

THE SPOKESWOMAN



In this edition: (click to be directed to the article)

- January Celebrate the 19th
- Book Group Meeting on January 9th
- AAUW National Public Policy News
- AAUW CA News
- Getting to Know You: Dorothea Bonneau
- UNA International Women's Day March 7th Event
- News Items from UNA
- What Happens at an AAUW Board Meeting?

FEBRUARY 2021 CALENDAR

Please check the website for links. All meetings are via Zoom

- **February 11th 7pm** Board Meeting
- **February 13th 9am** Book Group *The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich
- **February 14th** Valentine's Day with smiles and laughter
- **February 19th 5pm** Celebrate the 19th
- **February 19-20** UNA-USA 2021 Global Engagement Summit
- **February 28th** Deadline to register for Lobby Day; register for Lobby Day Training on March 22nd
- **March 7th 2-3:30 pm** Virtual International Women's Day Program
- **March 22nd 7 pm** - Training for Lobby Day Webinar
- **March 24th**: AAUW Lobby Day

JANUARY CELEBRATE THE 19TH

We celebrated January 19th with a pre-inaugural discussion of the incoming Biden/Harris administration. Shahla started the discussion by saying that we used to meet for a drink and a chat but since the pandemic, we have used Zoom to get together. Together, we viewed part of the memorial service held at the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool in Washington, D.C. to honor the 400,000 Americans whose lives were lost due to COVID-19. Kamala spoke briefly and said, “Tonight we grieve and begin healing together...and my abiding hope, my abiding prayer is that we emerge from this ordeal with a new wisdom to cherish simple moments, to imagine new possibilities, and to open our hearts -- just a little bit more -- to one another.” Lori Marie Key, a nurse who cared for COVID patients at a hospital near Detroit, sang “Amazing Grace.” “Allelujah,” written by Leonard Cohen, was later performed by Yolanda Adams. Joe Biden then delivered his message, saying, “To heal, we must remember and do this as a nation...Let us shine the lights in the darkness...and remember all who we have lost.”

How did each of you feel on this day? Several of us were “holding our breath”, “afraid to turn on the tv”, or simply looking forward to positive changes.

The conversation then shifted to casual sharing. How long have you been an AAUW member? Is there a fact about yourself you would like to share? Intern Zoe shared that she enjoyed tasting different teas; intern Alexandra was a professional dancer before coming to UCD. Helen mentioned that she has a 13-inch Bearded Dragon lizard going into hibernation and spoke about her daughter named Margot; Leslie also named her daughter Margo (without the “t” at the end) and is very busy with new baby, Jack. We shared baby naming stories.

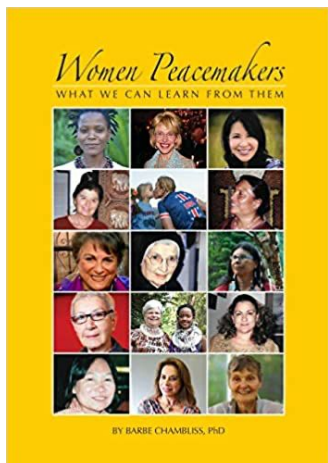
Long-time member Rhonda showed us some features of her historic home and restoration project. Laleh talked about missing her work with Shahla and is considering working remotely in Alaska or Hawaii. Verena told us about how the Davis UNA chapter planted two beds of Peace Roses as a gift to the city in 1995 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the signing of the UN Charter in San Francisco. Verena mentioned that she and Ray prune the roses each year as a service project for Martin Luther King Day. Stephanie offered to help next year, as she told us how she and Mary Ellen Dolcini traveled to South America to get special roses.

Several of us had watched the Harris special on CNN, ‘Kamala Harris: Making History’. We talked about the importance of a second chance, as one

man was thankful to Harris after for being able to turn his life around and help others after being incarcerated.

The discussion then continued about the need for masks, vaccines, how to work with naysayers and white supremacists, and fake news. We came up with no solutions but concluded that if people feel unheard, they can become isolated and search for like minded people, who are susceptible to being swayed. Shahla recommended watching a [video interview](#) of Timothy Snyder, who studied the rise of tyranny in different parts of the world and authored, *On Tyranny*. In the interview, Snyder discusses his concern about the current state of democracy in America and challenges to the basic founding principles of our nation. He also provides insight on the role of big media in presenting facts and the lack of independent opinions. Marshall McLuhan, a Canadian philosopher, supports Snyder's beliefs on the importance of media in his book, *Understanding Media: The Extension of Man*. McLuhan, who coined the phrase, "The medium is the message." believes that the nature of the medium (such as television) used to share a message is more important than the actual content of the message being shared. The medium puts a filter on the message and influences how the message is interpreted.

BOOK GROUP MEETING January 9th



Barbe Chambliss, author of “Women Peacemakers: What We Can Learn From Them”, joined us from her home in Colorado. We had an audience from Woodland AAUW, Davis AAUW, and Sacramento UNA. Verena Borton was the leader who introduced us to Dr. Chambliss, writer, psychotherapist, professional mediator, and organic farmer. Barbe has three Masters Degrees, plus a Ph.D from UCSB. Barbe’s book was recommended to us by new member and author, Dorothea Bonneau (*Once in a Blood Moon*).

The label “Conscious Peacemaker” was discussed in terms of bringing this out in others. How relevant was this concept of conscious acts of peacemaking in this chaotic time! Verena continued, Chambliss would explain the origin of her idea, what process she used to find people and solve the problems of logistics of personal interviews, how to choose only 15, and finally, to define a peacemaker.

Dorothea and Barbe went to high school together in Colorado. Both enjoyed the research/interview/writing a book process, and then meeting with book clubs to discuss their efforts.

Barbe told us there were at least 20,000 women in small groups performing acts of peacemaking. As a six year old, she had a bad experience and this became for her, “a seed for peace”.

Dr. Chambliss studied the lives of Nobel Peace Prize winners. Discovering that there were few women who had been bestowed with that honor, she decided to search for ordinary women who made a difference through extraordinary courage and leadership. Some of her interviews required extensive travel and acquiring airline mileage points to keep traveling. She used a visual demonstration of two open palms touching each other to catch water flow. If either hand lowered, water flow was disturbed. This showed one hand becoming subordinate, not equal. Peace is synonymous with respect and being willing to share power.

Her first interview came from attending a community concert in Colorado. The five Irish brothers on stage suggested that she interview their sister, Finnula, in Dublin. That led her to Sister Sarah Clark who worked with Irish prisoners in England.

Barbe's class at the Fielding Institute offered her mileage points so she could visit Ireland, Croatia, and Israel. She took her son with her and did one day of fun, and then one of interviews. Through her farming, she met Michael Sule, renowned conservationist, who donated his mileage points to her. She interviewed twenty-one women in Tanzania and South Africa, and thirteen women in Cambodia, Laos, and Thailand, getting immersed in their culture. These women loved to talk about their work, but didn't think of themselves as peacemakers.

All women were asked how they started, how they got funded, the role of forgiveness, having a mentor or dream, painting a picture with words of their definition of peace. One Israeli immigrant went to the Wailing Wall and saw small groups of Palestinians. It was very peaceful: no fights, but no mixing.

Some bits of advice to peacemakers: find an elder; don't give up; show no violence ever; show other volunteers. To be a conscious peacemaker, be awake for the opportunity; find an idea that will help another even up their hands; don't lose sight of your goal; revisit it and check on it. Do not push or pull on the elbow to try to even up the hands. If fingers mesh, that's ok. Practice patience and persistence. If you are overwhelmed by what you cannot do, pick what you CAN do.

Verena (Davis UNA chapter president) described the Human Rights Day event each year. Each Article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is spoken in a language other than English. By sitting in a circle, no one language has a preference or bias. English is spoken in the outer circle. The physical configuration was a peaceful factor. Barbe asked her to write that up for the website. RoseMary was asked to do the same, as she described conflict management in her classroom. When students had to sit in a circle, there was no hiding of gestures or comments about anyone. Each student had equal footing.

Dr. Chambliss reminded us to ask an elder. Take advantage of the wisdom of experience. Seniors should not be written off. Several speakers said, "there is no peace without justice". "Believe in intergenerational dialogue". "Send the book to Dr. Jill Biden". Tara informed us of a Blue Ribbon Program (blueribbon.org): I MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Verena then spoke of a scholarship offered to students to study abroad for a year. Initially there are donors and recipients, not an equal relationship. The students are encouraged to correspond for several years after their initial experience to show how their lives are impacted by the experience of living in another culture. In this way donors to the scholarship become recipients of shared information and insights.

How do peacemakers deal with not being able to continue? That is a good opportunity to involve a younger person.

We need to foster healthy personal internal peace and not reinforce thinking to perpetuate myths, misogyny, or self-deprecation. An example would be a woman calling her husband my better half or allowing stereotyping of negative in-law comments or expectations. We reinforce so much culturally. Barbe suggested bringing the in-laws to class and discussing common misconceptions.

When a young participant asked how to find a mentor, Barbe answered, "Cold call someone doing what you want help with. They might connect or send you to someone else." Dr. Chambliss gave her phone number and email to all. Edgar Trujillo, (Sacramento UNA president), said it was difficult for individuals to recognize peacemaking in themselves. Barbe suggested finding a partner and telling stories about each other. She invited all to leave comments on her [website](#). She enjoyed the group and said she would write another book so we could get together again.

Her email: barbe.chambliss44@gmail.com

The next book group meeting is this Saturday, February 13th at 9 am. We will be discussing *The Nightwatchman* by Louise Erdrich. The novel is based on the life of the author's grandfather, who fights against the federal government to preserve the rights of Native Americans in the 1950s. A Zoom invitation will be sent to members by email. All are welcome to join us, even if you have not read the book.

AAUW PUBLIC POLICY NEWS

On January 20, Joe Biden was sworn in as the 46th President of the United States, along with Vice President Kamala Harris. From the White House and the Cabinet nominees to the new Congress and state elected officials, we are witnessing [unprecedented diversity in our leadership](#). We celebrate this historic step in representation and the commitment to equity for all that it hopefully indicates.

During the transition period between the November 2020 election and the inauguration of President Biden, AAUW worked closely with the Biden transition team to make known our priorities for the incoming administration. AAUW's letter to the 117th Congress outlines our federal legislative priorities for this session. One of our most pressing priorities is to enact the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would update the Equal Pay Act of 1963 and give us important tools to close the pay gap. This is an issue AAUW has been working on for decades. This year, both the House of Representatives and the Senate must act to send this critical bill to President Biden's desk, so it can finally become federal law.

Your elected officials need to hear from you today about this important bill. Tell them to co-sponsor and quickly pass the Paycheck Fairness Act once it is reintroduced in this Congress!

AAUW-CA NEWS

HELP GUIDE AAUW CALIFORNIA INTO THE NEXT DECADE

Provided by Charmen Goehring-Fox

We are seeking a few leaders to run for the AAUW California Board in April 2021. Serving on the board is a wonderful way to meet new friends, learn more in-depth information about AAUW and AAUW California, and to provide your skills and ideas to our future planning and assistance to branches. It is also fun! The board meets quarterly (currently on Zoom) and committees meet throughout the months as needed. All members are welcome to apply - you could be a second-year member or a 30-year member, over the age of 70 or under 35, or anywhere in between. We just ask that you believe in the AAUW mission and want to help us move it forward in California.

You have been a part of your branch, now consider being a part of the AAUW California board!! Click [HERE](#) for more information and the application form

IMPORTANT AAUW CALIFORNIA PUBLIC POLICY DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR!

*Kathleen Harper, Director, and Sue Miller, Public Policy Committee Co-Chairs,
publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org*

Thanks to all of you who submitted comments on updating our Public Policy Priorities. Your Public Policy Committee has been hard at work finalizing our 2021-2023 Priorities, which will support our mission and guide our advocacy work. These will be posted on the AAUW California website later this month for your review so that you'll be prepared to vote on them when you receive your ballot in April.

REGISTER FOR LOBBY DAY

The new California legislative session commenced on January 11th. The AAUW California Public Policy team is already at work with MVM Strategies, our new legislative advocate. A "virtual" Lobby Day is scheduled on March 24th to ensure that our voice will be heard by legislative leaders before bills we support come up in committee hearings. The deadline to register for Lobby Day has been extended through the end of February. Click [HERE](#) to sign up. Members who live in Davis, Dixon, Winters, and Woodland are in the 4th Assembly District; Vacaville members are in the 11th Assembly District.

All members who sign up for Lobby Day must register for and attend the training webinar on March 22nd at 7:00 pm. Training will cover the bills we want members to talk about as well as the logistics for the day. Click [HERE](#) to register for the webinar.

Put these dates on your calendar NOW!

- **March 22nd Lobby Day Webinar - Click [HERE](#) to register.**
- **March 24th Lobby Day – registration deadline has been extended to February 28th**
Click [HERE](#) to sign up and be sure to register for the Lobby Day Webinar on March 22nd..
- **Vote on Public Policy Priorities on the April ballot**

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

We are delighted to welcome our newest member, Dorothea Bonneau, who was our guest author at the September book group discussion of her award-winning book, *Once in a Blood Moon*. Her book won the 2020 Fiction Award in the category of African American Fiction. Dorothea is a drama teacher and has produced and written screenplays, as well as a radio play. She is a former Davis Enterprise columnist who wrote a weekly column, titled "Our Children." Dorothea has seven grown sons and can now indulge her passion -- writing -- during her waking hours. When Dorothea joined the Davis branch in January, her first request was to join the book group. We look forward to many interesting discussions with Dorothea!



UNA INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY EVENT: MARCH 7TH



Please join the Davis and Sacramento United Nations Association chapters and the Davis Branch of AAUW for a FREE virtual celebration of International Women's Day 2021 with Barbe Chambliss (pictured), author of *Women Peacemakers - What We Can Learn From Them*, who will share stories of remarkable women who have made the world a better place through their courage and leadership. Stories from Asia, Africa, the Americas and Middle East will illustrate major challenges faced and inspiring accomplishments achieved by ordinary women around the world. The

presentation will conclude with Q & A.

The event will take place March 7th from 2:00-3:30pm via Zoom. Register at unasacramento.org/events/davis

UNA NEWS ITEMS

Virtual Northern California UNA Division Meeting (11 Chapters)

Wednesday, February 10th, 7:00-8:30pm

Members and others interested welcome to attend. Celebrate some 2020 UNA successes and prioritize interests and plans for 2021. There will be new information, opportunities to exchange ideas, and to identify challenges we can overcome better together, in addition to conducting a few business items.

Please let Verena know if you plan to attend verenaborton@gmail.com

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84476951000?pwd=S2hpN1B5bmtVclhkb0l1aEE3eVp4UT09>

Virtual Global Engagement Summit

Inspire – Educate – Mobilize

February 19th and 20th, free and open to all

More than 50 speakers confirmed already (including UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres), expected attendance at 5,000!

Live Program on Friday, 2.19: noon to 4pm

Live Program on Saturday, 2/20: 9am to 1pm

To register and for further details, go to:

<https://unausa.org/events/2021-global-engagement-summit/>

WHAT HAPPENS AT AN AAUW-DAVIS BRANCH MEETING?

As we prepare for our annual branch meeting in April, we will be seeking new board members. Would you like to have a voice in how our branch carries out the mission of AAUW? Can you be a resource to our UCD AAUW students or are you interested in getting more involved with Tech Trek? Do you have ideas for programs?

Here is a glimpse of what being a board member entails. There is usually one meeting per month; we currently meet virtually on Zoom. At a typical meeting, we first share a bit with each other before reviewing the agenda prepared by President Shahla. We also have a copy of the previous meeting's minutes so we can verify action items having been completed. The meeting is called to order and all board members are asked if there are additions to the agenda. Then we start discussing what's on tap.

Secretary Leslie takes notes. Gail gives a membership and financial report. We hear from Estelle regarding the AAUW at UCD student organization, the Spokeswoman, the Book Club*, and various State and National information reminders. Verena speaks about the UN and UNA events. Rhonda reports on the Capital Counties Interbranch Council (IBC) meetings and procedures. Any other member (Solmaz, Stephanie) speaks about concerns and accomplishments. Items which need decisions or future actions are voted on or assigned.

The meeting is adjourned after an hour and a half of business and camaraderie. Get more of a sense of your organization and come to a meeting!**

*The Book Club is a great way to get to know other members...even if you have not read the book.

** All members are invited to attend board meetings. Get questions answered and information details. See your Board in action.

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