

THE SPOKESWOMAN



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MAY 2021 CALENDAR

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

- Saturday, May 8th at 9 am - Book group discussion of *The Love Song of Miss Queenie Hennessy* by Rachel Joyce
- Thursday, May 13th at 7 pm - Board Meeting
- Monday, May 17th - LAST DAY to vote in AAUW National election
- Wednesday, May 19th at 5:30 pm - Celebrate the NineTEAnth with Annie Chen; this program may be postponed pending the arrival of teas from Taiwan but watch your email for updates

Davis Branch Annual Business Meeting - April 12th Report

Attending were: Shahla, Stephanie, Rhonda, Leslie, Laleh, Karen, Rose Mary, Gail, Verena, Estelle, Nan, Juliana, intern Zoe, and Eva, the AAUW@UCD student organization president.

We reviewed the year's activities with exclamations of, "Wow!" "Good for us!" "We did a lot!", and "Thanks for writing it up!". Gail presented the financial report stating how well we managed our money. We gave \$4,000 to the AAUW Fund and still have Angel funds, which is used to provide membership dues assistance when requested. We also provided scholarships for six UCD students to attend the virtual AAUW National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) in late May.

We have two new members: Sheila Allen and Dorothea Bonneau. Renewal notices will be sent to other members soon as national AAUW renewals are due in June. Rose Mary suggested we use email instead of snail mail to ask for renewals. The 2021-22 membership dues package increased from \$100 to \$103.

There was a brief discussion about having a Parliamentarian and consecutive term limits.

Eva, president of the AAUW@UCD student organization, spoke of the difficulties during the pandemic that did not allow for in-person meetings or student activities. However, they were successful in recruiting new members and have set up TED (Technology, Entertainment, and Design) Talk nights to discuss social justice. They use Instagram posts to highlight inspirational women.

Estelle is helping the students identify speakers for a panel discussion on careers in Law, STEM, and Education. The students plan to meet virtually with other student organizations at UC Santa Barbara and UC Irvine. They will also be listening to women in leadership podcasts. Eva thanked us for sponsoring students to attend the NCCWSL at the end of May.

The quorum was determined, 20% of 45 members, and the slate was proposed. There were no nominations from the floor. The following slate was unanimously accepted:

President- Shahla

Financial officer- Gail

Secretary- Leslie

Board members- Estelle, Rhonda, Stephanie, Laleh, Verena

The officers and board members will be installed in June.

There was a discussion about the pros and cons of Zoom. It was good for the Book Group, as it allows for an easier Saturday, meeting with authors and members of AAUW Woodland, out-of-towners can still participate, and weather is not a factor. Others enjoyed interviewing the interns (while in Hawaii), hearing about the UCD Pantry, and meeting with UNA Sacramento. However, the in-person outdoor meeting with the 2020 Tech Trek girls and their parents held at Estelle's cul de sac was very inspiring and gratifying.

We then announced our two Named Gift Honorees, Shahla Farahnak and Marty West. Shahla has been a strong advocate and excellent role model for women in leadership. She has kept us functioning well together with many ideas and a willingness to continue as President despite her recent retirement from work. Marty has been with AAUW Davis since 1993 and has been a hard-working advocate for women and children. In February 2019, her talk on Women's History, "Nevertheless She Persisted" was a highlight in recruiting UCD students to AAUW. Eva thanked Marty for the inspiring talk that motivated her to join AAUW@UCD. Shahla and Marty (in absentia) both thanked us for this honoring.

Shahla then praised Zoe and Alexandra for their exceptional work, work ethic, and positive attitudes. She offered to help them in their future planning.

There was a brief reminder to vote on National membership changes and policies, the convention registration, and the UNA webinar on Climate from 6-7:30 after which the Celebrate the 19th meeting will take place at 7:30 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

2020 Named Gift Honorees: Shahla Farahnak and Marty West

The Named Gift honor is awarded to recognize extraordinary work, time, and energy in support of the programs and goals of AAUW. Due to the generous contributions our members made to the AAUW Fund in 2020, branch donations have been designated in the names of Shahla Farahnak and Marty West as Named Gift Honorees.



Shahla has served as the Davis Branch Executive Officer since 2020 and prior to that, she was co-Executive Officer from 2015 to 2019. Shahla was selected as a Named Gift Honoree because of her work advocating for women in leadership, including finding job and internship opportunities for students. Her dedication to the Davis branch, its members, and students deserves recognition. Shahla says she enjoys mentoring others to achieve their highest potential. She recently retired as the Assistant Deputy Director at the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Quality where she led a 70-member staff of engineers, geologists, and scientists.



Marty has been an advocate for improving the lives of women and children throughout her career. She taught at the UC Davis Law School from 1982 to 2007 teaching classes in employment discrimination, labor law, and gender and law. Marty served on the national AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund from 2006 to 2008 and testified several times for women faculty who sued the UC system for failure to get tenure and several times for women outside of the UC system. She has worked tirelessly on the issue of child care for working women since 1980, even before she came to UCD. She has advocated to increase child care facilities and for financial support to address the needs of working

women. Although we have made some strides in gender equity for women over the past 40 years, Marty says there is always more work to do.

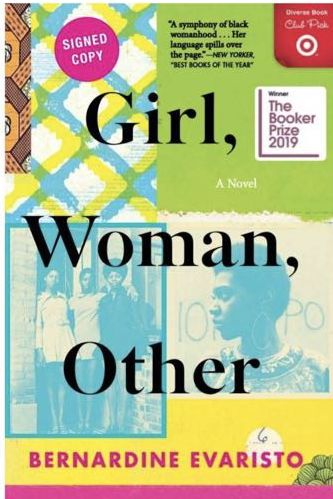
We celebrate the significant contributions of both Shahla and Marty in support of the AAUW mission and for serving as shining examples of women helping other women. When we lift up women, we improve the lives of children and families. Congratulations and thank you!

California AAUW Annual Meeting on April 17th

The AAUW California Annual Meeting was held via Zoom for the second year. If you missed it, don't worry, you can view the recording **HERE**.

- Learn what has been happening in California this past year
- Watch the three Speech Trek Finalists
- Learn who our 2020 State Named Gift Honoree is
- See the first Equity Award given to former State Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson.
- Listen to AAUW Board Chair, Julia Brown

April 10th Book Group Meeting



Barbara, Rhonda, Estelle, Verena, Stephanie, Helen, Marti, Nan, Rose Mary and Juliana met on Zoom to discuss *Girl, Woman, Other* by Bernardine Evaristo. The book follows the lives of 12 women, mostly Black, living in the United Kingdom. This is the eighth book written by Evaristo and has won numerous awards, including the 2019 Booker Prize that was co-awarded with Margaret Atwood's *The Testaments*.

The book covered lots of ground including racism, politics, gender, feminism, sexuality, drugs, domestic violence, and dysfunctional relationships. Although these are uncomfortable topics to discuss, there was consensus that awareness of these issues helps us to understand modern society. There was a general discussion of pronouns and language used for gender identity (he/she, him/her, they). The gender identity of "they" was confusing because in sentences, the plural form of the word does not always make grammatical sense. Barbara said she had written a poem about gender identity and later shared her poem with the group. The author did not use punctuation, adding interest to her writing, but it was challenging to read for those who prefer a more conventional writing style. Helen said, "One can interpret it differently, like a poem, so it's like art or a feeling. For me, it was a page-turner, a treat to keep reading." The book starts with the story of one of the characters, a playwright whose new production, *The Last Amazon of Dahomey*, successfully opens in London towards the end of the book. The Dahomey Amazons were an all-female military regiment of the Kingdom of Dahomey in pre-colonial western Africa, located within present-day Benin. Some remarked that they were not aware of these women and how the book group selections have been educational, as well as enjoyable.

The book group met on Saturday, May 8th to discuss *The Love Song of Miss Queenie Hennessy*, the companion to *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachel Joyce. On June 12th, we will discuss *Chokecherry Girl* by Sacramento author Barbara Link, who will join us for the meeting. We encourage everyone

to support our local bookstores. *Chokecherry Girl* is available at The Avid Reader in Davis. Please watch your email for Zoom information. All are welcome to join us!

April Celebrate the 19th Report

Climate Change: What Future Are We Living Into?

This program, presented by the Mid-Pacific Region of the United Nations Association on April 19 was chosen as our **Celebrate the 19th** event, followed by a local discussion on a separate Zoom.

Phil Cisneros of the Monterey Bay Chapter of UNA introduced two speakers: **Peter Fiekowsky**, an MIT physicist and founder of the Foundation for Climate Change Restoration that works on developing viable, scalable and permanent solutions toward restoration, and **Nikki Pava**, founder of Alegria Partners and author of “Green Wisdom: A Guide for Anyone to Start, Engage, and Energize a Sustainability Team” who joined us from Costa Rica.

Peter explained how the interrelated UN Sustainable Goals, health, hunger, poverty, all are influenced by climate. To leave a world that we are proud of for our children and grandchildren, we need to reassess and restore nature, not just cut back on carbon emissions.

Carbon dioxide is stored in the ocean and in limestone. Nature takes in CO₂ during photosynthesis by seaweed, kelp, and algae. We have carbon-collecting limestone (like oyster shells and the Cliffs of Dover). Artificial limestone collecting calcium carbonate can be used instead of rocks in road building. A company creating this already exists in Silicon Valley.

The ocean is missing iron to keep algae and seaweed growing and taking in CO₂. Fertilizing the ocean means adding iron dust from steel mills, volcanic ash, and dust storms to the sea. Peter encourages us to consider the idea of restoring ways to remove carbon rather than just cutting back on its production.

Population growth can of course also be limited by having smaller families to free up resources. Peter strongly promoted curbing family size to having no more children than needed to replace the parents. We need to rethink taking out CO₂ versus to stop putting it into the world. For more information on

making limestone and energy costs, visit FoundationforClimateRestoration.org and F4CR.org/whitepaper.

Nikki wrote “Green Wisdom”, where she describes 10 companies (Alaska Airlines, among others) that reached sustainability in their business model. While the U.S. had withdrawn from the Paris Agreement, businesses took advantage of loopholes. Hope for achievement, however, remained high due to efforts by smaller organizations and groups despite the Trump administration’s relaxing of regulations. Now that the U.S. has rejoined the Paris Agreement, there is hope once again for progress toward sustainability. We can work together to design the steps for moving forward on renewable energy with cooperation from individuals, businesses and government to change perspectives and arrive at communal solutions.

Nikki emphasized that with the diversity of the problems, we need many solutions, not just one big one, and that as individuals each of us can accomplish small steps. We control only ourselves. What do YOU want to change in order to feel more fulfilled? What small intentional steps will YOU take to impact your own life? Unleash your heart and mind. Think globally. Act locally. Check the Sustainable Business Alliance for specific questions. Make a visible impact. Be aware of the NDC for each country (Nationally Determined Contribution). Suggestions for individuals: use solar, recycle, don’t buy throw-away items, turn off lights, have a hybrid car, read “Future Shock”.

Attendees were encouraged to ask questions and offer comments, resulting in a lively discussion of issues related to Peter’s restoration efforts and Nikki’s positive, cheerful, suggestions as to how we can make our daily life greener.

This then was a logical segue to our local Zoom meeting for **Celebrate the 19th** immediately following. Helen, Laleh, Verena, Shahla, Estelle and Juliana met after the UNA webinar. It was a bit disappointing to note that only 49 people attended the webinar that offered interesting new ideas on climate change and only 6 of us opted to continue the conversation afterwards. Likely this was because two and a half hours of consecutive Zoom is tiring.

We shared thoughts on personal recycling and energy saving habits by changing to LED bulbs, cutting back on plastic usage and purchase, using more

paper bags, using gray water for irrigation, collecting water from showers and sinks while water heats, composting, driving hybrids or electric vehicles, taking public transportation.

It was noted that many college students are not recycling; when they move out much is wasted or discarded. We also noted that some businesses do not recycle (tea containers and straws are trashed) while others have refill cups and give a discount. Surprisingly, Styrofoam is still around – its use may have actually increased during the pandemic.

We discussed the dilemma of calling businesses out when they are having a hard time maintaining their businesses after a year of lockdowns. Perhaps posting on Next Door might help: at least it would make you feel better to speak up about the problem.

Different cities have different recycling rules. Winters has stricter rules than Davis. Shahla told of an old man who collects valuable recycling from people's street garbage bins. She talked with him and now keeps a separate bag for him of the more valuable items. This prompted a complicated discussion about how this affects the city recycling business and costs in processing, and the recent change in the global disposal situation.

Estelle told about the time she and Rich flew to Hawaii for a family gathering and brought a cooler full of persimmons. When she opened the cooler upon return she was amazed to find it stuffed with recyclables. Rich had not wanted these items added to the trash in Oahu where recycling was much less stringent at the time.

All in all it was a thought-provoking evening that provided some new ideas as well as validation for habits that many of us have incorporated into our daily lives for a long time already.

UNA Updates

Instead of the traditional UNA Leadership Summit in Washington, DC, UNA-USA will be hosting a virtual **Week of Action** June 6-11, focused on advocacy. Anyone can register and you are encouraged to do so, but only UNA members who register for this Week of Action will be able to participate in virtual scheduled meetings with congressional offices that will be arranged by the national UNA office. For details and to register, go to:

<https://unausa.org/events/2021-week-of-action/>

The first two days will present extensive background information and training – then there will be a day for meeting with Representatives and a separate day for meeting with Senators.

The most important talking point will be to ask for full funding for the proposed UN budget in FY22 and a paying down of the arrears (over \$1 billion) the U.S. has accumulated in paying our dues for peacekeeping.

Some facts to support our ask:

- UN humanitarian aid helps more than 80 million displaced persons.
- Fully funding the UN supports more than 815 million people near starvation.
- Through WHO, the UN supports people worldwide at risk of infectious diseases.
- Fully funding the UN reflects America's values and U.S. foreign policy interests.
- The U.S. economy receives more revenue from the UN through contracts than the U.S. spends on the UN Regular Budget and UN Peacekeeping dues.
- Fully funding the UN is bipartisan and has wide support among voters.



Recognizing that **Senator Alex Padilla**, who replaced Kamala Harris, is relatively new on the job and may not yet be fully up to speed on UN matters, UNA-USA headquarters has been able to set up a virtual meeting with Sen. Padilla's office for **May 5**. The national advocacy lead will hold a training session on May 3 for those who are participating (both NorCal and SoCal members) to make sure the time for the virtual meeting is spent effectively. In a sense, this will be a dress rehearsal for the Week of Action. If the Senator is not available we will plead our case to his legislative staff. Advocacy meetings with staff members are on occasion even more valuable, as they tend to take detailed notes and direct emphasis on issues of importance.

On May 25, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m., the next UNA NorCal Division meeting (still virtual) will be hosted by the UNA Sacramento chapter. Included in the program will be a presentation about **human rights violation of the Uighurs in China**. The public will be invited. Details are expected soon. Look for a special email with registration details as soon as available.

AAUW CA and National Updates

Reminder to Vote!

Voting in the national AAUW election ends on May 17, 2021. If you did not request a paper ballot from AAUW (paper ballots had to be postmarked by April 30, 2021), your only option to vote is online by computer, cell phone, or tablet.

On the ballot is the critical decision to remove the degree requirement for AAUW membership, along with board elections. Please look for the April 7th email from Shannon Wolfe of AAUW National with voting instructions.

NCCWSL 2021 Virtual Program May 25-26th

AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) is where hundreds of young women come to turn a moment into a movement.

Each year, we bring together hundreds of college women from around the country for three days of leadership training, inspiration and networking. Enter the conference as a passionate leader and leave it with the skills and confidence to pursue your goals. This year, the conference will be held virtually.

AAUW Davis is sending our two interns, Alexandra and Zoë, as well as several officers from AAUW@UCD to the 2021 conference.

Paycheck Fairness Act Updates and What Comes Next

On April 15, 2021, the House of Representatives voted 217-210 to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act with bipartisan support. This critical pay equity legislation now goes to the Senate, where your vocal support is needed now more than ever.

Click **HERE** to see the AAUW National 2-Minute Activist page for steps you can take to help this act get passed!

Membership Renewals for 2021-22

Membership renewal letters will be sent by email this month for 2021-22 membership, effective July 1, 2021. National dues will be \$62 for 2021-2022, of which \$59 are tax deductible. State dues remain the same at \$20 and branch dues at \$21 but are not tax deductible. The entire dues package will be a total of \$103. New members joining before June 30th will receive free branch membership until July 1st when the AAUW 2021-22 year starts.

Upcoming May Webinars

The AAUW Equity Network presents: Transforming Businesses Beyond COVID-19

May 17th, 2021 2:00-3:00pm

Click **HERE** to register for this webinar.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated deep-rooted inequities in business practices that disempower the most vulnerable workers and business owners in our communities. As organizations prepare for a post-pandemic world, we need to challenge all sectors to not go back to business as usual. Join AAUW and the UC Berkeley Haas School of Business for a fireside chat and Q&A on how we can achieve a post-pandemic future where women and people of color in the workforce not only survive but thrive by transforming internal practices to center equity and inclusion.

This webinar was made possible through the generous support of the Berkeley Haas School of Business

“Don’t Hesitate...Communicate! Oral, Written, Non-Verbal Communication Skills and Speaking across generational divides.

May 26th, 2021 7:00-8:30pm

Join Marlene Cain in learning how to lead (not herd) cats in leadership roles and work with diverse personalities.

Click **HERE** for event registration information

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