

OCTOBER 2021

THE SPOKESWOMAN

<https://davis-ca.aauw.net>

Sahaya Walks

Sahaya Walks is a celebration and fundraiser to provide health care, education, shelter and food for approximately 65 HIV-infected children and youth in the programs of Sahaya International. The fundraiser will provide support for the program in India and for the first time, some children in Africa will receive aid. The Davis Branch has supported Sahaya Walks for many years. This year, Sahaya Walks will be held as a virtual event on Saturday, October 9 at 4 pm and as an outdoor in-person event on Sunday, October 10 from 1 to 5 pm at the Mace Ranch Pavilion in Mace Ranch Park in east Davis. There are covered picnic tables, barbecue, restrooms, play garden for children, etc. As the organizers are trying to make this a zero waste event, consider bringing your own plates, cups, and utensils. As this is an outdoor event, masks are not required but are recommended if you are close to others. Registration is free and covers both events.



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October Calendar

Saturday October 9th, 9 am - Book group discussion on *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell

Saturday October 9th (virtual 4 - 5 pm) and Sunday, October 10th (in person 1 - 5 pm) - Sahaya Walks

Thursday, October 14th, 7 pm - Board meeting

Tuesday, October 19th, 5:30 pm - Celebrate the 19th, Discussion topic led by Marty West: *Current status of abortion legislation and where do we go from here?*

Saturday, October 23rd, 8 am to 2 pm - Yard Sale at Rhonda's home at 320 "I" Street

Saturday, October 23rd and 30th - AAUW Northern California Fund Events on Zoom

Monday, October 25th, 12:30 pm - United Nations Day program, *Creating a Blueprint for a Better World*

Celebrate the 19th Recap - Friends and Family Picnic

A diverse group of branch members, families, and friends gathered for a picnic on September 19th at Westwood Park. We enjoyed talking with each other, met new folks, and had a delicious lunch. We met Leslie and Eugene's children, Margo and Jack; Gail's grandson, PJ; Helen's daughters, Margot and Elise; former Trekkers, Astraea and Maya, and their mothers; UCD students and recent graduates; our intern, Zoe, and her mom; former intern (now branch member) Alexandra; new friends interested in AAUW; our board; and other branch members. A display provided information on AAUW branch activities and our mission, branch board member bios, and Tech Trek. Marti showed us the beautiful quilt that she recently completed. She is donating the quilt for our annual raffle to raise funds for Tech Trek scholarships and other branch projects.

This in-person event with careful COVID protocols in place was a welcome change from the past 18 months of mostly virtual meetings on Zoom. Thank you, Shahla and Stephanie, for reserving the venue, organizing the event, and procuring food and beverages.



September Book Group Recap

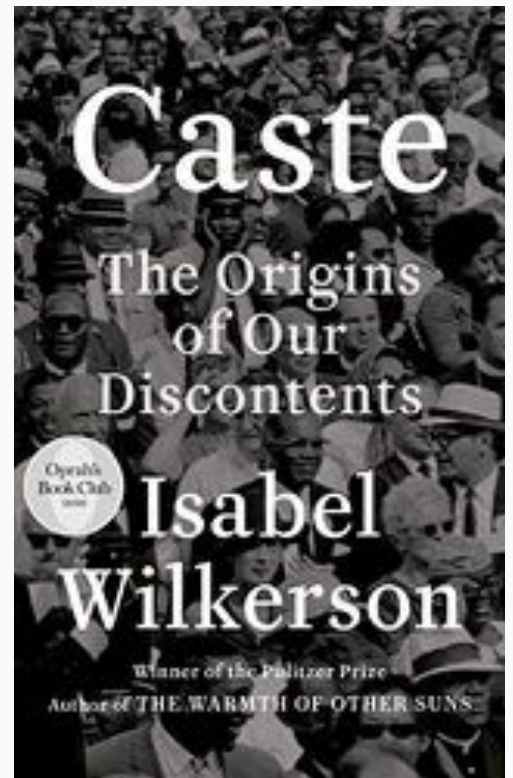
The book group met on September 11th to discuss *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson. The group had read an earlier work by Wilkerson, titled *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration*, and were inspired to continue learning about Black history presented through stories that were not taught in school. The stories told in *Caste* were about real people and were thoroughly researched, comparing race and class in America to caste systems in India and Nazi Germany. The group felt that *Caste* was a bit academic, whereas *The Warmth of Other Suns* contained more readable stories.

Leader Karen asked which episode stayed in our minds. Participants mentioned the airplane attack; the boy on the baseball team not being allowed to swim with the team in the community pool; the disallowing of Blacks to re-enact slaves retaking a house. The group observed that we don't have as much diversity in Davis as in places like Sacramento and Esparto. More equitable opportunities for housing could help increase diversity. Also, providing children with experiences in different living situations at a young age is helpful when they can learn about people without preconceived notions or biases. Karen has observed that real estate paperwork has become less biased since negative provisions can now be removed from property title documents. Helen pointed out that even in the "north", where she grew up, she experienced many instances in school where black and white students could not mix, from the viewpoint of both races. We agreed that we all need to bring our own biases to light. It is easier to aspire to change if you can see injustices around you.

The group will meet by Zoom on Saturday, October 9th at 9 am to discuss *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell. Please check your email for Zoom information. The reading selection for the November 13th meeting is *Deacon King Kong: A Novel* by James McBride. Karen welcomes volunteers to lead the book discussions at future meetings.

“Radical empathy, on the other hand, means putting in the work to educate oneself and to listen with a humble heart to understand another's experience from their perspective, not as we imagine we would feel.”

ISABEL WILKERSON



September Board Meeting Update

President Shahla Farahnak led the monthly board meeting held by Zoom on September 9 from 7 to 8:30 pm. Discussions included financial reporting and membership update by Gail Johnson, national and California updates, status of the new member welcome packet, status of United Nations Association (UNA) upcoming events, and planning details of the fall events.

As of the date of the meeting, the Branch had a total of 35 members, a decline compared to the previous year. Welcome packets to familiarize new members with the Branch have been finalized and will be posted on the Branch website and made available to all members. We are hoping that our current members will also find the packet useful for introducing the Branch to those interested in knowing more about us and encourage them to join the Branch. We are stronger together and can accomplish more towards our goal!

Leslie Rubin is the lead for the October Celebrate the 19th event and Rhonda Reed is the lead for the October 23rd Yard Sale. Our current intern, Zoe, reported that interviews for hiring new interns for the Branch are progressing well and we have a strong pool of candidates to choose from.

The next Board meeting to be held on Zoom is scheduled for Thursday October 14th at 7 pm. All members are welcome to participate. If you would like to attend the meeting, please email the branch at Davis-CA@aauw.net prior to the meeting date for Zoom information.

IBC Update - Save the Date for the Annual Funds Event (January)

Save the date for:

AAUW Fund Virtual Event

Please join us for the annual *Capital Counties* Interbranch Council*

AAUW Fund Meeting

Featuring recipients of AAUW fellowships and grants

Saturday, January 29, 2022 - 10:00 AM to Noon

FREE Via Zoom which opens at 9:45 AM

* Auburn, Citrus Heights-American River, Davis, Foothills of El Dorado County, Nevada County, Roseville-South Placer, Sacramento, and Woodland branches

UNA Updates



UNA USA
Davis Chapter

191 member nations were represented in person or virtually with speeches during the 76th UN **General Assembly (UNGA)** in late September. Afghanistan and Myanmar were absent. It was noted that only 18 women were among the world leaders to speak. The theme of the meetings was sweeping and urgent: ***Building resilience through hope to recover from COVID-19, rebuild sustainably, respond to the needs of the planet, respect the rights of people, and revitalize the United Nations.*** Easier said than done, but a reminder that we can choose the future we want.

General Assembly president Abdullah Shahid reported that New York City's mobile vaccine van parked in front of the UN during the big week vaccinated 93 attendees while 843 attendees used the van's free testing service.

As of October 1, Jordanian **Sima Sami Bahous** is head of **UN Women**. Former UN Women staffers sent her an outspoken letter saying "UN Women's task is to disrupt patriarchal power in the UN, in countries, and internationally, via the ways it delivers support, programs and policy initiatives."

On September 24 the United Nations Associations of California, Oregon, Washington and Hawaii presented a one-hour informational webinar about the history, aims and functions of the UN's annual COP (Conference of Parties) gatherings, in preparation for the October 1

Feeling the Heat: Expectations for UN 26th Climate Conference (COP26) Forum.

The Forum presented a wealth of information and inspiration, featuring speakers from many different backgrounds in government, academia and NGOs, with a great number of youth voices. Organizers had received 500 registrations, but it is hoped that many more will avail themselves of the recordings of both the preparatory one-hour webinar and the 3.5-hour Forum.

Go to <https://www.unawestclimate.org> to find the recordings, the agenda for the 10/1 Forum, short biographies of the speakers with pictures, a list of partners (including AAUW of California Connection), and especially the ***Declaration and Appeal to Combat Intensifying Global Warming and Climate Change Addressed to the U.S. Government, all Participating Governments at COP26, and Other Stakeholders*** presented by a collective of chapters of the UNA-USA in the western regions.

Organizing this event was a remarkable accomplishment by volunteers and a wonderful example of the possibility of coordinating efforts across the region and beyond, fueled by passionate concerns about the existential threat of climate change and the urgent need to take action. A follow-up program is planned for November 20 to report on what happened at COP26 and plans going forward. The website <https://www.unawestclimate.org> will remain active.

UNA Updates Continued



UNA ★ USA
Davis Chapter

UNICEF: Davis' longstanding tradition of supporting UNICEF under the umbrella of the UNA chapter is taking on a different form. No longer will children be collecting door to door with the iconic orange boxes. Instead, you can donate online beginning October 7 by visiting www.trickortreatforunicef.org/UNA. Alternatively, you may send donations to our designated UNICEF bank account at First Northern Bank, 434 Second St., Davis, CA 95616, making checks out to UNICEF (UNA-USA Account). Total deposits will be forwarded to the U.S. Committee for UNICEF in December. UNICEF is playing a very significant role addressing world crises, while children's needs are greater than ever.

The 2021 Proclamation for United Nations Day and Support UNICEF Week was presented at the October 5 virtual Davis City Council meeting. City Hall will fly the United Nations flag on October 25 in recognition of the UN's 76th anniversary.

UN DAY: The UN turns 76 on October 24 and on October 25 at 12:30 PST UNA-USA at the national level will host a virtual celebration themed Creating a Blueprint for a Better World. Attendees will hear from issues experts, young change-makers, and Americans working for UN agencies around the world. To register, go to <https://unausa.org/events/united-nations-day-2021/>



Fall Yard Sale Scheduled for October 23rd

Start cleaning out your closets and garages for the Davis Branch Fall Yard Sale to be held on Saturday, October 23rd! Profits from the yard sale will be allocated to our Tech Trek and Branch Projects funds. We are now looking ahead to 2022-2023 to provide scholarships for four incoming 8th graders to attend the UCD Tech Trek camp. The Branch Fund supports our Mission in a variety of ways, including providing funds for our UCD Student Organization members to participate in AAUW leadership opportunities, offering stipends to help members attend National or State conventions, and local projects like Sahaya Walks. The Board can also direct those funds to supplement a Tech Trek scholarship or an AAUW Funds donation.

What to donate? Please be sure that donated items are clean and gently used. Items should be priced except for the items that are grouped. Popular items include tools, jewelry, bicycles, toys, and student-oriented furniture. If you are not sure how to price items, this article may be helpful: [Learn the Dos and Don'ts of Garage Sale Pricing](#) Yard sale tags are available locally at the Dollar Tree store (for \$1) or at OfficeMax. Costume jewelry will sell for \$0.50 to \$1; however, nicer items (e.g. a pair of sterling silver earrings purchased for \$30 or more), might sell for \$10 to \$12 at a yard sale. Items that will be grouped and not individually priced include: paperback books, hardbound books, CDs, DVDs, cups/glasses, plates (\$.50), flatware, kitchen utensils, and plush toys. Clothing will be group priced (tops, pants, children's shoes, etc.). If you feel an item has greater value (e.g., 100% silk blouse), you may price it accordingly. Any items that are not sold at the end of the sale will be donated to a charity such as Goodwill or the SPCA, unless other arrangements have been made in advance.

Location of Yard Sale: Rhonda Reed's home - 320 "I" Street, Davis, CA
Rhonda will accept donations on **Thursday, October 21** and **Friday, October 22** but asks that donors call her at (530) 902-4946 to arrange for drop off.

Volunteers: Help is needed on the day of the sale! Please contact Estelle at estelle.shiroma@gmail.com or 530-848-9361 (text or call) to volunteer for two-hour shifts from 7 am to 2 pm on Saturday, October 23rd.

Branch Member News: Debbie Poulos

“One Quilter’s Odyssey,” a quilt show displaying the handsewn quilts designed by branch member Debbie Nichols Poulos, will be exhibited at the University Retirement Community through Tuesday, October 19th. Debbie, who has been quilting since 1999, devised a half-square triangle-block maze design that is unique to her style of quilting. Although she is no longer able to sew after being diagnosed with ALS in 2006, a group of friends assist with tasks she can no longer perform. We are in awe of Debbie’s work and resolve to continue quilting despite her challenges. Her work was featured in the September 16 edition of The Davis Enterprise. Congratulations to Debbie!



“Flannel Flowers” by Debbie Poulos

A Message from Karen Manelis, Program Director for California Tech Trek

Hi AAUW California Branch Tech Trek Coordinators,

Greetings everyone! I'm privileged to accept the task of being the program director for California Tech Trek for the coming year. Many of you may recognize my name as, although I no longer call California my "home," I still do have strong ties to AAUW California. Tech Trek started in California during my term as AAUW California president back in the late 90's and I established and directed the camp at CSU-Fresno from 1999 to 2007 when I moved out of state. In 2012, when AAUW took the Tech Trek program nationwide, I was fortunate to guide the AAUW WA Tech Trek program into existence. I was the Tech Trek WA camp director for the first several years and now serve as the program director.

I am still coming up to speed on Tech Trek activities in California. The camp directors and treasurers will be meeting for their annual wrap up/planning meeting in early October. In order to keep everyone in the loop and develop plans for 2022, I am scheduling a meeting for all branch coordinators on Tuesday, October 26th at 7 - 8 pm. At that time, a short wrap up of what transpired in 2021, (establishment of the new Tech Trek Committee, virtual camp, etc.) and plans for 2022 will be available to share. Lots to do in a short period of time!

Regards,

Karen Manelis*

AAUW California Tech Trek Program Director

techtrek@aauw-ca.org

*Karen is a past President of the Davis branch, past State President in California, and a member of AAUW Washington, the Davis branch, and the California Online branch

AAUW Updates

AAUW WEIGHS IN AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL

AAUW is actively lobbying for major legislation in Congress. Two bills sponsored by California representatives are of special interest.

Women's health: Reproductive rights are at serious risk in our country now. The Women's Health Protection Act, (H.R.3755), sponsored by Rep. Judy Chu (CA-27), has passed the House and is on the Senate legislative calendar. This urgent bill would protect abortion access.

Title IX: The Patsy Mink and Louise Slaughter Gender Equity in Education Act (GEEA) (H.R.4097), sponsored by Rep. Doris Matsui (CA-6), includes provisions for more resources, training, and technical assistance to support full implementation of Title IX. Also, AAUW staff are in close contact with Miguel Cardona, the new Secretary of Education, to reverse egregious Title IX policy changes made by the previous Secretary Betsy DeVos.

Support AAUW's work at the national level. Urge your branch members to sign up for the Two-Minute Activist by clicking [here](#) or by texting "AAUW" to 21333 to get Action Alerts via text.

Upcoming Webinars

Beyond the Newsletter!

"Oh gosh, I didn't know about that!" Branch leaders hear this all the time. How can you get the word out? Attend this webinar to explore an arsenal of different publicity tools, both old and new, to promote AAUW branch events to members and the public."

October 12, 2021, 7pm

Click [HERE](#) to register

AAUW 2021 Fund Events

Black Holes? Rural women's health? Social classification? What incredible topics are the 37(!) AAUW-funded fellowship and grant recipients studying? Attend these live virtual events showcasing their personal stories and fascinating studies. But wait, there's more! This is a chance to see the great speakers who can be scheduled for branch programs! Register [HERE](#)

October 23, 2021 10:00 am October 30, 2021 10:00 am November 7, 2021 1:00 pm

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