davis branch. Through this event, we are grateful to have the soon chance for the AAUW Davis Branch and students to take a tour at the Robert Mondavi Institute for Wine and Food Science in collaboration with Kara Leong, allowing for more learning and growth together. Therefore, stay tuned! In conclusion, we are thankful to have attended the Plate's luncheon this year, restart our student organization and we thank our sponsors!

Baby Shower for Leslie

You are invited to a baby shower for Leslie Rubin to be held at Estelle's home. Leslie's due date is April 3. She has requested gift cards from Target and Nugget, and has registered at Amazon under Leslie and Eugene Rubin. <https://www.amazon.com/baby-reg/18SALI5YXFT73>. The baby shower will be Sunday, March 11 (time TBD).

Book Club

The group will meet on February 19th at Crepeville at 5:30 pm to finally discuss *Lilac Girls* by Martha Hall Kelly and to celebrate the 19th (amendment). We encourage members to join the book discussion and the celebration.

For more information about the book club or suggestions for future book selections, please contact Celida Johnson via email at cgjohnson@ucdavis.edu.



World Day of Social Justice

From the AAUW CA website, this announcement was made. The World Day of Social Justice is a day recognizing the need to promote efforts to tackle issues such as poverty, exclusion, and unemployment. The UN General Assembly decided to observe February 20 annually starting in 2009. Observance of this Day should support efforts of the international community in poverty eradication, the promotion of full employment and decent work, *gender equity*, and access to social well-being and justice for all.

For more details, visit the AAUW CA website.

I House International Films

The next film presented will be on February 16. It is called *Even the Rain*. This is 103 minutes and is about a crew trying to make a film about Christopher Columbus and how he treated the native populations in the lands he discovered. See the calendar update sent out February 2 for a detailed description.

Juliana attended the Hildegard von Bingen film on February 3. Verena had the refreshment table well set up. The place was packed with “regulars” (those who brought pillows to be more comfortable sitting). Before the film, Verena made a few announcements. The Peace Roses have been trimmed. There will be a Northern CA UN division meeting in Sunnyvale on Feb. 10. The Davis chapter did very well raising money for various programs. There is an opportunity to participate at the actual UN in NY this summer. She has arranged that the Enterprise will print each of the 31 Human Rights amendments with commentary over the year.

California AAUW Convention

The convention will be held from April 27-9. The registering and info link is:
<http://www.aauw-ca.org/register-aauw-california-convention-2018/>
Early registration is by March 8. Regular is March 9-April 13, and late is after April 13.

February Board Meeting

The meeting will be on February 20th. The meeting will be held at Estelle’s home at 6:30 pm. Any member is welcome. Please save the date.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars!

Feb. 10: UN meeting in Sunnyvale
Feb. 16: Film at I House- *Even the Rain* 8:00 pm
Feb. 19: Celebrate the 19th at Crepes at 5:30 & book club
Feb. 20: Board meeting time and place TBD
Feb. 20: World Day of Social Justice
By March 8: Early registration for CA Convention
March 8: Women’s History Month 11-1 in Woodland
March 11 or 18: Baby shower for Leslie TBD
April 27-9: CA State Convention

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

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)



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PLEASE SAVE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

Officers for 2017-2018

Co-Executive Officers:

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Membership/Treasurer:

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