

THE SPOKESWOMAN

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Holiday Gathering

On December 8, members gathered at Estelle's home to hear our speaker, Delaine Eastin. It was a successful evening. Estelle had invited several neighbors, Trish and Jim, Catherine, and co-workers Mary and Kathleen. Prior to Delaine's talk, the 26 guests ate well with potluck offerings.



(L to R: Marlene Amador, Delaine Eastin, and Sahiba Kaur)

We were introduced to UCD Student Organization members President Sahiba Kaur, VP Marlene Amador, and Intern Denise Garcia. We were able to offer condolences personally to Nan on the loss of husband, John. Interesting conversations abounded with Gail, Leslie (and Margo), Barbara (Bower), Elaine, Shahla, Marti, Rose Mary, Laleh, Nan, Ramona, Rhonda and Ken, Estelle and Rich, Verena and Ray, and Juliana. We were an appreciative audience for Delaine's remarks.

Estelle encouraged us to attend the IBC luncheon on Saturday, January 26th at Plates Cafe in Sacramento. The presenters are AAUW Fund Community Action Grant recipient, Kaitlin Murray, and Career Development Grant recipient, Andrea Morgan. Reservations should be made by January 18th. (See the form with this newsletter).

Delaine Eastin was the first and only woman State Superintendent of Schools in California (1995-2003). She was a member of the State Assembly, an AAUW member for 30 years and Davis branch member for two years. She was a graduate of UC Davis and was on the Union City Council in 1980, active in politics and education for quite some time!

Within her talk, Delaine shared several memorable lines for further contemplation: The problem with common sense is that it isn't common; Research shows that if one group has 30% women, the conversation changes. Budgets are statements of Values (consider money for prisons versus education).

She pointed out that this past election has seen more women taking part in government and getting elected. But we are still invisible and are not truly being heard. When women are underpaid, (\$.79 to \$1), the family suffers.

Historically, in 1776, Abigail Adams warned the men to remember the ladies in their code of laws and to not give men unlimited power or women would rebel. Shirley Chisholm spoke for the need to have women's idealism in politics.

Always considering the real importance of education, Eastin had several suggestions for funding the First Five program and making college more affordable. Money could be garnered by using the cigarette tax also on cigars, snuff, and chewing tobacco in hopes of discouraging its use and helping with health costs. Other changes could be rethinking Prop 13 regarding big business being assessed minimally and not reassessed more often than homes. Oil companies can be taxed more.

She concluded with "Education is one of the most important investments we could make." She backed up her observations with facts and figures.

After her talk, she responded to a question regarding her opinion on third parties (e.g., Green party, Libertarian). Delaine answered, "Third parties are like bees. They sting, then die." Gail thanked Delaine for her work to lower class sizes. The reduction in class size directly made Gail's last years of teaching a joyful experience.

Thank you, Estelle and Rich, for your hospitality, and to everyone else who brought food and drink and gave gift cards or diapers for the Yolo Crisis Nursery. Thank you, Delaine, for your insights and thought-provoking talk.

Human Rights Amendment Celebration

Verena organized the readings for the 70 year celebration of the Human Rights Amendment. It was impressive once again, especially as reminders during these present times. Marlene, Ryan, and Juliana read and Laleh attended.

Book Club

We met at Mishka's at 9 a.m. on the 29th and discussed *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas. We were eight: Marti, Terry, Gail, Estelle, Celida, Juliana, Rhonda, and Trish. All agreed the book was important, but was certainly not escape reading. It was very sobering. The characters were well-mixed and portrayed socially and behaviorally. Although it is considered a Young Adult (YA) book, the group agreed

that the topic is ideal for at least High School readers and that many adults could benefit from reading this New York Times bestseller.

Talking about the book led us to a discussion of violence and bias, in general.

No one in the group saw the movie or felt it necessary to watch it since author Angie Thomas wrote the thought provoking story beautifully. It was suggested that it might be difficult to cover all important details of the story as carefully as was done in the book.

The next book selection is *Becoming* by Michelle Obama. It will be discussed on Saturday, February 9, at 9a.m. at Mishka's Cafe. The book group is open and hoping to welcome more readers at our gatherings. For more information about the group, please email cgjohnson@ucdavis.edu.

Renaming North Davis Elementary

There have been several letters and speakers pro and con regarding the renaming of North Davis Elementary after Dr. Mary Ellen Dolcini. We thank Estelle and Janice Bridge for their letters of clarification regarding AAUW's role in this. The School Board will form a committee to consider this issue for a future meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS

STEM Panel

On January 29, starting at 6:15 p.m., Leslie and volunteers will start welcoming girls from grades 5 - 12 to hear six woman professionals in STEM fields. The panel will discuss their present careers and the experiences leading to their success.

After the panelists speak to parents and students, the adults will assemble in another room to hear short presentations from DaVinci Charter Academy, ExplorIt, and AAUW, the panel sponsors. The girls, meanwhile will meet in small groups each with a panelist who will answer their questions personally.

We need volunteers to help register and direct the parents and girls at 6:15 p.m., and again at 7:30 p.m. to help serve hot chocolate and cookies to all.

Please email Leslie at leslifayrubin@gmail.com to volunteer.

IBC PLATES Luncheon

On January 26 from 11 - 2 p.m., you can enjoy a luncheon at Plates Cafe in Sacramento followed by a presentation by two AAUW Fellow recipients. Reservations are due by the 18th. Please see the flyer.

Calendar

- January 10: Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the library conference room
- January 18: Film at I House at 8 p.m. *Kleine Ziege, Sturer Bock* (98 mins.)
- January 19: Sacramento Women's March, 10 am to 3 pm
- January 18: Reservation for Plates luncheon due
- January 26: IBC Plates luncheon, 11 am to 2 pm
- January 29: STEM Panel at DaVinci Charter Academy, 6:15 pm
- February 9: Book Club discussion at Mishka's at 9 a.m.

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

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PLEASE SAVE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

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