

JANUARY 2022

THE SPOKESWOMAN

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

Empower Yolo Presentation

On December 11th, members gathered at Stephanie's home for our annual holiday meeting. Sweet and savory finger foods were shared as we gathered in front of a screen where Ms. Celina Alvarez, Associate Director of Empower Yolo, joined us by Zoom. She talked to us about the work, the needs, and the volunteers of this non-profit organization with locations in Davis, Woodland, West Sacramento, and Esparto. The services provided by Empower Yolo include safe shelter for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. They also have a crisis line and assist clients with restraining orders, family legal services, housing referrals, food distribution and necessities (personal hygiene products, emergency clothing), transportation, case management and other services, as needed. Ms. Alvarez has been with Empower Yolo for 15 years and feels very fulfilled by what she and the organization are accomplishing. She is passionate and dedicated to her work.

Those attending provided donations of paper goods, hand sanitizer, cleaning supplies, diapers, gift cards, and other items that were on Empower Yolo's wish list. We extend our thanks to Stephanie for hosting the enlightening and enjoyable afternoon. We are also grateful to Juliana and Stephanie for delivering our donations to Empower Yolo.

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January Calendar

Saturday, January 15th, 3-4:30 p.m.:
Marin UNA Chapter Sustainable
Development Goal #9 program

January 19th, Wednesday
5:30-6:30 p.m.:
Celebrate the 19th

January 19th, Wednesday 7pm:
Social Media, Your Key to Outreach -
Part I

January 21st, 2022, Friday 12noon:
Entrepreneurship - is it for me?

Saturday, January 29th, 10 am to
noon: IBC AAUW Fund Event
register by January 28th

January 29th, Saturday 10 am to
noon: IBC AAUW Fund Event register
by January 28th Saturday

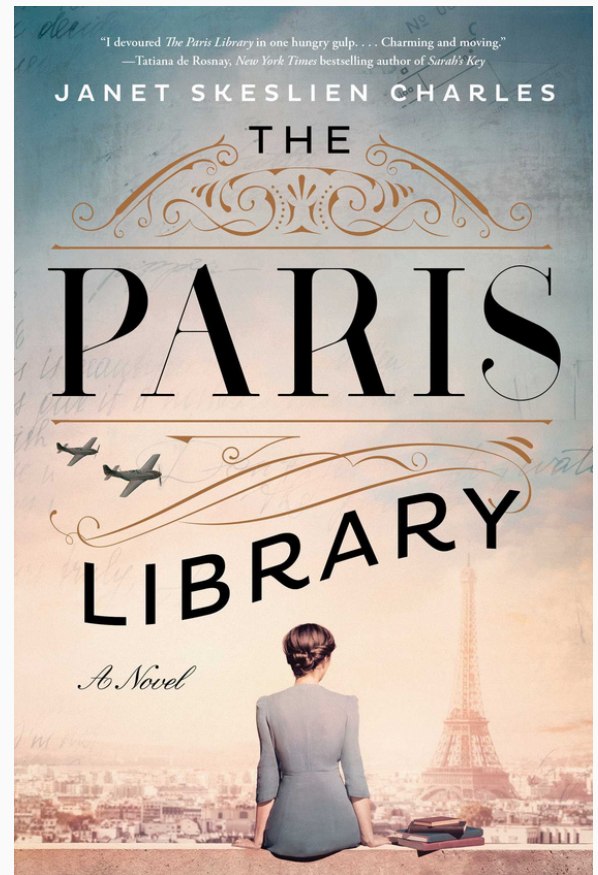
December Book Group Recap

On December 11th, Verena led the discussion about Janet Skeslien Charles' "The Paris Library," a book based on true events during World War II in Paris and fictional events four decades later in Montana. The constant shifting back and forth in time and between locales and characters (a new trend that we have seen in several of our recent selections) was annoying to some of us because it made the story harder to follow. For those using audio books it was equally frustrating to have to "rehear" parts in order to follow the storyline.

"It's important to remember how hard it is to ask for help,' she reminded me. 'Never be impatient; all questions have value.'"

JANET SKESLIEN CHARLES

The need to have the fictional Lily as a character in the Montana scenes was questioned. Although Lily's character as a teenager in the 1980s was not nearly as well developed as that of the central character, Odile, whose full life story became known from prewar years through the 1980s, the generational difference did allow for filling in a lot of background information. To the member in the book group who actually lived through WWII in Europe, many scenes were not realistic, creating the feeling that this novel was written by an outsider looking in purely through research.

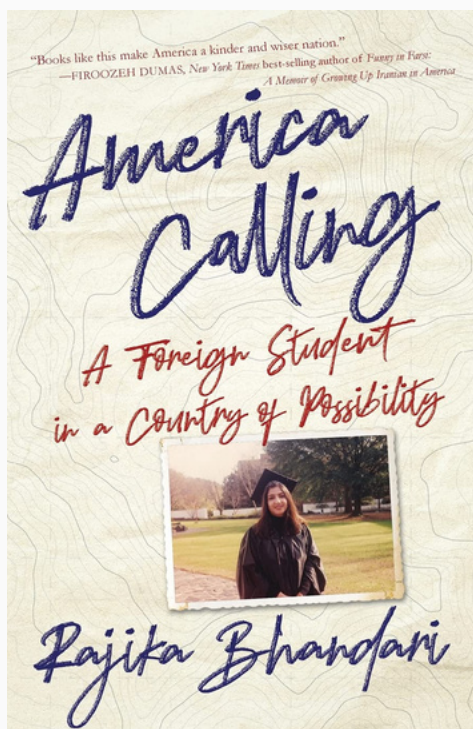


We talked about judging a book by its cover (in this case showing the back of a slim woman looking out over a geographically recognizable scene) or by its beginning sentence (as many experienced in our previous selection, "Deacon King Kong").

Perhaps the most valuable lesson learned from reading "The Paris Library," as intended by the author, is the importance of talking about emotions before they become overwhelming and the realization that communication is a key to wellbeing. The crucial role that libraries and books play in this novel - and in our lives in general - is a vivid illustration of the need for effective communication.

January Book Group Recap

On January 8th, joined by two members of the Woodland branch, nine of us under the leadership of Karen Lemcke enjoyed a spirited discussion of the 2021 book “America Calling – A Foreign Student in a Country of Possibility” by Rajika Bhandari. The author had immigrated from India to the U.S. as a graduate student. Although no specific details were given, it was interesting to note that the author had received a \$15,000 AAUW International Fellowship (one of forty-two women worldwide) supporting her graduate studies.



The group’s general conversation was about immigrants, our own experience with them through family history and close friendships, even about first generation experience in the recent past. We spoke of the positive benefits of immigrants to our

society, both on a personal level involving learning about other cultures and gaining from immigrants’ skills, food, hard work, art, music, history and other traditions, as well as the immeasurable economic benefit attained by the U.S. through immigrants’ contributions to the work force in terms of technology, medicine and agriculture.

The author describes with humor the difficulties and surprises encountered by an international student when first trying to adjust to American ways. No ketchup on pizza? Wearing specific colors for seasons or holidays? She describes her unfamiliarity with computers in the early 1990s, her difficulty with local accents (and the locals’ difficulty with her accent, including people’s mispronunciation of her name) and idioms, her distress at the stereotypes prevalent in the U.S. about people from India and even the shocking lack of knowledge about India’s geographic location.

"...Scholarships remain critical in expanding opportunities for students in the global south, esp. for women."

RAJIKA BHANDARI

A visit to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC, is a revelation to her: she realizes that the holocaust was barely mentioned in India and not taught in her Indian textbooks. This in turn causes her to reflect on the devastating results of 1947’s Partition (her own family had to flee Pakistan and settle in Delhi as refugees) that displaced fifteen million and cost at least two million lives, a part of history unknown to the

January Book Group Recap Continued...

Americans she met. This experience illustrates how important it is to forge mutual understanding and respect, qualities encouraged by international exchanges such as Rajika Bhandari's.

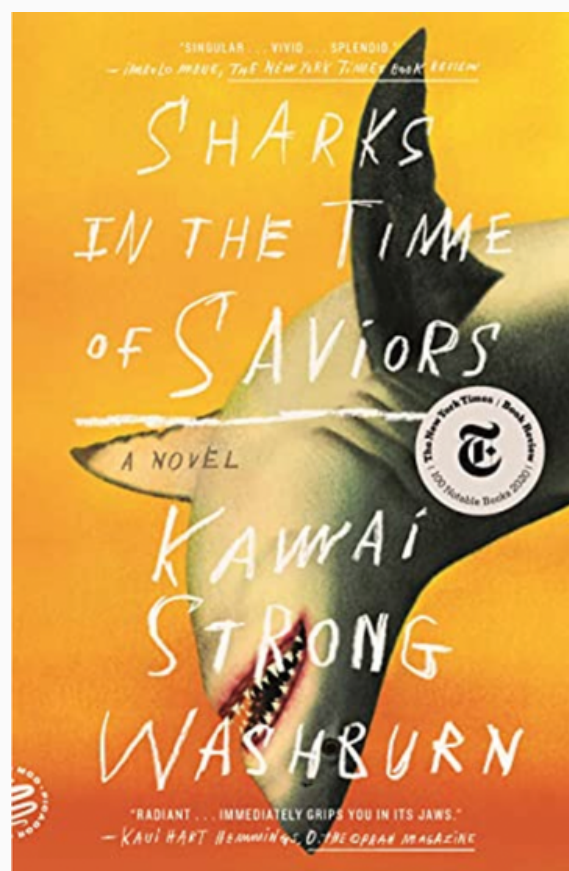
Throughout the book there are references to the subservient role of women and girls in India at the time and to the different pay scale for women and men in her American university employment. The author eventually faces the difficult decision between returning home and staying in the U.S. permanently. She learns to stand up for herself and ultimately realizes that the

freedom of choice she has experienced in our country, including the freedom for women to change or extend careers, is the deciding factor.

The final paragraph in the book gives us the following to ponder. "The attraction of an American classroom has held strong over the years, and it holds strong today. But will it persist in the future? That will depend on America and whether it wants the world in its classrooms, in its streets, and in its homes. The question America has to answer for itself is not what it has meant to the world in the past, but what does America want to mean in the future."

February Book Group Update

"Sharks in the Time of Savivors" by Kawai Strong Washburn will be discussed on February 12th. We had originally selected "New Memoir" by Trevor Noah but discovered that it will not be released until March. Karen has asked that we bring suggestions for books we would like to read and discuss in March, April, and May when we meet again in February. All are welcome to join the book group discussion via Zoom on the second Saturday of each month at 9 am. The link to join the meeting will be emailed to members the week of the meeting.



Capital Counties Interbranch Council (IBC) AAUW Fund Event on January 29, 2022

The annual AAUW Fund meeting will be held on Saturday, January 29th by Zoom from 10 am to noon. Join us to meet the 2021-22 AAUW California Fellows and Grant Recipients as they discuss their work, research, and experiences. Please register for this free program by January 28th, 2022. After registering, you will receive the Zoom link via email two days before the event and again on the morning of January 29th.



Juily Phun will speak on Contours of Care: The Influenza Pandemic, Public Health and Asian American Communities in Southern California, 1918-1941.



Ana Grande will speak on the P.F. Bresee Foundation - Physical Sciences and Engineering Exploration for 100 Low-Income Central Los Angeles Girls.



Brenna Mockler will speak on Probing Supermassive Black Holes with Tidal Disruption Events.

Join us for this informative event to support these women!

UNA Updates

SAVE THE DATE for:

UNA-USA's virtual GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT SUMMIT

Thursday, February 24, 2022 from 1-5 p.m. ET, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. PST.

The Global Engagement Summit, in non-pandemic years held at UN headquarters in New York, is the largest annual gathering of UN advocates in the country, bringing together UN and U.S. officials, young professionals, community leaders and subject matter experts from across the country to explore the mission and lifesaving work of the United Nations.

This year's theme – *One Humanity, One Planet, One Common Agenda* – highlights the fact that the only way to drive global progress to create a better world for us all is to do it together in unity.

With a mix of live and on-demand content, the sessions will align with UNA's mission to *Inspire, Educate and Mobilize*. Join fellow advocates to show collective support for a strong U.S.-UN partnership while traveling to the field to see the impact of UN agencies around the world, hearing from changemakers how to use the Sustainable Development Goals to make a difference in your communities, and meeting elected officials who seek to improve the life of people in our world.

Registration is free and will open soon. Contact Verena Borton for more information by mid-January at verenaborton@gmail.com

On **Saturday, January 15** from 3:00-4:30 p.m., the Marin County UNA chapter will present a program on Sustainable Development Goal #9, "Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation." A global perspective on SDG #9 will be given by UNA NorCal Division president Herb Behrstock who retired from a long career with the UN Development Programme. Longtime Marin entrepreneur Chris Yalonis will give the local perspective. This is the 9th installment of the Marin chapter's bimonthly offerings on the 17 SDGs.

If you would like to register for this program, please contact Bonnie Hunter at unamarinchapter@gmail.com Several Davis members regularly attend Marin's commendable SDG presentations.



Looking to Reach Out and Gain More Members in 2022?

Social media is a great opportunity for doing just that. However, knowing how to utilize social media platforms can be tricky. That is why AAUW is holding two webinars specifically to learn about how to work with social media and create impactful messages.

Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn – Your Key to Outreach - has 2 parts:

Establishing your accounts

January 19, 2022

Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

Creating effective messages

February 22, 2022

Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

AAUW Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Toolkit

One of AAUW's goals for 2022 is to improve the experience of AAUW members by implementing a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) contact in every branch. This way we can help others appreciate our multi-cultural society and value our differences as individuals. Our members may find a number of resources in achieving this goal helpful, including webinars, plug and play programs, and recommended educational videos. Several of these resources are linked below for members to visit.

For AAUW's published DEI glossary of terms with definitions that are useful for developing programs.

Click [HERE](#)

To find several Plug and Play options in the DEI Toolkit. This will provide elaborations and information on various topics, guidelines, and activities.

Click [HERE](#)

To watch a video on inclusion included in a DEI Committee presentation.

Click [HERE](#)

For a link to short surveys on implicit bias developed by a team of university researchers.

Click [HERE](#)

AAUW Updates

NEW OPPORTUNITIES WITH AAUW

With the new year come new opportunities. With the start of 2022, AAUW has a new opportunity for candidates to run for the AAUW California Board of Directors. Board members are responsible for defining what policies and programs AAUW California will support to reach our state-wide mission towards gender equity.

There are eight positions open on the state board. Positions to be elected include:

- Secretary (two-year term 2022– 2024)
- Three Directors (one-year term 2022–2023)
- Four Directors (two-year term 2022– 2024)

Don't be shy! Your combination of experience and skills could be exactly what can help us accomplish our mission. Members are more than welcome to apply and serve. Details regarding the election process and the nomination form can be found [HERE](#).

Upcoming Webinars

Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn - Your Key to Outreach - Part I

Social media demystified! Can you take a picture on your cell phone? If so, you can create an account and get started reaching new audiences. We'll make it easy to understand! Part II (February 22, 2022) will focus on how to create effective posts for each platform.

January 19, 2022 7 pm

Click [HERE](#) to register

Entrepreneurship - is it for me?

In AAUW's first ever Lunch and Learn series join Yvonne Campos, a successful entrepreneur who founded three companies and has seen entrepreneurship from the inside out. She started her first company in 1975, a qualitative research consultancy, then in 1983 she founded Campos Market Research, Inc. a full service research and strategy company, and in 2016 she founded Next Act Fund, an Angel Investment Fund.

January 21, 2022 12 Noon

Click [HERE](#) to register

The Women's Power Gap at Elite Universities: Scaling the Ivory Tower

AAUW is teaming up with the Eos Foundation on a panel discussion and a compelling new report, The Women's Power Gap at Elite Universities: Scaling the Ivory Tower.

Thursday, January 20, 2022, 4:00-5:30 p.m. ET

Click [HERE](#) to register

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