

THE SPOKESWOMAN



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MARCH 2021 CALENDAR

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

- **March 7th 2-3:30 pm**, Virtual International Women's Day Program
- **March 8th 7-8:30pm**, "Empowering Women as Global Leaders" RSVP by Eventbrite at <http://womensday2021.eventbrite.com>
- **March 13th 9am**, Book Group Discussion - *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachel Joyce
- **March 15th 7pm**, Board Meeting (ALL ARE WELCOME)
- **March 19th 5pm**, Celebrate Women's History Month on the 19th
- **March 22nd 7 pm**, Lobby Day Training Webinar
- **March 24th**, AAUW Virtual Lobby Day

Member Perspective: How Adam Bridge Became the Second Man to Join AAUW

By Janice Bridge

A conversation with Verena Borton led me to reflect on the Bylaws change in 1987 to allow men to join AAUW.

I joined AAUW in 1977 and transferred my membership when I moved to Davis in 1980. At that time, the Equal Rights Amendment was in the last year of the attempts for ratification. In the spring of 1982 AAUW Davis actively marched for ERA - I remember Gail Johnson and me pushing our infants in strollers and carrying signs. But the sabotage of the ERA was successful and in June 1982 ERA died. We were thoroughly depressed and disgusted!!!

At that time, the Junior Chamber of Commerce of Yolo County was an all male social/civic organization with lots of political power. AAUW member Debbie Nichos Poulos wanted to run for City Council but, of course, she was not eligible for JC membership which put her at a serious disadvantage in any political campaign. One night I was stomping around the house grumbling about how unfair it was for the JCs to exclude women when Adam stopped me with a simple statement. "Jan, you belong to AAUW which excludes men. How can you demand inclusion on one hand and maintain exclusion on the other?"

The seed was planted. I was a complete AAUW rookie and had three children under the age of six, so there was not a lot of soil for the seed but...

The Davis AAUW members who attended the 1983 AAUW convention came home to report the mood of AAUW leadership was "Men can be members when the ERA passes!! In June of 1984, Debbie Nichols Poulos was elected to Davis City Council in spite of not being allowed to be a member of the JCs. Davis delegates to the 1985 convention reported that the body had voted to place the issue of gender and membership as a Bylaw Change at the 1987 convention.

Locally opinions were mixed. The Branch would not endorse the change, but the Board said it would be okay if a few of us wanted to work to advocate for inclusion. So we began. From National we received mailing addresses to contact the leadership of each state and from them we received contact information for all of the just over 2000 Branches in the US. (Pre-internet, each exchange was through USPS and took a week to 10 days if we were lucky.) By

the time we had the addresses, we had developed our message and our strategy. We contacted every branch, provided our arguments and suggested that the Branch discuss the Bylaw change and provide guidance for their delegates to the convention. Davis AAUW voted, with a slim majority, to support the admission of men.

The 1987 convention was held in Houston. Gail Johnson¹ and I were delegates. Branch member Karen Manelis² was a delegate also through her position on the AAUW California Board. It was my first convention. I was overwhelmed. Gail Johnson was a veteran and knew practically everyone. Delegates sat by state, and after I sat down, on a chair on the aisle, a petite, prim, and proper woman in her 70's asked if she could sit next to me. Of course I said, "yes". As the meeting convened we were told that the seats we were in would be our seats for all of the active legislative sessions. The lovely woman, Meta McBride Haupt, had been President of AAUW California in the mid-1950s. She was a registered parliamentarian and had been President of AAUW Los Angeles 1946 - 1948, when they "took up the issue of admitting colored women"!! Throughout the convention Meta coached and explained as the issues moved through the process. During the lulls when votes were being counted, she told me about the admission of Black women to AAUW in 1949³. It was an amazing few days.

Debate at an AAUW convention is well orchestrated. Each person gets no more than two minutes, regardless of status. Pros and Cons must alternate. Discussion continues until one side runs out of speakers. We spent time when the convention was in recess finding other delegates willing to speak on behalf of inclusion. About the middle of the third day, those opposed to inclusion ran out of speakers so the issue was called. It was overwhelming...over 95% of the delegates stood to approve.

As we had planned, I stepped to the microphone to announce that AAUW Davis had admitted Adam Bridge as its first male member. But the delegate from South Carolina was acknowledged and John Freeman⁴, husband of the president of AAUW South Carolina, became the first man to join AAUW. And that is how Adam Bridge became the second man to join AAUW.

¹ What a wonderful, complete description of what happened in those years before AAUW Davis led the charge to admit men. Bravo, Jan.

² What a wonderful walk down memory lane. I remember the 1987 convention well. So proud of my sister Davis members.

³ It should be noted that the Bylaws of AAUW have always granted membership to any and all women graduates of approved institutions. In 1949 there was only one Black College that had received approval by AAUW. However women of color were graduating from approved, previously all white, colleges and universities. The issue at the Seattle convention of 1949 was whether local Branches could deny membership to a qualified woman graduate and still maintain their status within AAUW.

⁴ John Alderman Freeman was a biology and zoology professor who taught many years at [Winthrop University](#). He previously had taught at [Wake Forest University](#), his alma mater. John Freeman was an author and ran a small independent publishing firm in Rock Hill, SC.

John Freeman was active in the [American Association of University Women](#) and was on the executive board of the [Rock Hill, South Carolina](#), Branch, 1961–1962. (Those dates are correct. the wording of the AAUW qualifications at the time was "a graduate of an approved college or university.") He was married to Grace Freeman who was active in the leadership of the Rock Hill Branch and the South Carolina AAUW. Grace Freeman was an author, journalist and in 1987 she was the Poet Laureate of South Carolina. The couple were parents of four children.

Grace Freeman died after a short illness on October 28, 2002, in [Asheville, North Carolina](#). John, died on January 5, 2007.

Source: Wikipedia

FEBRUARY CELEBRATE THE 19TH HIGHLIGHTS

Shahla welcomed Verena, Marti, Rhonda, Rose Mary, Juliana, Estelle, Laleh, Stephanie, Alexandra, and Zoe. After some general vaccine talk, we discussed LOBBY DAY, which also happens to be EQUAL PAY DAY, March 24th. (Members participating in Lobby Day should have registered by February 28th and for the training webinar on March 22nd.)

Then we robustly discussed the pros and cons of dropping the membership requirement of having some sort of degree or professional standing. How does this possible change affect the meaning of the acronym AAUW? If membership is open to anyone, it is open to everyone. Many members expressed strongly felt opinions about this proposed change. Alexandra and Zoe gave us a young person's perspective.

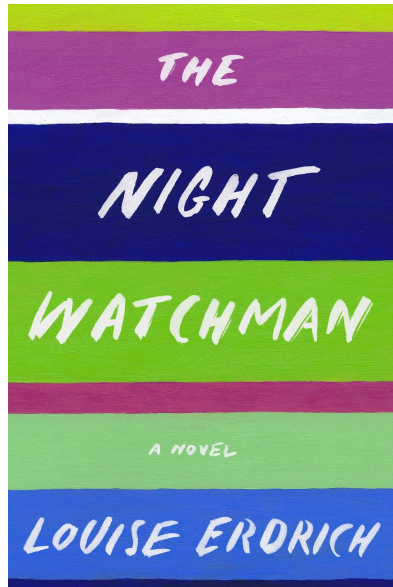
Despite the proposed changes to membership requirements, OUR MISSION REMAINS THE SAME: we support and promote equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, research, and philanthropy.

Please read through the questions and arguments presented with the link below and make your own decision on how you'll vote in April.

<https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2021/01/Membership-Requirement-full-talkinging-points.pdf>

BOOK GROUP MEETING February 13th

Participants were Rose Mary, Marti, Rhonda, Nan, Estelle, Helen, Verena, Juliana, Barbara, and Stephanie.



We discussed “The Night Watchman” by Louise Erdrich, another novel based on true Native American life. Stephanie commented that she had appreciated using the author’s young adult books in her classroom, but found this one to be very different because it seemed disjointed with so many characters. She did enjoy rereading it. Rhonda thought the author was setting the stage for what happened to Patrice’s sister in the city, so there were many storylines.

Verena pointed out “The Prayer for 1954” on page 369 as an interesting literary feature: all the main characters were described without name but in a recognizable setting, almost as if the author was giving the readers a test to see whether they had read carefully enough to recognize the protagonists.

Helen read the novel twice for more understanding of the characters. She wondered if the author was satisfied with the ending. Helen said there really were two night watchmen: Thomas who guarded the Jewel Bearing Plant and Patrice who protected her home from the threat of her alcoholic father. We wondered whether the Puerto Rico demonstration at a Congressional hearing was a real event. Nan checked online, and found out that it was. (The setting was eerily reminiscent of what took place at the U.S. Capitol on January 6.)

Rose Mary commented on the many omissions in what we were taught (Marti interjected “like in Lies My Teacher Told Me,” an earlier Book Group selection) and on how much teachers have to supplement.

This prompted Estelle to ask how much control teachers have over curriculum. Rose Mary replied that it varies by subject.

At this point Rose Mary’s 12-year old granddaughter came into view and we learned that she spends every holiday with Rose Mary and often travels with

her. She's an excellent cross-country runner, and is going to school in El Dorado Hills.

Barbara feels we have done so poorly by Native Americans, even today. It's a fallacy that all tribes have casinos and therefore, have a good life with running water and other amenities. But the Capay Valley tribe is doing well. The Indians chose leaders and casino supporters carefully. Sherman Alexie is a modern Native American writer. There is a difference between Native American thinking and White thinking. Barbara said we may enjoy reading "Eye of the Bear," authored by Naida West, about local Indian culture.

Helen emphasized the cultural differences between tribes and commented that one tribe does not necessarily accept members of another tribe. Helen works on restoration projects where she has found that learning from Native Americans has become more important. "When I lived on a reservation in South Dakota," she recounted, "I knew a gay man who went to the city, and was forced to sell his body for money. It was a way to survive and have some control."

Verena called attention to the fact that Patrice used a different language (English or Chippewa) for different ideas, with the Chippewa expressing more complex and often beautiful concepts. Nan felt that using the native language, Patrice was more expressive. On the other hand it had its limitations because it was not written. In the audio version, it was interesting to hear actual Chippewa. It was beautiful.

The discussion then focused on the Palmer Method of handwriting as a symbol of what the Native Americans were taught in boarding schools. Thomas Wazhashk, the night watchman, took great pride in practicing the Palmer Method handwriting he had been taught, even though most of the letters he wrote were in protest to a 1953 bill in Congress designed to abrogate nation-to-nation treaties that threatened to terminate his Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa.

On a side note, there were several opinions expressed that kids should learn cursive so they can read another's writing. Helen told how in Australia her daughter got a "pen license" after learning cursive writing.

Additional comments:

Thoughts have also changed regarding burning a forest or grazing for good results. With a piece of land, various species can be wiped out by grazing. Having no knowledge can be harmful.

Thomas found himself thinking in Chippewa after his stroke.

I liked how ancient people were called “way-back people”.

It was interesting to compare the way WE treat the environment versus the Native American way. The “Spirit World” encouraged thinking about Spirituality, the Snow Owl and death.

Then there was sleeping with the Bear section followed by eventually needing to kill it for food.

Erdrich included instances of humor and kindness.

The March selection is “The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry” by Rachel Joyce. The book group will meet on Saturday, March 13th at 9 am. A Zoom invitation will be sent to members during the second week of March. By email vote, the third book in line is “Girl, Woman, Other” by Bernadine Evaristo that we agreed to read for the April discussion. We will review book suggestions in April and vote on the next reading selections for May and June.

AAUW-CA NEWS

AN IMPORTANT QUESTION & VOTE FOR 2021

Between April 7th at 9 am PDT and May 17th at 2 pm PDT, all AAUW members will have the opportunity to vote on an important bylaws amendment that will eliminate the degree requirement for membership. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the rationale for the proposed bylaws change brought by the AAUW Board of Directors and the AAUW Governance Committee.

Plan to attend (via Zoom) the AAUW California Annual Meeting on April 17th to hear AAUW Board Chair Julia Brown as she brings us all the news from AAUW National and the latest about the proposed bylaws change. Registration is required. Click [HERE](#) to register.

NCCWSL Will Be Held Virtually May 25-26, 2021

Hundreds of college students will attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders virtual leadership training and networking conference on May 25-26, 2021. NCCWSL offers college students professional skill-building workshops in addition to well-known speaker panelists.

The Davis Branch will be sending our student interns, Alexandra and Zoe, and four student leaders (Eva, Adriana, Tatiana, and Valeria) from AAUW at UC Davis to the virtual leadership conference. This was made possible due to the generosity of our members who have made donations to the Student Organization fund.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL/DUES INCREASE

Starting March 16th, it will be time to renew your AAUW membership for the upcoming fiscal year, 2021-2022. National dues will be \$62 for the coming year, of which \$59 is tax-deductible.

State dues remain the same at \$20 but are NOT tax-deductible as AAUW California is a 501(c)(4) entity. Here is a reminder of who does and does not pay state dues. For more complete information, check the website [HERE](#).

1. 50-Year Honorary Members are exempt from paying state dues but paid Life Members must pay full state dues (\$20).
2. State dues will be waived for past state presidents.
3. State dues will be waived for representatives from college/university (C/U) partner institutions.
4. Students from AAUW C/U partner institutions do not pay state dues, but other students pay half (\$10).

Upcoming AAUW-CA Webinar

3/16/21 7pm: Living our Mission of Equity for All
Click [HERE](#) to register

AAUW Public Policy News

Thanks to the 100 members and friends who attended the Title IX webinar on January 11th. Click [HERE](#) for the video if you were unable to attend and the questions from the webinar will also be posted there soon.

Title IX is an important federal law that requires school districts and schools to provide equal access, resources, opportunities, and facilities for girls. What can members do locally to raise awareness of Title IX issues? [Opening Doors and Opportunities for Girls](#) is the production of the California Title IX Coalition. The website includes the top 14 questions to ask and it guides you on how to interview your local elementary, middle school, high school, and college personnel about compliance with Title IX.

You can help lead this effort in your community by forming a task force or a focus group and ask the 14 questions in the checklist.

REPORT ON UNA EVENTS

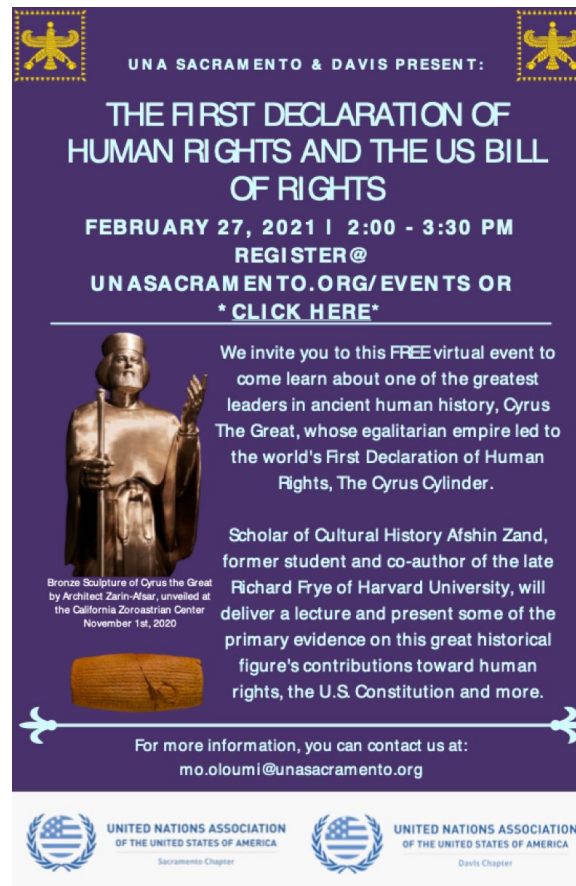
UNA-USA's annual Global Engagement Summit usually involves traveling to UN Headquarters in New York to join a maximum of 1500 participants for a day of in person presentations by UN officials and other leaders. The 2021 free Virtual Global Engagement Summit was a two-day event held February 19-20, attended by approximately 5000 and not limited to UNA members. The Summit offered a wide array of speakers, breakout sessions, performances and discussions to inspire, educate and mobilize for advocacy. A highlight on the first day was UN Secretary General António Guterres and U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry celebrating the rejoining of the Paris Agreement by the U.S. that very day. Former UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon joined the next day from South Korea and shared a moving interview with Special UNHCR Envoy Angelina Jolie.

There were field visits to a refugee camp in Kenya (where UNA Davis supported an education project for several years), to Venezuela with UNFPA (newly reinstated as a recipient of U.S. aid), to Yemen to see firsthand the impact of WHO (recently rejoined by the U.S.), to Iraq with UNESCO (still working without funding from the U.S.) and to Sudan with UNICEF (vividly illustrating the crucial role played by this agency that the Davis community through Davis UNA has supported for decades).

Several musical performances and a cooking demonstration by the World Food Programme alternated with keynote speeches from officials and experts. Altogether this Summit was an amazing, very well organized and exceedingly informative event showing that going virtual definitely has its upside.

At the Feb. 10 **Northern California Division of UNA meeting** (11 chapters attended) there was discussion about planning more regional programs on shared interests with involvement of multiple chapters. Meeting virtually via Zoom makes this collaboration a practical idea by sharing resources and reaching a wider audience. The plan was unanimously adopted.

UNA Davis and UNA Sacramento chapters already are collaborating on two free virtual events in the immediate future and were invited to join as sponsors of a third. A presentation on **“The First Declaration of Human Rights and the U.S. Bill of Rights”** took place on February 27 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. (A recording of this fascinating program will be available at [UNA Sacramento Chapter - YouTube](#) by March 2.)



UNA SACRAMENTO & DAVIS PRESENT:

THE FIRST DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE US BILL OF RIGHTS

FEBRUARY 27, 2021 | 2:00 - 3:30 PM
REGISTER@
UNASACRAMENTO.ORG/EVENTS OR
* [CLICK HERE](#) *

We invite you to this **FREE** virtual event to come learn about one of the greatest leaders in ancient human history, Cyrus The Great, whose egalitarian empire led to the world's First Declaration of Human Rights, The Cyrus Cylinder.

Scholar of Cultural History Afshin Zand, former student and co-author of the late Richard Frye of Harvard University, will deliver a lecture and present some of the primary evidence on this great historical figure's contributions toward human rights, the U.S. Constitution and more.


Bronze Sculpture of Cyrus the Great by Architect Zarin-Afsar, unveiled at the California Zoroastrian Center November 1st, 2020

For more information, you can contact us at:
mo.oloumi@unasacramento.org

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA Sacramento Chapter

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA Davis Chapter

UPCOMING UNA EVENTS



5 GENDER EQUALITY

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY:
PEACEMAKERS AROUND THE WORLD
WITH AUTHOR BARBE CHAMBLISS**

March 7th | 2:00 - 3:30 PM

**REGISTER @
UNASACRAMENTO.ORG/ EVENTS/ DAVIS**

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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, 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.

On Sunday, March 7, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

PST UNA Davis, UNA Sacramento and the Davis Branch of AAUW will present a program titled **International Women's Day: Peacemakers Around the World**.

Author Barbe Chambliss will discuss what we can learn from women peacemakers, based on her many years of interviews with remarkable women around the world who through their leadership have made a difference in lifting up the lives of others. From her many stories, Chambliss will select examples from Asia, Africa, the Middle East and the Americas and encourage audience members to reflect on their own conscious peacemaking potential. Book Group participants who attended our January gathering met Chambliss as she shared with us her recently published book *Women Peacemakers: What We Can Learn From Them*. If you missed it, here is your chance to join in the conversation. Add your story or ask for more details during Q & A. Register at

unasacramento.org/events/davis





Celebrating
International Women's Day 2021!
 Monday, March 8, 2021, 7:00 – 8:30 PM Pacific Time
 (GMT-8) via Zoom

RSVP by EventBrite (<http://womensday2021.eventbrite.com>) **FREE Event!**



Graphic is courtesy of the United Nations

The United Nations has designated "WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP" as the global theme for this year's International Women's Day and throughout the month of March.

PLEASE JOIN US to CELEBRATE International Women's Day and listen to three outstanding global women leaders and their accomplishments. Discover – *What motivated them? How did they get started? What impact have they had? How have they trained other women? Why does it matter that we have women leaders?*

This is an opportunity for you to be inspired and to think about your own vision, goals and next action steps in becoming and empowering other globally thinking leaders.

Guest Speakers



Linda Alepin: Founder of International Women Leaders for the World Fund; Co-Founder of Global Women's Leadership Network, and You as a Global Leader; authoress of forthcoming book – *Becoming a Leader Who Dares*



Bonita Banducci: Co-founder of Women Leaders for the World Program and Global Women's Leadership Network; Lecturer, Gender and Engineering at Santa Clara University's School of Engineering



Dr. Mei Lin Fung: Co-founder of People Centered Internet and the Global Help Desk; Works with the UN, ITU, UNDP, World Bank and presented at the World Economic Forum

This event is sponsored by the United Nations Association – Silicon Valley, East Bay, Mid-Peninsula, Monterey, Sacramento, Davis, Marin and Hawaii Chapters

On Monday, March 8, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. PST eight UNA chapters, spearheaded by UNA Silicon Valley and including Davis and Sacramento, will present **"Empowering Women as Global Leaders"** with three outstanding women leaders as speakers: Linda Alepin, Bonita Banducci and Dr. Mei Lin Fung. The UN's global theme for this year's International Women's Day is Women in Leadership. These three speakers will illustrate what has motivated them, what impact they have had, how they have trained other women and why it matters that we have women leaders.

To register RSVP by Eventbrite at <http://womensday2021.eventbrite.com>

Report on the AAUW Fund Meeting on January 31, 2021

The AAUW Fund meeting was virtual and led by Barbara Durst, Marty McKnew, and Karen Burley. Estelle Shiroma coordinated the Fellowship and Grant speakers who would present their projects later in the program.

After welcoming all, Barbara introduced several leaders who spoke briefly.

Dianne Owens, the current AAUW CA President from the Lompoc Branch, told us how she and Sandi Gabe restructured the convention as the result of the pandemic by redirecting it to Zoom and arranging webinars. She pointed out some events and writings on which to focus: California Connection, Tech Trek Task Force, Lobby Day, and the comment survey regarding proposed changes to membership requirements.

Sue Miller (Public Policy) encouraged us to train for and participate in Lobby Day on March 24th. Participants will be talking to key legislators to ask them to support our position on legislation that AAUW California is advocating. Registration closed on February 28th but if you signed up to participate in Lobby Day, be sure to attend the training webinar on March 22nd at 7 pm.

Charmen Goehring, northern California's Legacy Circle liaison, encouraged members to join the Legacy Circle, committing to name AAUW as a beneficiary. You do not have to have a large portfolio to make this commitment. The purpose of joining the Legacy Circle is to ensure that AAUW has the funding to continue their work for future generations of women and girls.

Erin Saberi from the Sacramento branch discussed the [Sacramento County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls](#). The Blue Ribbon Commission on the Establishment of a Sacramento County Women's Commission (BRC) is an interim commission with a mandate to advise the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors and public about the viability of establishing a permanent women's commission in Sacramento County. In addition to Erin, many AAUW Citrus Heights-American River (CHAR) members, including Lee Battershell, PJ Missman, Marty McKnew, Charmen Goehring, and Daniel Metzinger, worked hard to get a unanimous vote by the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors in December 2020 to establish a permanent commission on the Status on Women and Girls. What started as a grassroots effort changed when AAUW joined the cause. The fundamental question to be answered is, "How are women and girls doing in Sacramento County?" Data were not readily available

nor was it easily accessible. The approach was then to hold community meetings, conduct surveys, and initiate “listening circles” with womens’ and girls’ organizations to inform the answer to this question. When the Womens’ Commission is established, it will work within the community and the County on gender equity issues including violence against women, economic inequity especially for older women, and access to health care and housing for women of color. More than 30 other organizations, including AAUW, are also working on this effort.

The meeting then focused on the invited AAUW Fellowship recipients. Estelle introduced Beth Kopacz, who received an American Fellowship to assist her while she completes her Ph.D. in Ethnic Studies at UC Riverside. She has a BA from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a MA from UCLA.. Beth was Korean-born and adopted by US white Americans. As she grew older, she had questions about her background. Paperwork stated that her parents were unmarried and very poor with no resources. This background information was so limited that when she joined a college group of Asian/American peers, she found cause to look deeper into her birth family and the political/social history of Korea at the time of her birth. More than 200,000 Korean children were adopted as “war orphans”. The system of record keeping was incomplete and she found many inaccuracies. Eventually, Beth learned the truth about her Korean parents. To give us an idea of her Ph.D. research, Beth showed a portion of a documentary video that she produced as part of her Master’s thesis: <https://vimeo.com/96965289> Technological advances in DNA testing and companies such as 23andMe, Ancestry, and FamilyTreeDNA have helped adoptees search for truth and knowledge about their personal histories. Beth also described the concept of the genetic relative or KAD (Korean Adoptee DNA) “cousin” as an alternative to the traditional ways of finding biological parents through adoption agency record searches, private investigations, advertising in media, and personal visits to the birth country. KAD can be used to identify biologically related adoptees through DNA but may apply to very distant relationships (3rd or 5th cousin). Each adoptee has a choice to further pursue their personal history. Each adoptee must balance the search for real and emotional ties, growth, and closure against allowing loss and grief. Beth expressed her gratitude to AAUW for receiving the American Fellowship dissertation grant. While writing her dissertation, she said she has built community through writing groups with other women of color. Upon completion of her Ph.D. program, Beth plans to seek a tenure track position at research universities, liberal arts schools, or community colleges although she is open to opportunities outside of academia. She welcomes students to contact her at: ekopa001@ucr.edu

The second speaker was Tracey Quezada, a Career Development Grant recipient. She graduated with a BA in Broadcast Journalism from Cal State in Fresno, studied social issues, and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Journalism at UC Berkeley. Tracey worked in radio, news, and then started a film production company. Her current work has been motivated by the devastating revelation that child abuse had occurred within her own family. Tracey described the changes in behavior patterns and long-term effects on her cousins as the result of abuse by family members. She became the legal advocate for her 9-year old cousin and learned that there is little coverage on the topic of child sexual abuse and a glaring lack of representation of people of color who experienced child sexual abuse. In the U.S., one in four girls is sexually abused by a trusted family member or friend before the age of 18 according to the Centers for Disease Control. Experts estimate that fewer than 20 percent of incidents of child sexual abuse are reported to authorities.

Tracey was inspired to develop a multimedia project and social impact campaign on this ignored public health crisis. She said the "Me Too" movement has brought public awareness of sexual abuse to the forefront but has failed to address the experiences of women of color or child sexual abuse. Her multi-pronged social impact campaign, called "When You Were Young," is designed to help survivors and advocate for social justice. It will raise awareness of the long-term effects of child sexual abuse, increase advocacy for programs that provide mental health and support resources, especially for women of color. She also has a goal to advocate for policy changes through transformative justice, a series of practice and philosophies designed to create change in social systems. The documentary film, "When You Were Young" follows the life of Aqueila Lewis, a Black woman, who comes to terms with the intergenerational cycle of child sexual abuse within her family. Black communities, in particular, face multiple barriers. They mistrust law enforcement and seeking mental health treatment is stigmatized. Tracey is working with multiple teaming partners and pursuing post-production funding to finish the film by September or October 2021. Once the film is completed and distributed to the target audience, it will be used to promote the work of non-profit organizations that serve survivors of sexual abuse. Tracey provided her contact information and said she is interested in working with AAUW when her film is completed.

Tracey may be contacted at: info@traceyquezadaproductions.com

Phone (559) 310-1429

www.traceyquezadaproductions.com

Barbara then introduced a special guest speaker, Lisa Maatz, AAUW's former Policy Advisor in Washington, D.C. from 2003 to 2017. During that time, she concurrently served as interim director of AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund. The major areas of her expertise are in womens' rights: educational equity, equal pay, Title IX, career and technical education, STEM, workplace opportunity, and GET OUT THE VOTE efforts. Currently, Lisa is Senior Advisor for Ohio Citizen Action, organizing and mobilizing people to advocate for public interests. She spoke politics with much "insider" information and personal opinion.

Barbara thanked all who attended and leaders who presented.
A replay of this event can be found at:

Meeting Recording:

https://zoom.us/rec/share/pN75g9kKJMsKk-RWrl4vFmdmmGiWh_gnu1e9Bz1vzAYEpx86FIVLi-vNg0q44Mim.LENDo2If30Jij8BS

Access Passcode: \$gSD?0Gz

- Please note, the "0" is a zero

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