



THE SPOKESWOMAN

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IBC Plates Luncheon

The restaurant was busy with much socializing before the program began. People went to the silent auction tables and placed bids on the varied items. At the end of the day Verena's woven scarf was won for \$50 and the Sea Ranch two night stay for \$550.

When all finally took seats, we heard Charmen Goehring speak about the State April 6th meeting in San Diego. Sue Miller spoke of Public Policy priorities. State AAUW will endorse a bill that corporations of 100 or more people need to report salary data. This will help make public pay inequities. Equal Pay Day is April 2. We are working on a Capitol event for April 1 which will include lunch with our lobbyist and some legislative leaders. De Vos has introduced legislation to remove protections for accusers of sexual assault at all educational levels. On the AAUW web site a sample letter is provided because this is an assault of the protections of Title IX.

The Alicia Hetman Grant has been completed and Alicia thanked everyone. Sahiba Kaur, president of the UC Davis AAUW student organization spoke about the students' plans on how to follow the AAUW mission.

As is usual, one of the Plates servers, Felicia, spoke about her past and the help and hope she gained from St. John's Women's Shelter and working at this restaurant.

After eating, Estelle Shiroma introduced Andrea Morgan, who spoke on air quality and its effect on health, especially of people in poverty stricken areas. Estelle also explained the process of selecting today's speakers. She looked at the website for a general idea of which fellows lived and schooled near Yolo and Sacramento Counties. Estelle and Marti Abbott went to the Fellows luncheon in Danville. They chose two women and gave the names and IBC luncheon dates to the Regional Director. Since we are several branches together, we are eligible for two speakers. Otherwise one branch gets one speaker every other year.

Andrea Morgan graduated from Northwestern, worked several different jobs, and then got an MA in Environmental Engineering from UC Berkeley studying air quality. She explained that many areas of poverty have "bad" air. The fine particles get into blood streams and cause heart attacks and are also found in the placenta. She loved the problem solving aspect of overriding political influences on

regulations. She is involved in environmental injustice. She explained how the AAUW grant helped, and then thanked us.

Kait Murray earned a Masters in Ohio, and is working on a Ph.D. at UC Davis. She is an educator and researcher of community leadership. She is on the staff of Student Affairs and also does counseling. Kait studied Animal Science and Ag Ed and Leadership, and got involved with a program that gives underrepresented girls a two-week session in the mountains backpacking and doing research with a science mentor. The group is called GOALS (Girls Outdoor Adventures in Leadership and Science). The AAUW Community Action Grant made it possible to see the watershed moments of “I can do it!”

Both speakers tried many jobs and several different educational directions. They both expressed the importance of a support system along with activities that build self-confidence.

Opinion from Juliana: These luncheons have been very inspiring and rewarding as I see and hear young women caring, excited, empowered, thankful, and doing well.

Stem Panel Evening

Hours of work and good communication by many made the STEM Panel Presentation another success. Leslie Rubin worked with DaVinci principal, Tyler Millsap, Explorit’s Alfreda and Sheila Allen, and science teacher, Nathan Kwan. Volunteers Nan Yates, Marlene Amador, Verena Borton, Estelle Shiroma, Gail Johnson, and Juliana Wells worked on registration and refreshments. Davis Media Access sent a crew to film the event. Ramona Swenson, Rhonda Reed, and Parto Aram presented information on AAUW and Inspire-tech to parents. Davis Media Access sent a crew to film and interview.

The following is a copy of Ramona’s write-up in the Davis Enterprise.

Girls inspired by STEM careers January 29, 2019

“Nearly 50 students and their parents attended “An Evening Celebrating Women in STEM” on Tuesday evening [January 29, 2019] at Da Vinci Charter Academy. This event was sponsored by the Davis Branch of American Association of University Women (AAUW), Explorit Science Center, and Da Vinci Charter Academy.

Research by AAUW has found that women are vastly underrepresented in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) majors and fields compared with their male peers. Middle school is a critical time when girls tend to stray from studying math and science. But those numbers can change when girls realize their potential in STEM at an early age.

The panel of six women shared their stories about their career journeys in STEM.

- “My dad said ‘I’ll pay for your first year of college if you major in engineering,’” recalls Allison Goodman, a Principal Engineer at Intel. She was hooked. “Now

I tell electrons where to go,” as a Principal Engineer at Intel, where she designs devices to store data.

- Paulina Crook, UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, was passionate about her career as a veterinarian working globally. “I want to help the animals that people need, all around the world.”
- “Knowledge is power,” said Holly Craig, electrical engineer, owner and CEO of Stratonics. “Start figuring out what you're good at now, so you're not flipping a coin later when it comes to choosing your career.”
- Laura Barger was a navigator in the US Air Force for 20 years, before switching careers. Now she is a “sleep scientist” at Harvard. Professor Barger studies how the 24.6 hour day on Mars affects circadian rhythm and sleep for astronauts who would go to Mars.
- Cecilia von Beroldingen, a forensic scientist at the California Department of Justice DNA Lab, used DNA science to solve crimes.
- Sometimes a simple affirmation can set a career course. Irena Asmundsen, the State Economist, credits her professor who said “You seem to be good in math. Why don't you try economics?”

A breakout session followed, where the girls had a chance to meet and ask questions as speakers rotated among small groups. Several sixth-graders from North Davis Elementary expressed enthusiasm about the event.

- “It was inspiring to be around women who make a change,” said Erin McAllister.
- “I liked being around these scientists and getting to talk to them about their lives,” said Charis Gibson.
- Meghan Deas liked knowing “what they specifically do in their job and how it helps in everyday life.”
- “I liked the vet and I want to try that job,” said Aletheia Gibson. “You don't always have to be a vet for pets. You can go around the world and help different kinds of animals.”
- Zoe Wang was pleased “to meet girls who have jobs that are usually for men.”

While their children were peppering the speakers with questions, parents and event sponsors held a separate discussion about engaging girls in STEM learning and careers.

- Girls can be inspired by role models. “AAUW sponsors TechTrek, a summer STEM camp designed for middle-school girls and taught by women in STEM,” said Ramona Swenson, a board member of the AAUW Davis Branch. “This evening's panel is modeled on the TechTrek career night,” said AAUW Branch board member Rhonda Reed, “which the campers consistently rate as their favorite event.”
- Hands-on experience is especially effective. “Explorit Science Center provides many classes for younger kids,” said Sheila Allen, Explorit Board President and AAUW member, “and volunteer opportunities for older students.”

- Da Vinci Charter Academy provides that experience through project-based learning, Vice Principal Annie Nelson pointed out. Jenna Sheppard, a Da Vinci junior, gave a lesson in the chemistry of soap-making while her teacher passed around the colorful soaps her class made.
- Parto Aram, founder of Inspire-Tech and AAUW member, said girls in her STEAM workshops were most excited when they could share the experience with friends, design products that help people, and use robots in creative and artistic ways (the “A” in STEAM).
- It’s important to remove institutional barriers as well as increase opportunities in education, careers, and leadership. “AAUW works to protect laws such as Title IX, which ensure equal opportunities in schools and colleges,” said Rhonda Reed.

The evening closed with cocoa and cookies, as students, parents, speakers and educators mingled.

“We received really positive feedback from members of the Davis Board of Education and DJUSD,” said AAUW member Leslie Rubin, who has spearheaded this event the last two years. Look for another Women in STEM panel in 2020 with new speakers to inspire young people!

To learn more about our sponsors, look on the web for AAUW Davis Branch, Explorit Science Center, Da Vinci Charter Academy, and Inspire-Tech.”

UCD AAUW Student Organization



Left to right:
 Marlene Amador, Mia Santos, Monica Vázquez, Makenna Stever, Sahiba Kaur, Billie V. (From Sacramento State) and Esmeralda Salcedo (Tech Trek Alumni from Oakdale, California) and Annie Chen

The students were well represented at the Plates luncheon. Sahiba Kaur, President, spoke to the gathering about how the students are involved with AAUW goals.

Students will stand with AAUW in opposing the DeVos proposed weakening of Title IX. They will notify faculty and encourage other students to work to disavow those changes.

On February 7, they will have a social recruitment event at the Student Community Center. They are co-sponsoring with the UCD WRRC (Women's Research and Resource Center) a special talk by Marty West. She will speak to the topic: *Nevertheless She Persisted: What We Can Learn from a Personal Perspective on Forty Years of Women's history*. This will be on February 12 at 6:30 in the MPR at the SCC on campus and is open to the public.

The student organization will also focus on Equal Pay Day later, and are planning on how to have its continuation past the current board's graduation.

Nominations for Board Members

The AAUW Davis Board is taking nominations for new board members. You can find answers to these kinds of questions:

What activities should we continue or sponsor?

What is it like to be at a board meeting of an organization you believe in?

How do we decide what to sponsor or share?

How can we get more participation?

Board meetings are once a month. Responsibilities are shared. Consider joining the board or participating in an activity or volunteering to help or donating.

Films at IHouse

The films are free and are sponsored by I House and UNA of Davis. They take place on the first and third Fridays at I House. Refreshments are at 7:30pm and film starts at 8:00. Donations are accepted.

Feb. 15- *The Midwife*, 2017 France, 117 min. The plot surrounds a caring midwife whose hospital is modernizing. Will she still have a job, and will patients get caring help?

March 1- *The Insult*, 2017 Lebanon and more, 113 min. In Beirut, an insult is blown out of proportion and becomes a major court case.

Women's March

Shahla, Estelle, and Ramona joined the 10,000 women, children, and men who participated in the third Sacramento Women's March on January 19th. The march started at Southside Park with supporters all along the route. Although the crowd was smaller than expected, the enthusiasm of the marchers was undaunted. They carried signs with messages



on many issues -- protecting women's reproductive rights, dissatisfaction with the current leadership, immigration, and climate change -- and broke into chants of "the people, united, will never be divided." At the Capitol steps where the march ended, Shahla and Estelle met up with Laleh and her mother who had come to hear the speeches. Angelique Ashby, the only woman on the Sacramento City Council, spoke about the recent women's wave in Congress, State Assembly, and local government. She emphasized the diversity of the newly elected women and encouraged women to participate in politics. Other women from various community organizations also spoke with the unifying message that we need to work together to effect change.

Book Club

Members are invited to meet at Mishka's Cafe on Saturday, February 9, at 9 a.m. to discuss *Becoming* by Michelle Obama. Following the discussion, we will choose the next selection. Conversations are always friendly and insightful.

Calendar



- Feb 7, Thursday- Students hold a social recruitment event
- Feb 9, Saturday- Book Club at Mishka's at 9:00am
- Feb 12, Tuesday- Marty West speaks on campus- 6:30 pm
- Feb 13, Wednesday- 6:30-8:00pm- Board Meeting- Library small conference room- all welcome
- Feb 15, Friday- UNA/I House film- The Midwife
- March 1, Friday- UNA/I House film- The Insult
- March 14, Thursday- Board Meeting- 6:30-8:30 pm- Library small conference room-all welcome

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:

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

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Spokeswoman

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