

MARCH 2022

THE SPOKESWOMAN

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

Women's History Month

A few facts about Women's History Month:

- In February 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the week of March 8th, 1980, as "National Women's History Week."
- In 1987, Congress passed Public Law 100-9, designating March as "Women's History Month."
- The National Women's History Alliance has designated the 2022 Women's History Month theme as "Women providing healing, promoting hope."

Celebrate Locally

The Yolo County 2022 Women's History Month theme is "Providing Healing, Promoting Hope" honoring women caregivers, frontline workers and women of all cultures who have provided both healing and hope throughout history and into our future.

Celebrate Women's History Month on Saturday, March 26th from 10 am to 2 pm at an Open House at the Gibson House and Property at 512 Gibson Road in Woodland.

Featured Speakers include:

- Dr. Amy Sisson, Yolo County Health Officer
- Mel Russell, Historian and former Yolo County Archives Coordinator
- Julia Levine, City of Davis Poet Laureate
- Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation
- Woodland Community College

Admission is free! Reserve your spot via [Eventbrite](#). Click [HERE](#) for the event schedule. Visit www.ycwhm.org for more information. COVID-safe measures will be in place; masks are required.

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March Calendar

Tuesday, March 8: International Women's Day

Saturday, March 12 at 9 am: Book Group discussion on *Harlem Shuffle* by Colson Whitehead

Monday, March 14 at 1 pm: UNA-USA webinar: Girls Education, Empowerment, and the Impact on Climate Resiliency

Monday, March 14 at 7 pm: Board Meeting

Saturday, March 19: Celebrate the 19th; details to be provided by email

Saturday, March 26, 10 am to 2 pm: Women's History Month at Gibson House

Saturday, April 9: Book Group discussion on *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles

Monday, April 11: Annual Business meeting, Tres Hermanas at 5:30 pm

April 11 through 15: Lobby Week

February Board Meeting Summary

The monthly Davis Branch board meeting was held on February 10th. The discussion included review of finances, membership, book group, United Nations Association updates, and upcoming February, March, and April events. Gail provided the latest update on the UC Davis Tech Trek camp. The board voted to participate only if the camp is in-person with girls residing in the dorms. Prior to the vote, board members discussed the benefits of an in-person camp experience vs a virtual camp.

Nominations for officers to serve on the 2022-23 Davis branch board are underway and the slate of nominees will be provided to members no later than 10 days prior to the annual business meeting scheduled on Monday, April 11th at 5:30 pm. The election will be held at the annual business meeting. Details will be discussed at the March board meeting.

The board is working on partnerships with other organizations and is currently exploring a collaboration with the Sunset Rotary club. Discussions are underway regarding how to assist them with a process for selecting a scholarship recipient to attend one of three Rotary summer camps. The club reached out to the branch given our long history of providing scholarships for girls to attend the Tech Trek camp.

The next board meeting will be held by Zoom on Monday, March 14th.



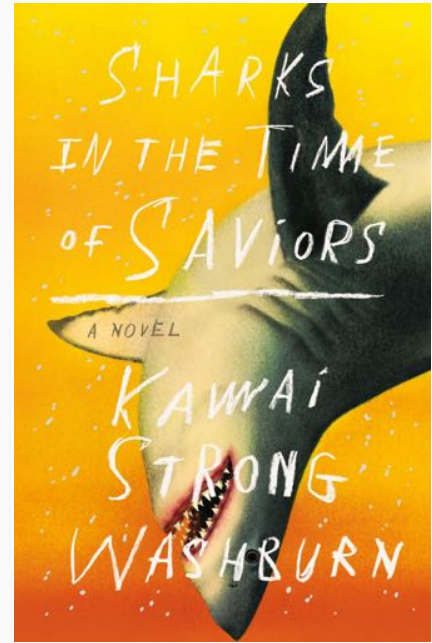
February Book Group Recap

Led by Estelle, eleven participants discussed *Sharks in the Time of Saviors* by Kawai Strong Washburn who was raised on the Big Island of Hawaii. The book is written in pidgin English intermixed with Hawaiian words and phrases that were difficult for some to understand (no glossary was provided). The audio version was helpful in distinguishing the characters because it was read by five people. The author's debut novel is told in the alternating voices of each member of a blue-collar family that experiences a near tragedy after their firstborn son falls overboard from a cruise ship into waters infested by sharks. The young boy, Nainoa, is miraculously unharmed and is delivered safely to his frantic mother in the jaws of a shark. The boy then begins to exhibit magical powers of healing that are thought to be a sign of favor from ancient Hawaiian gods. As time passes, what seemed like a gift eventually drives the family apart.

Despite being from the same family, it was noted that each of the characters in the book is very different. The parents struggle to pay bills and work constantly. There is much sibling rivalry with "the favorite one" often the source of conflict. All three children eventually leave Hawaii to attend school on the mainland where each child encounters hardships, leading the daughter and Nainoa to return to Hawaii. Nainoa eventually leaves the family and travels to the Big Island in search of the gods that can restore his healing powers. Instead, he meets his fate at the bottom of a cliff with only a boot, his backpack, and ukulele as evidence. This left us wondering whether he fell or was "swallowed" by the land. The words of the mother as she grieves for her son are touching. "Picture this, the mother and the father still living after you're lost, where every day feels like a fog: no way forward, no way back, no idea which is which, everywhere the cold heavy colorless feeling of floating, alone in the middle of nothing." The book concludes with the father joining the night marchers in the spirit world, leaving some with different interpretations of what happens to him.

Estelle, who was born and raised in Hawaii, said she was familiar with the references to Hawaiian culture and identified with the struggles of the children who leave the islands in order to grow. There was much discussion about the history of Hawaii and how the land was stolen, the cultures are very diverse, and the poverty in many areas is real. Many islanders do not travel very much, even to a neighboring island. Those who do not venture to the mainland for college or travel as adults may be viewed as parochial. A discussion of "haoles" (Hawaiian word for Caucasians or non-native Hawaiians) led to a wide-ranging discussion of stereotyping and separatism.

The book selected for the March 12th discussion is *Harlem Shuffle* by Colson Whitehead. On April 9th, *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles will be discussed.



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UNA Updates



The long-awaited Global Engagement Summit, with more than four hours of virtual presentations and advocacy opportunities, took place on February 24th, the very day that Russia invaded Ukraine. Many of the speakers made reference to what by then was beginning to be called war. Stéphane Dujarric, Spokesperson for UN Secretary-General António Guterres, commented that it was actually a relief for him to be able to address a group supportive of the United Nations and for a short while to be away from the multiple crises hotspot. Overall, the event was a great way to learn about the many functions of the UN, UNA's programs across the country and multiple ways to get involved. The emphasis on youth representatives was encouraging. Message from UNA-USA: If you missed any portion of the programming or want to relive your favorite moments, please be sure to [check out our YouTube channel](#)—all recordings have been posted to our [2022 Global Engagement Summit playlist](#).

UNA Davis has been busy assisting the MidPeninsula UNA chapter in organizing a program for International Women's Day on March 5, 2- 4 p.m. AAUW Davis sent out an email with the announcement and the link via Eventbrite. We hope you may have been able to join the Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow event and to hear from a group of panelists representing a wide variety of views – from a Silicon Valley high school climate activist, Peri Plantenberg, to Meriem Bekka who is focused on creating systems change for a better future, to the Australian founder of 1 Million Women and author of "Every Woman's Guide to Saving the Planet", Natalie Isaacs, to Bo Li, the Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (the only male presenter). There is no recording available.



Representatives of 175 nations attending the United Nations Environment Assembly in Kenya agreed on March 2nd to begin writing a global, binding treaty to restrict the devastating growth of plastic pollution. Possibly the most important environmental accord since the 2015 Paris Agreement, the target date for completing this treaty and beginning implementation is 2024. It is estimated that only 9% of all plastic produced has ever been recycled and that most of the rest is designed for single use.

AAUW National News

AAUW Chief Executive Officer Gloria L. Blackwell issued a statement on President Biden's nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson (pictured below) to the U.S. Supreme Court.



"Our hearts are full with profound joy, pride and exhilaration that President Biden has nominated the brilliant, inspiring and eminently qualified Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to serve on the Supreme Court of the United States of America. As an organization that has worked for 140 years to advance the rights of all women, AAUW views her nomination as a historic milestone that will move us more swiftly to gender and racial equity and justice. Her confirmation won't just give a Black woman "a seat at the table," but will bring valuable and much-needed new insights to the highest court in the land to the benefit of us all.

Representation matters—and we are thrilled to see the labor, intellect and advocacy of Black women being recognized, acknowledged and celebrated in this extraordinary moment.

President Biden pledged to nominate a justice with exceptional credentials, unimpeachable character and an unwavering dedication to the rule of law—and he found all of that and more in Judge Jackson.

Her qualifications are outstanding. A Harvard Law graduate, she has served with distinction on the second-highest court in the land, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals.

In addition, she held a U.S. a Supreme Court clerkship, positions at prestigious corporate law firms, and a role on the U.S. Sentencing Commission. Judge Jackson also worked as a public defender—experience that is sorely lacking on the current court.

Judge Jackson has shown a commitment to the issues that AAUW holds dear, including support for equal justice and the protection of civil and human rights for all Americans.

Her stellar background, combined with her demonstrated commitment to fairness, impartiality and equal justice, all add up to one conclusion: She is the ideal jurist for the job.

AAUW wholeheartedly supports this momentous nomination and will use our voice, resources, passion and activism to ensure that Judge Jackson is quickly confirmed with a unanimous vote by the U.S. Senate. This February, it's remarkable to see Black history in the making!"

AAUW California News

Annual Event on Saturday, April 30th

The Annual California Conference, now known as the Annual Event, will be held on Saturday, April 30th from 9 am to 3 pm via Zoom. Using an adventure theme, we will all be explorers searching for new routes to connect AAUW to its mission.

The event will be kicked off with inspirational words from Gloria Blackwell, AAUW CEO and Lisa Maatz, Senior Adviser, Ohio Citizen Action and former AAUW Policy Adviser.

The morning session program will:

- Highlight the year's accomplishments and announce the Named Gift Honoree, Equity Champion, and Top 10 Branch Fund Contributions.
- Review our advocacy efforts.
- Share important news and updates.
- Present topics for the breakout sessions (instead of the usual workshops), where members can explore various AAUW topics and provide feedback. Members will be able to move freely back and forth between breakout rooms to network, share thoughts, stories, and experiences.

During the afternoon session we will:

- Be introduced to the 2022-23 Board of Directors
- Meet dancing scientist Jasmine Sadler, owner and founder of [The STEAM Collaborative](#)
- Honor three winners of the 2022 Branch Activity of the Year and hear about what they did.
- Award a Speech Trek winner (listen to speeches from the three finalists throughout the day).

Click [HERE](#) for more information

Click [HERE](#) to Register

Upcoming Webinars

UNA Event: Girls' Education, Empowerment and the Impact on Climate Resiliency

The United Nations Association of the National Capital Area is excited to highlight global leaders that are advancing girls' education access and the impact of girls' empowerment in addressing climate change.

Addressing climate change requires an inclusive and dynamic stakeholder engagement approach, and reports are starting to show that girls' education is a prime example of how inclusivity is integral in mitigating climate change. Not only is girls' education an investment in the next generation of green-tech innovators to address severe weather and other observable impacts of climate change, but also empowers women's agency in reproductive health and family planning, and drive local pro-environmental resource management decision making.

The panelists will speak to efforts to integrate gender-inclusive strategies that address all facets of support women and girls need in order to access education and shape disaster mitigation, response and reduction efforts.

When: Monday, March 14, 2022 at 1:00 PDT

Where: Online

Cost: Free, but registration is required

Click [HERE](#) to register and learn more about the featured speakers

AAUW Empower

If you have student loan debt or know someone who does, don't miss our next Empower webinar! Get answers and advice about managing student debt from a lawyer at the Office of Federal Student Aid. Free to attend!

When: March 15, 2022, 2pm PDT

Where: Online

Click [HERE](#) to register

Women and Work: Increasing Leadership and Economic Equity

Women can't wait for trickle-down change to bring equity to the workplace. The pandemic has served as a catalyst to shift how women and employers are approaching the radically changing workplace and building a better environment for us all. What should it look like? What key strategies can't be left out? An interactive, expert panel will engage in a dynamic, real-life discussion on strategies to address gender and work, the double burden and expectations of women's paid and unpaid work, and solutions to women's economic participation that support equity and success in the workforce.

When: March 16, 2022, 11am PDT

Where: Online

Click [HERE](#) to register

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