



# THE SPOKESWOMAN

Volume 56 Number 4  
April 2020

## AAUW California Annual Meeting is Going Virtual

During this unprecedented time of the COVID-19 pandemic, the AAUW California Board of Directors have come up with a creative solution to still hold the Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held virtually as an online event so members can connect from home! Members will be able to join in via phone or computer on **Saturday, April 18th from 1-3pm.**



You can find meeting details by following the link to the AAUW California website [HERE](#) in order to follow along. Instructions, as well as links, on how to join have been posted on our [website](#) and [Facebook](#).

## 2020-2021 AAUW Davis Election of Officers Goes On-line! **VOTE BY APRIL 15!!!**

Our annual gathering scheduled for April 13<sup>th</sup> has been postponed owing to local, state and Federal orders regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board has voted to conduct our essential business: the annual election of officers for the Davis Branch of AAUW, by email this year. Article IX, Section 2, of our Branch Bylaws allows flexibility in how elections can be done. However, per our Bylaws, our election of officers must be completed by April 15. The Nominating Committee has assembled the following slate of Officers and Board Members for your consideration, and we need 51% of the membership to vote in favor of the slate to be approved. Thanks to the members who agreed to be considered for our Board! **Please Vote today!**

### Slate of Officers for consideration

**Executive Officer:** Shahla Farahnak

**Fiscal Officer:** Gail Johnson

**Secretary:** Leslie Rubin

**Board Members:** Verena Borton  
Stephanie Degraff-Hunt  
Melissa Kieffer  
Solmaz Marzooghi  
Estelle Shiroma  
Rhonda Reed

Click this link to vote: [VOTE HERE](#)

### **Book Group Meeting - Saturday, April 11th by Zoom video or conference call**

The book for this month is “What Rose Forgot” by Nevada Barr. Rhonda will be leading the discussion which will happen by phone or by Zoom on your computer. If you want to participate, please contact Rhonda at [salmonlady@sbcglobal.net](mailto:salmonlady@sbcglobal.net) or phone at (530) 297-0460.

### **April Celebrate the 19<sup>th</sup>**

We will have a virtual gathering on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm. Marti Abbott will be sharing tales of her recent trip to Honduras, one of the most impoverished countries in the Americas. She traveled to Honduras in March to help establish libraries and get books into elementary schools. Prepare your favorite beverage, get comfortable, and click on this link to join the gathering: [April Celebrate the 19th](#) An e-mail with more detailed instructions on how to join the meeting by video or audio will be sent out the week of the 19th.

### **AAUW in Action**

**Coronavirus:** On March 24th, AAUW held a member webinar about the impact of the Coronavirus and how to adapt while we continue our mission to advance equity. Our work has never been more important than during this world crisis. AAUW’s research shows that women stand to lose the most when financial disruptions occur, since they have more debt, lower pay, and less retirement savings than men. To view this webinar, click on this link: [AAUW and the Impact of Coronavirus](#)

**Equal Pay Day, March 31st:** Kim Churches, CEO of AAUW, issued this statement regarding Equal Pay Day.

“The COVID-19 pandemic is creating a seismic shift in our lives and in the U.S. economy. Our hearts go out to everyone impacted by this crisis — as does our promise to work even harder on their behalf. In these challenging times, we are doubling down on our efforts to fight for the economic security of American women and their families, as we have done for the past 140 years.

This is typically the time we mark the annual Equal Pay Day, when women symbolically catch up to men’s average earnings from the previous year. In addition to noting this date (March 31), this year we are taking a wider view to focus on how the pandemic is amplifying and exacerbating all of the nation’s economic inequities.

The issues we have long been fighting for are now alarmingly urgent: Low-wage workers — 54 percent of whom are women — are bearing the brunt of the coronavirus pandemic as they lose jobs by the millions. Those who’ve been working part time — again predominantly women — often don’t have basic employee benefits, including health

insurance coverage. The increasing numbers of gig workers also have no benefits. The nation's lack of paid sick and family leave is endangering both the physical and economic wellbeing of countless American families. Retired women — who are twice as likely as men to be living at or below the poverty line — are more vulnerable than ever. And the burden of student debt — two-thirds of which is held by women — feels especially onerous for those who are unemployed.

We are confident that the severity of the crisis will eventually lessen, and as it does, society will turn its collective attention to rebuilding the economy. Throughout the coming weeks, months and years, AAUW will accelerate our efforts to address the persistent and underlying inequities that are crucial for a full recovery. Together we can ensure that we end up with a better, more economically secure world for women”.

**2020 Gender Policy Agenda:** Throughout their 140-year history, AAUW has been a staunch advocate for policies that improve the lives of girls, women, and their families. AAUW has presented their 2020 gender policy agenda for economic security, education, and foundational rights. Details are provided in this link: [AAUW Gender Policy Agenda](#)

### Inspire Tech Received a Grant!

The Feb 14th Davis Enterprise reported that Inspire Tech, founded by member Parto Aram, was awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Yolo Community Foundation to provide STEM workshops to 100 girls in Yolo County. CONGRATULATIONS, Parto!



## CALENDAR

April 11<sup>th</sup>, Saturday at 9 am: Virtual Book Group Discussion

April 15<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday: Deadline to vote for 2020-2021 Davis Branch AAUW Board

April 18<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, 1 pm to 3 pm: AAUW California Annual Meeting

April 19<sup>th</sup>, Sunday at 4:00 pm: Virtual Celebrate the 19<sup>th</sup>

May 16<sup>th</sup>, Saturday (to be confirmed): Annual Board Planning Retreat

June 7<sup>th</sup>, Sunday: Installation of Officers

July 19<sup>th</sup> to July 25<sup>th</sup>: Tech Trek at UC Davis

## AAUW DAVIS WEBSITE

Please visit our website [www.aauwdavis.org](http://www.aauwdavis.org)

You may email us at [davis-ca@aauw.net](mailto:davis-ca@aauw.net)

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

### PLEASE SAVE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

#### **Officers for 2019-2020**

##### **Co-Executive Officers:**

President-Shahla: 304-2844

Secretary- Leslie: 707-217-7166

Membership/Treasurer: Gail: 756-1207

##### **Board Members:**

Verena: 756-0632

Rhonda: 297-0460

Estelle: 848-9361

Stephanie: 902-8394

**Spokeswoman writer:** Juliana: 758-3011