

APRIL 2022

# THE SPOKESWOMAN

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

## AAUW Davis Board Election

### Upcoming Elections for AAUW Davis Board

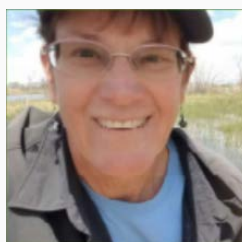
Ten candidates are running for openings on the AAUW Davis Board. Members will vote in-person.

**When:** April 11th at 5:30 pm

**Where:** Tres Hermanas patio (pending weather)  
805 2nd St. in Davis



Click [HERE](#) to see their bios



## In This Issue:

[click to be directed to article](#)

[AAUW Davis Board Election](#)

[Davis Branch Annual Business Meeting on April 11th](#)

[March Board Meeting Summary](#)

[Recap of March 12th Book Group Meeting](#)

[Celebrating Iranian New Year](#)

[AAUW National News](#)

[Upcoming Webinars](#)

[AAUW California News](#)

[UNA Updates](#)

## April Calendar

Wednesday, April 6 to Monday, May 16, 5 pm EST - AAUW national election

Thursday, April 7 - Lobby Day Mandatory Zoom training

Saturday, April 9 at 9 am - Monthly Book Group Meeting by Zoom (*The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles)

Monday, April 11 at 5:30 pm - Annual Branch Business Meeting at Tres Hermanas, Davis

Monday, April 11 through Friday, April 15 - Lobby Week

Friday, April 15 at noon - Lunch and Learn (virtual); registration required

Tuesday, April 19 - Celebrate the 19th (details to be emailed)

Sunday, April 24 to Saturday, May 14 - AAUW California election

Saturday, April 30 at 9 am - AAUW CA annual event (virtual)

## Davis Branch Annual Business Meeting on April 11th

The annual Davis branch business meeting will be held on Monday, April 11th at 5:30 pm at Tres Hermanas patio (weather permitting), 805 Second Street in Davis. This event is sponsored by the branch and is an opportunity for members to socialize and meet board member candidates, ask questions, offer suggestions, and cast their vote for the 2022-2023 board members. We miss you and would really love to see you at this in-person event.

The slate of board candidates was sent to members by email on April 1st. Their statements are provided in the links on pg.1.

“Organizations thrive when our people can see tomorrow as better than today because they are making it better.”

CHRISTOPHER NOVAK,  
CONQUERING ADVERSITY

## March Board Meeting Summary

The monthly Davis Branch board meeting was held on March 14th. The discussion included review of finances, membership, book group, United Nations Association updates, and upcoming March and April events. Gail provided the latest update on UC Davis Tech Trek camp. This was a high interest topic, Gail had many new updates to share and members had many questions and thoughts, as well. This is expected as the changes in leadership as well as COVID protocols make this event more challenging than the past camps. While the Tech Trek camp details and arrangements have always required extensive work by the organizers and volunteers, restarting the camp after two years of the COVID pandemic poses further challenges, but the camp is very rewarding and worth the effort. Members are encouraged and welcome to support the event as camp counselors or event volunteers.

Estelle will register the nominated students for the virtual 2022 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) by the early bird registration deadline once she confirms their interest and availability to attend on May 24 through 26. Estelle had initiated the request by email and board members had approved (vote by email) sponsoring four students for NCCSWL using the designated student organization funds to pay for it.

Nominations for officers to serve on the 2022-2023 Davis branch board have been received and the slate of officers along with goal statements is scheduled to be emailed to the members by April 1st. Votes will be cast in person at the April 11, 2022 Business meeting scheduled to be held at Tres Hermanas (outside seating weather permitting) starting at 5:30 pm.

**There will be no board meeting in April. The next board meeting will be held by Zoom on Thursday, May12th.**

## Recap of March 12th Book Group Meeting

Eleven of us met at our regular second Saturday of the month on April 9th to talk about our impressions of Colson Whitehead's "Harlem Shuffle." This book was selected because of the author's success with previous Pulitzer Prize winning novels, "The Underground Railroad" and "The Nickel Boys." Many in the group had not been able to finish reading the book, a fact that led to a rather piecemeal discussion.

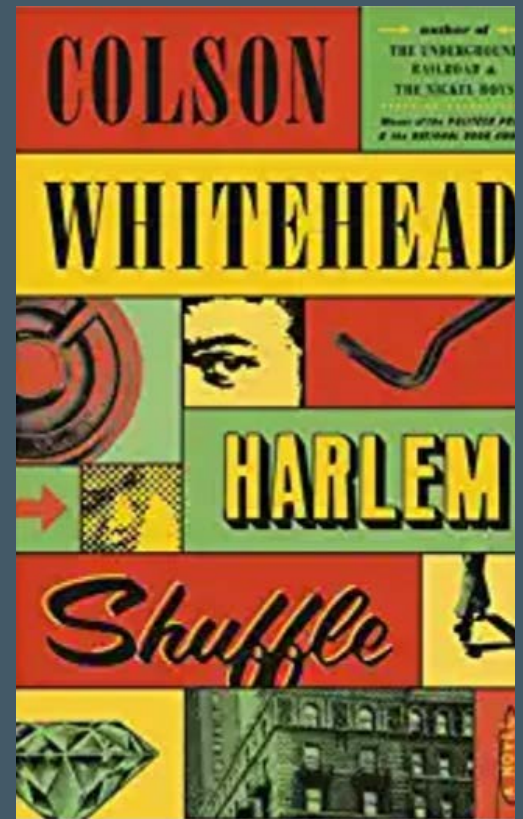
Although "Harlem Shuffle" deals with crime and challenges faced by Black entrepreneurs in Harlem, it also deals with family life and gradual success for the protagonist, Ray Carney, owner of a furniture store on 125th Street, and contains a good bit of humor – all of which makes this novel lighter than the two preceding ones. It has been referred to as a "love song to Harlem."

The events depicted take place between 1959 and 1964. There are many references to well-known places and certain events in this section of New York, like the race riots of 1964, making it easier for some of us to identify with the locale. One of our discussants moved to New York City in 1964, lived 25 blocks south of Ray Carney's store and was surprised not to have any recollection whatsoever of the riots resulting from a police officer shooting and killing a Black youth.

Carney struggles to make his business successful enough to provide for his family in the way he would like to (and eventually is able to). Largely through interference by his cousin Freddie, he gets involved in some shady business to supplement his income. Initially this is minor crime, but the story revolves around his getting dragged into a major heist and his ensuing involvement with criminals and law enforcement. The "shuffle" is his back-and-forth between dealing with these challenges and (Cont.)

"At the end of the day when she propped him up and told him he could do it, he puzzled over these alien things she offered him. Kindness and faith, he didn't know which box to put them in."

COLSON WHITEHEAD



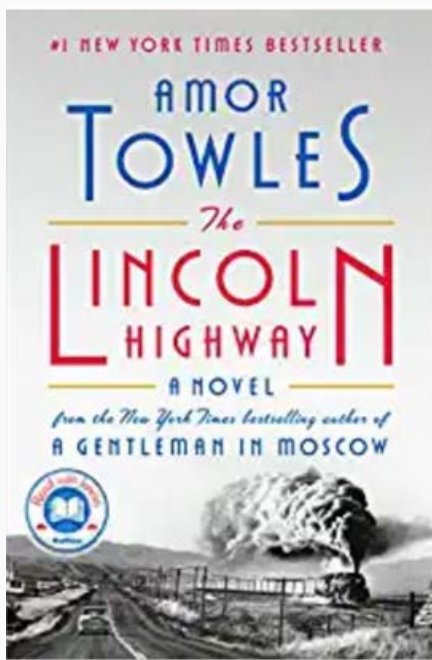
## Book Group Meeting Cont.

at the same time maintaining a popular furniture store and happy family life. As one of our members said: “He was a multi-dimensional character who had to make hard choices in order to survive and move up.” Despite what he did, most felt he was still “a good guy.” Another comment was “Whitehead’s story was well-crafted and showed the complexities of trying to maintain one’s status or make a decent living.”

While some in the group researched the ubiquitous references to furniture from dinette sets to sectionals, others felt there was too much emphasis on the popular furniture brands of the time.

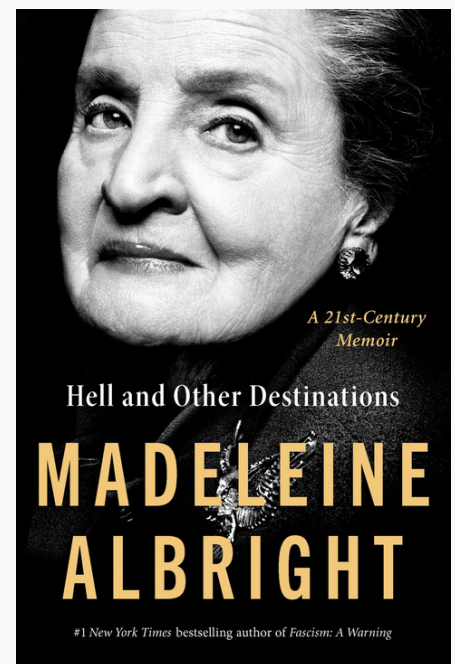
Perhaps because most had not read the entire novel, the discussion lacked focus and strayed into numerous unrelated but interesting issues, including marijuana, land use, water regulation and contamination of wetlands.

On April 9 the book group discussed Amor Towles’ novel “The Lincoln Highway.” The next reading selection is “Hell and Other Destinations,” a 21st-Century Memoir by Madeleine Albright to be discussed on Saturday, May 14 at 9 am. A reminder will be sent to members by email the week of the book group meeting.



“A reader lives  
a thousand lives  
before he dies.”

GEORGE R. R. MARTIN



# Celebrating Iranian New Year

Nowruz, meaning “new day”, is an ancestral festivity marking the first day of spring and the renewal of nature. It includes rituals, ceremonies, and cultural events. It is celebrated by 300 million people all around the world and has been celebrated for over 3,000 years in the Balkans, the Black Sea Basin, the Caucasus, Central Asia, the Middle East and other regions. Rituals and traditions practiced during Nowruz festival promote values of peace and solidarity between generations and within families, as well as reconciliation and neighborliness. The Nowruz celebration is an affirmation of life in harmony with nature, awareness of the inseparable link between constructive labor and natural cycles of renewal and a solicitous and respectful attitude towards natural sources of life. In 2010, the “International Day of Nowruz” was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly.



An important tradition practiced on Nowruz is the gathering around the “Sofre Haft-Seen” (the Table of Seven S’s), decorated with seven symbolic items that start with the letter “S” in Farsi. Other items like a mirror, candle, and goldfish are placed on the table to symbolize purity, reflection, brightness, and livelihood.

The seven items on the table are:

***Elaeagnus angustifolia* (plant commonly called Russian olive, silver berry, oleaster): the symbol of love**

**Apple: the symbol of beauty**

**Sumac: the symbol of sunrise**

**Vinegar: the symbol of patience and wisdom**

**Sprouting /Grass: the symbol of rebirth and growth**

**Samanu: the symbol of power and strength**

**Garlic: the symbol of health and medicine**

This year in the U.S., Nowruz was celebrated on March 20th, the date of the spring astronomical vernal equinox. Board members and friends participating in a Nowruz celebration hosted by Laleh experienced the joyful welcoming of spring with delicious sweets, Persian Daf (musical instrument) performances, dancing, and convivial conversation. Laleh’s mother, visiting from Iran, was a gracious co-host and joined the festivities. It was a special day acknowledging the community that welcomed Laleh to Davis and for their continuing support.

## AAUW National News

### Become a Volunteer: Start Smart or Work Smart Facilitator

*Are you committed to pay equity? Become a certified AAUW salary negotiation volunteer facilitator!*

AAUW depends on people like you to help empower thousands of women annually to negotiate their salaries and benefits. Join the AAUW team of skilled volunteer facilitators to further your leadership development, gain public speaking experience, and sharpen your own negotiation skills and expertise. AAUW National provides the tools, resources, and materials to help you become a successful facilitator. The interactive training gives a deeper understanding of the workshop curricula and bolsters facilitation skills. Participants have 60 days from the enrollment date to complete the training. When the training is complete, AAUW and the licensed partners will reach out to you when there are upcoming volunteer opportunities in your area and provide access to the workshop materials upon confirmation of your volunteer schedule.

Email [Salary@aauw.org](mailto:Salary@aauw.org) to determine if you are eligible for this training. If so, you will receive an access code to register online. Once you have registered for the Volunteer Facilitator Training, allow up to seven business days for enrollment.

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### AAUW National Election

Voting opens Wednesday, April 6, and will close on Monday, May 16, at 5 p.m. ET. Please check your email on opening day and vote because every voice matters in the AAUW National Election! For this vote, members are asked to elect members to the national AAUW Board of Directors and vote on changes to the bylaws that would streamline the nominations process and ballot administration.

Click [HERE](#) to vote

# AAUW California News

## AAUW Upcoming Elections for Board of Directors

Ten candidates are running for eight AAUW CA board openings. Voting will be in-person on April th. Need a paper ballot? Contact the office at 916-389-0220.

**Candidates include:**

Dawn Johnson  
*Director*

Stormy Miller Sabia  
*Director*

Karen Vanderwerken  
*Director*

Janice C. Lee  
*Director*

Lenore Gallin  
*Director*

Sharyn Siebert  
*Director*

Marsha Swails  
*Director*

Tracey Clark  
*Secretary*

Kathleen Harper  
*Director*

Shauna (Oenning) Ruyle  
*Director*

Click [HERE](#) for more information

## Upcoming Webinars

### From Idea to Reality – How to Monetize Your Idea

This **Lunch and Learn** session continues our exploration of Entrepreneurship. Join Ritu Narayan the founder of Zūm, a San Francisco Bay Area company, in conversation with AAUW California Director, Sharyn Sibert. They'll discuss the challenges of being a working mom with two active children and how Ritu started Ridezum as a solution.

In this 30-minute “Lunch and Learn” presentation, working mom Ritu Naryaran, co-founder of Ridezum, will chat with AAUW California Director, Sharyn Sibert. They will discuss how Naryaran saw a problem and built a solution to reimagine the school transportation system.



Ritu Naryaran  
*Co-founder of  
Ridezum*

*April 14, 2022, 12 noon*  
Click [HERE](#) to Register



Sharyn Sibert  
*AAUW California  
Director*

# AAUW California News Continued

## Public Policy Updates

Within our Public Policy Priorities for the 2022 California legislature session, six bills are related to Economic Security for All Women, seven are related to Equal Access to Public Education, and 18 are related to Social and Racial Justice for all Members of Society. The Public Policy Committee recently selected these top six bills to support:

AB 92—creates an equitable sliding scale for family childcare fees

AB 1666—enables persons from outside CA to obtain abortions

AB 1968—mandates websites at CSU/UC campuses to assist sexual assault survivors

AB 2881—gives priority to student parents in CA colleges

SB 523—expands health plans' contraceptive coverage

SB 1375—allows nurse practitioners to practice under standard protocols to provide first-trimester abortion care

AAUW members are working to improve the lives of women and children in California. AAUW California is experiencing greater visibility among elected legislators by sponsoring/co-sponsoring bills. You can follow these bills [HERE](#).

## Register Now for the Annual Event (AAUW California Annual Meeting)

Register for the Annual Event, Adventures in AAUWLand, via Zoom on April 30th at 9:00 am.

The program includes inspiring speakers, awards, Speech Trek videos, and informal conversations. Hosts will lead discussions about a range of topics related to AAUW and our mission in Zoom breakout rooms. Here you will be able to share your opinions with others, learn something new, and connect with AAUW friends across the state.

Click [HERE](#) to register.



# UNA Updates

March provided many opportunities for participating in virtual UNA programs:

## March 5

Program for International Women’s Day, “Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow,” with excellent speakers focused on women’s empowerment and climate action, co-sponsored by several regional UNA-USA chapters, including Davis.

## March 11

UNA-USA Global Engagement Series webinar on “Legacy and Morality of Gender Equality” with opportunity to participate in breakout sessions.

## March 14

“Girls’ Education, Empowerment and the Impact on Climate Resiliency” hosted by the National Capital Area (DC) UNA as a parallel event for the 66th annual CSW (Committee on the Status of Women).

## March 14

San Francisco’s UNA-USA chapter hosted a program with a wide array of speakers focused on CEDAW (UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women), under the title “It’s About Time to Ratify CEDAW.” The United States is one of only a few countries that have not ratified CEDAW. The Convention, often referred to as an International Bill of Rights for Women, was signed by President Carter in 1980, but there has never yet been enough support in the U.S. Senate for ratification.

By special invitation – on account of our longtime support of UNICEF through the Davis UNA chapter – several of us were invited to a March 14 virtual briefing hosted on the ground by UNICEF teams in Ukraine and Romania, giving us real time vivid impressions of the wide-ranging, detailed and compassionate assistance provided refugee children and mothers. UNA Davis has launched an appeal for donations specifically for UNICEF assistance to Ukraine and Ukrainian refugees in neighboring countries. See Davis Enterprise article online, dated March 16, or in the paper March 23.

<https://www.davisenterprise.com/forum/letters/letter-unicef-needs-help-in-spring/>

As always, donations to UNICEF may be dropped off at, or mailed to  
First Northern Bank, 434 Second Street for deposit to “UNICEF Donations.”

## March 19

the 10th edition of Marin UNA chapter’s series on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG#10, “Reduced Inequalities” this time).

## March 22

On March 22 thirty six UNA leaders from chapters in the Northern California and Southern California Divisions met virtually for an intense brainstorming session to share ideas for cooperative programs and ways to increase membership. Zoom has encouraged us to work less in “silos” and more in collaboration between UNA chapters and with NGO partners.



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