

## THE SPOKESWOMAN

### February 2020    Volume 56 #2

#### REPORTS:

##### January 4- Book Club

The Book Club group met at 9 am and talked about many subjects. We decided that Toni Morrison's book, "Beloved" was important and interesting enough to try to discuss again. That was February 1 at 9:99 am at the Three Ladies Café. In January, we were 5: Shahla, Estelle, Trish, Karen Lemcke, and Juliana. We decided that whoever suggests a book will lead the group in discussion. The book scheduled for March 7 at 9:00 am at Three Ladies Café is *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See. This is a book about the dark and light about female friendship and family secrets on a small Korean island of Jeju. (2019) It is a coming of age fiction.

##### January 7- Board Meeting

Plans were made to contact member/author Debbie Poulos concerning a presentation for her book, *The Conscious Teacher*. Stephanie will follow up with her.

We discussed the Women's March on the 18<sup>th</sup>, the logistics for the PLATES IBC luncheon on the 25<sup>th</sup>, and other upcoming events such as the UN Northeastern meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup>, the STEM PANEL on the 28<sup>th</sup>, and more February events.

##### January 18- Celebrate the 19<sup>th</sup> and Women's March

Estelle and friend Karen met Juliana and Karen Lemcke at Three Ladies Café (TLC) at 9 am coffee and oatmeal before leaving for the march at 9:30. After they left, J and Karen L talked until 10. Estelle's report and pictures:

The mission of Women's March is "to harness the political power of diverse women and their communities to create transformative social change" (WomensMarch.com). In that spirit, Estelle, friend Karen, and UCD student Eva and three friends joined the more than 10,000 women, children, and men who participated in the fourth Sacramento Women's March on January 18<sup>TH</sup>. We met at Southside Park, hoping to join the AAUW Sacramento area branches, but could not find the group. We joined the march anyway, proceeding down 9<sup>th</sup> Street to the Capitol, where marchers carried signs with messages on many issues—protecting women's reproductive rights, human rights, dissatisfaction with the current leadership, immigration, and climate change. At the end of the march at the Capitol steps, we were reminded by inspiring local and State leaders that we need to work together to effect change.





**Eva, AAUW UCD VP, pictured at Woman's March with friends!**

### **January 25- the PLATES LUNCHEON**

Estelle, Shahla, and Denise arrived early to set up the silent auction tables and general doings. Woodland set out table decorations of bouquets in vases. The atmosphere soon grew noisy with excited greetings. Our UCD Chapter students were Sahiba, Eva, Vivien, Jamila Mia, Denise, and Marlene. They sat with students from ARC and Sac State.

Rhonda welcomed all and spoke of her pleasure at having a good branch turnout along with so many students. After explaining the Silent Auction rules, she asked each college org rep to talk a bit about their upcoming events, which included Noting Equal Pay Day, workshops in Start Smart and Smart Start.

Susan Wheeler, Co-Director of Tech Trek, spoke about the camp date (July 19-25) and encouraged branch members to volunteer and to attend Visitor's Day on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. A free film, "RBG, On the Basis of Sex" will be shown at the Sac State Student Union on March 5 at 7:30 pm.



The outstanding achievements of a former Davis Tech Trekker, Meghan Yamoah, were announced to a great round of applause. She graduated from M.I.T. and has become a *Rhodes Scholar*, studying this next year in England.

Sue Miller gave an update on the passage of 12 California bills that AAUW supported. There is a "Stronger California Coalition" of 450 Women's organizations working together to better the status of women and girls. To get ACTIONS ALERTS, become a

2-minute activist. The Convention will be held at the San Francisco Westin near the airport on April 17-19.

Jackie Spears will be a speaker. Sue suggested checking our PERSPECTIVE for details, and registering for an energizing and educational event.

Several other announcements were made:  
Woodland will sell the table bouquets for \$5.

**DAYS FOR GIRLS** is a project to make hygiene kits for girls to use during menstruation. In several African countries, girls miss school during their periods. They get behind in classes and cannot catch up, eventually quitting school altogether. (See January Spokeswoman).

The Sacramento Branch turns 100 this year. They will celebrate on February 29<sup>th</sup>.

Estelle then introduced our Fellows speakers. The fellowships are awarded to women with a Bachelor's Degree working toward an advanced degree. Women of color who are US citizens have priority.



**Briana Marela Lizarraga** is a Latinx composer/artist formerly from Seattle, WA, but now based in Oakland. She is a graduate of The Evergreen State College in Olympia, WA. She is currently pursuing an MFA in Electronic Music at Mills College. Her goal is to teach and inspire other women to enter traditionally male-dominated field of audio production and music technology.

Briana has been a performing musician for over 10 years, has toured Europe, produced three albums, and was awarded a *Listen Up!-Music grant*. She told us that she had difficulty making the decision to go back to school. Her passion was electronic music being as creative as possible. She was one of only a few women in her classes, and was subject to sexism on a constant basis. She prevailed, and demonstrated several examples of electronic music. (Op. Ed. It was amazing, interesting, and beautiful.)

Her message to the students present was “to follow their passion” and not their GPA. Get real world experience. She thanked AAUW for giving her time to study without having to work at a paying job.

**Karen Dosanjh** is from Sacramento. She earned her B.S. in Biochemistry from UCD. She is currently a second-year law student at the Lincoln Law School of Sacramento. She attends law school while working *full-time* as Quality Manager for Compliance/Quality at Blood Source/Blood Systems in Sacramento. She has worked at highly recognized biotech companies in the Bay Area. When she completes her law degree, she plans to focus on empowering and educating women in vulnerable or abusive relationships.

Karen described her childhood and college years as being dominated by her father and later, by her husband. Through her own daughter's studies, she learned to find what SHE HERSELF wanted. She had boxed herself in with a medical focus, when she discovered biotechnology. But in helping her daughter, she realized she had a passion for law. One member of AAUW gave her support and encouragement when she needed it. When you talk to others, you can realize truths. Karen entreated the students to intern or shadow a job in order to better define what felt right for them. She urged them to be true to themselves.





**Speakers photographed with student members from UC Davis, ARC, and Sac State**

Estelle explained that Briana and Karen were speakers for us today because of the contributions we made to the AAUW Fund and the interest that accrues in the endowment funds that have been established by the branches.

>In the 2019-20 academic year, AAUW has provided more than \$4.3 million in funding fellowships and grants to 270 outstanding women and nonprofit organizations.

>AAUW is now one of the largest sources of funding for graduate education for women. The first fellowship was awarded to Ida Street, a pioneer in the field of early American Indian history.

The luncheon concluded after the silent auction closed and a word from Alicia Hetman:

"It is with a profound sense of sadness that we announce the passing of Jo Harberson. She was truly one of a kind to her family and to all in AAUW. A Celebration of Life has been scheduled for our dear friend on February 8, 2020. We will gather for a 2 pm service at the Diablo Room at Rossmoor in Walnut Creek, CA. The address is 3400 Golden Rain Road, Walnut Creek. The family has asked that memorial gifts be made to AAUW as that was "Jo's passion". Jo was one of the three originators of the Mooneen Lecce Giving Circle, AAUW Fund #4229, and a gift to that fund would be a great way to honor Jo's AAUW Legacy."

### **MEGAN A. YAMOAHA- by Gail Johnson**

Wow, wow, and wow! Megan Yamoah, Davis is a senior at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology majoring in Physics and electrical engineering. Megan's research expertise is in quantum computing for which she received competitive funding awards. She serves on the executive board of MIT Undergraduate Women in Physics and as President of the MIT Society of Physics Students.

The daughter of immigrants, Megan is passionate about connecting entrepreneurs from around the world with the resources required to scale their ideas to impact. At Oxford, Megan will pursue a Master of Philosophy in Economics to study how innovation can positively affect emerging economies.

Each year in November, Rhodes Scholarships are offered to 100 scholars worldwide and 32 in the USA. Recipients usually study for two years at Oxford College in England. Megan will start October 2020. To say we are proud of Megan is an understatement! Congratulations!

### **JANUARY 28- STEM PANEL**

Tuesday evening at DaVinci Charter Academy, girls from grades 7-12 gathered to hear 5 distinguished professional women talk about their careers. AAUW's Leslie Rubin moderated the evening sponsored also by DaVinci and Explorit! After hearing the panelists, the young women formed groups of 8 and each speaker rotated through the groups answering questions. At the conclusion, cocoa, tea, and cookies were offered.

The speakers were:

**LeShelle May** Technical Software Lead at CNN

**Claire Waggoner** Sustainable Water Plans and Policies Section Chief at the State Water Resources Control Board

**Kirsten Gilardi** Wildlife veterinarian and Co-Director of the **Karen C. Drayer** Wildlife health Center (WHC)

**Pam Marrone** CEO/Founder Marrone Bio Innovations

**Nancy Perkins** Sacramento Fire Department Engineer

Judging by the turnout, the smiles, and the intense focused attention in each group, the evening was a success. Thanks to the speakers, sponsors, and volunteers.



### **WELCOME, NEW MEMBER**

Dolores Blake, recruited by Rhonda, attended the PLATES luncheon, and signed up to become a member. Welcome. Please add her vitals to your roster.

Dolores Blake (530) 574-5689, 2308 Amapola Dr., Davis 95616

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### **CONVENTION ETC NEWS**

Please check the CA website for specific info and registration.

### **CALENDAR**

**February 8-** Northern CA UNA Division Meeting- I House

13- Board Meeting- Conference room Library-6:30 pm  
19- 6 pm at Estelle's- film on Title IX Hawaii initiator

ANY time or place changes will be sent separately

**March** 7- Book Club at TLC 9am: *Island of the Sea Women* by Lisa See

8- International Women's Day-0 I House

10- Board Meeting 6:30 pm Library

16-18 Tech Trek interviews

19- Celebrate the 19<sup>th</sup> TBD

31- Equal Pay Day

**April 13- annual business meeting**

17-19 Convention