



THE SPOKESWOMAN

January 2021

DECEMBER CELEBRATE THE 19TH with the UCD Pantry



Davis AAUW invited the ASUCD Pantry (The Pantry) to speak with us for our December Celebrate the 19th meeting. The meeting was held as a public information event and advertised in The Davis Enterprise.

Ryan Choi, Director of The Pantry, and his staff hosted

the meeting on Zoom. After Shahla introduced board members, she then invited Mr. Choi to give us an overview of the organization over their ten year history. The UCD Pantry was started by students who recognized a need to help other students experiencing food insecurity and now serves more than 800 students.

With 100 student volunteers and ten paid student positions, Ryan and The Pantry not only provide food, but give students a chance to see that they are not alone in their needs. This helps to temper any stigma they may feel. All the staff focus on welcoming each student with respect and understanding.

The Pantry will be moving into the Memorial Union in the Spring where more space and refrigeration will be possible. Donations of money are gratefully accepted and preferred. The Yolo Food Bank has partnered with

The Pantry and reaches out to grocers for slightly out of date items they have to remove from shelves. The Yolo Food Bank also gets produce from farms. Some of the food is then trucked to the Pantry. Produce purchased from farms for \$5 is comparable to \$25 worth of produce at retail value. Lisl Chew explained that even though there are fewer students on campus, the pantry is still serving 200 households and about 500 students. The needs are greater due to students' financial problems and those who are homeless.

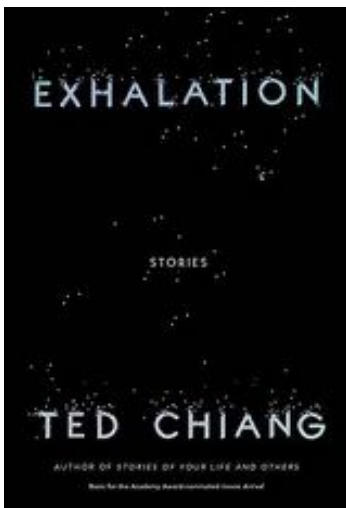
Hygiene products and diapers are also collected. Nutritional guidance and recipes can be found on [Instagram](#). Backyard produce is collected and donated through Community Harvest.

Our two interns, Alexandra and Zoe, were present at this meeting. For more info on the pantry, go to <http://tinyurl.com/what-is-the-asucd-pantry> or <http://linktr.ee/pantryatucdavis> or the pantry.ucdavis.edu. Students created the inventory storage base and are able to keep track and forecast food needs.

Our thanks to Ryan and Lisl for their presentation.

BOOK CLUB MEETING December 12th

The Book Club met on December 12 to discuss the book *Exhalation Stories* by Ted Chiang. Participating were: Carolyn Hoeke from Woodland, Juliana, Barbara, Verena, Rose Mary, Helen, Rhonda, Stephanie and Estelle.



Some of us did not particularly like the book, finding it difficult to relate to some of the topics or simply because science fiction is not our preferred genre. But there was general agreement that the writing was good and creative (Chiang invented new words) and that the topics were thought-provoking. Barbara asked if any stories struck a chord with anyone. Among those mentioned

were “The Merchant and the Alchemist’s Gate,” “Dacey’s Patent Automatic Nanny,” “The Truth of Fact, the Truth of Feeling” and all agreed that “The Lifecycle of Software Objects” was both intriguing and far too long. Prompted in part by “The Truth in Fact, the Truth of Feeling,” which deals with the impact of the written word on oral history, a major discussion ensued about communication. Communication is 75% non-verbal and many don’t have the skill to put thoughts in clear writing. Writing offers the comfort of thinking first and rereading to improve. Even close friends can have communication problems. Sometimes dictating and hearing it played back improves the final product.

There was further discussion about the lack of understanding of parts of speech among today’s school children and young adults and the frequent cultural difference between language spoken at home and in school. Some thought that learning a foreign language is easier after learning how to diagram sentences in English.

A variety of thoughts and opinions were expressed regarding our relation to nature. The concept that a corporation is equal to a person can lead to a polluted or diverted river, itself having rights and suing a dam or factory. Muir said trees had feelings. Scientifically, they communicate with each other and share materials. Nature is connected in ways we don’t know. Through an integrated curriculum we are seeing our connection to nature as we decimate forests, pollute air, and melt glaciers, destroying ourselves in the process.

Kids have a “nature deficit disorder”. For example, 90% of kids in San Francisco have not seen the ocean. Through environmental education and the ability of parents and teachers to take kids to museums and natural places like nearby Yolo Basin, this “deficit” can be improved. Various cultures do not subscribe to the value of this experience in nature. Some Hispanic parents have qualms about overnight trips or Tech Trek. The trips are a hardship for schools because of complex bureaucracy.

Stories of Your Life was recommended. Two reasonable people can come to different conclusions and both will struggle with their decisions. People have changed the thrust or meanings of words, like freedom and protests.

There were several book suggestions for discussion in February: *The Secret Lives of Color* by Kassia St. Clair, *Caste* by Isabelle Wilkerson, *A Promised Land* by Barack Obama, *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabelle Wilkerson, *What Can I Do?* by Jane Fonda, *Hell and Other Destinations* by Madeleine Albright, and *The Book of Lost Names* by Kristin Harmel.

All are invited to join us for the book discussions held on the second Saturday of every month at 9 am. The reading selections for February and March will be announced after a vote is taken.

AAUW NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS NEWS

This spring, the AAUW membership will vote on an important proposal to amend the AAUW bylaws to open membership and eliminate the degree requirement to join AAUW. The national AAUW Board of Directors strongly supports the proposal, along with dozens of member leaders across the country. We believe this is an essential step toward making AAUW a more diverse and inclusive organization, better aligned with our mission, values and the needs of women today.

Now through February 5, 2021, you can provide thoughts and comments on the proposed changes to the AAUW bylaws as well as proposed changes to the Public Policy Priorities. To learn more about the proposed changes and submit your feedback, please visit the [election page on the AAUW website](#).

2069? 2369? 2451? WHEN WILL THE GENDER PAY GAP BE CLOSED?

How long will it take? What can we do to make it happen sooner rather than later? These are questions that AAUW has been grappling with for decades. As we mark Equal Pay Day on March 31st, perhaps there is hope that we can make progress in decreasing the gender pay gap in 2021, given a new administration that is committed to social justice and leveling the growing disparity between the haves and have not. We also now have women in the highest echelons of national leadership; and as we all know, when women are in charge, things get done!

According to the 2020 update to AAUW's The Simple Truth, it will take white women until the year 2069 to achieve parity with men based on the projected earnings ratio compiled between 1988-2019. For women of color the numbers are even worse. Black women will have to wait until the year 2369 – 350 years – as their earnings ratio has only advanced a mere 7% from 1988-2019. And Latinas find themselves in the worst scenario as their earnings ratio has only increased 4% from 51% to 55% during this period of time, projecting their year of parity to 2451! ([AAUW, The Simple Truth 2020 update](#))

The reasons for these disparities in the gender wage gap are known – and understanding what's causing the problem is the first step to meeting it head on. Members are urged to read the summary of The Simple Truth update on our National website which lays out the problem, its causes and solutions. https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2020/10/SimpleTruth_1.8.pdf

AAUW is leading the charge to effectuate change and you are part of the solution with the work your branches undertake on behalf of women and girls. The more we educate ourselves and others about the scope of this gender wage gap with programs like Start Smart, Work Smart, NCCWSL, etc., the more we chip away at the disparity. What is your branch doing to make a difference in the Gender Pay Gap? Let us know what creative ideas

you have come up with to spread the word in these days of social distancing, we'll share them on the web (send to publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org).

By Ginny Hatfield, AAUW California Public Policy Committee

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Meet our new interns, Zoë and Alexandra!



ZOË

Zoë is one of our new interns here at AAUW Davis, and she has been maintaining our website and Facebook page. She is a third-year Anthropology major at UC Davis, and during the pandemic she has been keeping busy by learning to knit, studying, and spending time with her family (and dog). In the future, she hopes to have a career in Human Resources and travel around the world. She's looking forward to getting to know the members of AAUW Davis and becoming more involved in the Davis community!

ALEXANDRA



Alexandra is excited to join AAUW Davis as an intern this year, and has been helping produce the monthly newsletter. She is currently a senior at UC Davis majoring in International Relations. When not studying, she enjoys dance, reading and spending time with her 15 year old cat, Purr. A fun fact about Alexandra is that her first experience with AAUW was as a high school student, when she won the Stockton AAUW Branch's Inspirational Woman Writing Competition.

ANNUAL AAUW FUND MEETING

The annual Capital Counties Interbranch (IBC) AAUW Fund meeting will be held via Zoom on Saturday, January 30, 2021 from 2 PM to 4 PM. Featured speakers are Tracey Quezada, a Career Opportunities grant recipient, and Elizabeth (Beth) Kopacz, who received an American Fellowship. Tracey is a documentary filmmaker and journalist working on a Master's degree in Journalism at UC Berkeley. She is currently producing a documentary about child sexual abuse, an issue that the U.S. Centers for Disease Control has called "a public health crisis." Beth is pursuing a Ph.D. in Ethnic Studies at UC Riverside. She is a Korean-born adoptee who is studying the ways adult Korean adoptees reconcile their histories and background through DNA.

AAUW provided more than 200 awards and \$3.5 million in funding for fellows and grantees in the 2020-21 award year. Recipients of these awards are selected for their academic work and innovative community projects that empower women and girls.

Additional information on the program and registration will be sent by email.

UPCOMING WEBINARS IN JANUARY

- **1/11 7pm Title IX: Breaking Down Barriers 2020** - It's not just about sports! Learn about its widespread impact and its imperiled status. View the webinar recording here: <https://www.aauw-ca.org/title-ix-webinar-breaking-down-barriers/>
- **1/27 7pm Mentoring Women for Career Advancement-** Learn how to advance through mentorship, networking, and self advocacy. Click here to register: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_WSL_SUiWSveHQM4noBjnSg

UNA UPDATES

- A virtual UNA-USA Northern California Division meeting is planned for late January; an update will be sent by email.
- On February 19th and 20th, UNA-USA will hold an all-virtual [Global Engagement Summit](#). Click on the link for more information. Registration is free and will start after January 21st. The theme of the summit is *From Moments to Movements: Solidarity for Sustainability* and highlights the importance of global cooperation to achieve a better world for everyone, everywhere.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LESLIE RUBIN



Congratulations to Leslie, Eugene, and Margo Rubin on the birth of Jack Alexander Rubin! Jack was born on January 5th at 7:58am. He weighed in at a healthy 8lbs. 5 ounces and was 19 ³/₄ inches long at birth.

UPDATES FROM OUR AAUW UCD GRADUATES

Our AAUW at UC Davis alumni sent holiday greetings to all.

Annie Chen (Class of 2019) has turned a hobby into an entrepreneurial venture creating resin jewelry as a science communication medium. Annie's jewelry is based on endemic floral species or those with cultural significance in her native Taiwan and California. View her beautiful works of art at [Sciencely Handmade](#).

Funke Aderonmu (Class of 2019) will be heading back to Washington, D.C. from her home in California where she has been working remotely. She recently started a new job with the U.S. Agency for International Development in its Bureau for Resilience and Food Security. She remains active in her work with the United Nations Association (UNA) and recently completed a [virtual seminar series](#) about the Sustainable Development Goals for UNA-San Francisco. Funke says she is excited to get engaged in these goals during this next decade of action.

Sahiba Kaur (Class of 2020) resides with her family in Escalon since graduating in June and continues to be involved in social activism. She recently participated in a rally at the State Capitol in solidarity with the farmers in India. The Indian Parliament passed three bills in late 2020 to privatize agriculture, effectively uprooting the livelihood of farmers. Sahiba says she wants to raise awareness and put pressure on the Indian government to repeal these bills. She is currently in the process of applying to law school.

NEWS FROM FORMER TECH TREKKER



Megan Yamoah (Tech Trek at UCD, 2011) is pursuing a Master of Philosophy degree in Economics at Oxford in the UK as a Rhodes Scholar, studying how innovation can positively impact emerging economies. Megan graduated from Massachusetts Institute of Technology with degrees in Physics and Electrical Engineering. She finished her first term at Oxford in the fall of 2020 and says that her long-term friendships and connections have been invaluable and fulfilling throughout the years.

CALENDAR

January 14th, Thursday at 7 pm: Board meeting (Zoom)

January 27, Wednesday at 7 pm: [AAUW-CA Webinar: Mentoring Women for Career Advancement](#). Click on the link to register.

January 30, Saturday at 2 pm: Capital Counties Interbranch Council (IBC) AAUW Fund Meeting. Please save the date and watch your email for registration information.

February 27, Saturday: [UNA-USA 2021 Global Engagement Summit](#). Click on the link for more information. Registration opens after January 21.

BE AS ACTIVE AS YOU CAN, BUT STAY A MEMBER.