

MAY 2022

THE SPOKESWOMAN

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

April 2022 Davis AAUW Business Meeting

After two years of the COVID pandemic, it was nice to hold this year's business meeting in-person in Davis at an outside venue. Our last in-person business meeting was held in 2019 at the Village Pizza and Grill Restaurant, which unfortunately did not make it through the COVID downturn and has closed down. Our reservations were for outdoor seating at Tres Hermanas but weather didn't cooperate and we had to move inside, which made it difficult to compete with the background noise! We still made the best of it and enjoyed visiting in person with members, students, and interns that

were able to attend. The food and service were good and most important, we took care of the business of successfully casting votes for the 2022-2023 slate of officers. The new slate of officers was approved. We needed a minimum of eight votes (25% of the membership) for a quorum and due to the last minute cancellations, we only had seven voting members that cast their vote in-person at the meeting; we received the eighth vote by phone.

In This Issue:

[click to be directed to article](#)

[April 2022 Davis AAUW Business Meeting](#)

[Lobby Week Report](#)

[April 9th Book Group Recap](#)

[Recap of April Celebrate the 19th \(Amendment\)](#)

[UNA Updates](#)

[Upcoming Webinars](#)

[AAUW Updates](#)

May Calendar

Thursday, May 12 at 7 pm
Board Meeting

Saturday, May 14 at 9 am
Book group discussion of *Hell and Other Destinations: A 21st Century Memoir* by Madeleine Albright

Sunday, May 15th
Last day to vote in AAUW California Election

Monday, May 16 at 5 pm EST
Last day to vote in AAUW national election

Thursday, May 19
Celebrate the 19th (Amendment);
check email for updates

Tuesday, May 24 through Thursday, May 26: National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)

April 2022 Davis AAUW Business Meeting Continued...

Congratulations to Juliana and Alexandra as new board members. Thanks, Stephanie, for stepping into the president of the branch position. Thanks to the current board members for continuing on. We look forward to another positive and active year under the new leadership.

The new slate of officers will be installed at the June "Installation of

Officers" meeting with new terms starting on July 1st. Stay tuned for more details about the time and location of the June meeting. We hope that members will plan on joining us for this fun event so they can share their ideas and suggestions with the board, as well as meeting the four selected 2022 Tech Trekkers and their parents.

Lobby Week Report

By Stephanie Degraff-Hunt

Lobby Week, held from April 11 through 15, required tremendous organization and planning by the State Public Policy Team under the leadership of Kathleen Harper, Director, and Sue Miller, Public Policy Committee Co-Chairs. An impressive 116 AAUW members from 47 branches visited 42 legislative offices to advocate for three top priority bills. These bills are AB92 (childcare), AB1666 (abortion protection), and AB1968 (campus sexual assault).

Prior to Lobby Week, a mandatory training session was held to prepare participants for meeting with legislators. As a first step, participants completed a survey with key information to identify members' state legislators, which District they represent, and whether an in-person meeting or a Zoom meeting was preferred. From the information surveys, a roster was generated and teams were identified with their District number.

We received a synopsis of the three priority bills from AAUW's State Public Policy Team advocate, Kathy Van Osten from MVM Strategy Group, AAUW California's new advocacy firm. All California AAUW lobby teams advocated for these priority bills with either a legislator or a legislator's aide during Lobby Week. Ideally, team members lobbied with their own State Senator or State Assemblymember.

Bill Dodd is our State Senator for Senate District 3 and Cecilia Aguiar-Curry is our State Assemblymember for Assembly District 4. As it worked out, a team of three AAUW Woodland members met with a Legislative Analyst from Senator Dodd's office via Zoom. I was team leader for a wonderful AAUW threesome from the Napa branch assigned to meet with Alicia Montes, a Legislative Analyst for Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, via Zoom on Monday, April 11th. In that meeting, I was the lead in sharing the mission

Lobby Week Report Continued...

and values of AAUW and provided information about AAUW's impacts on our local communities.

The three Napa branch members presented the following:

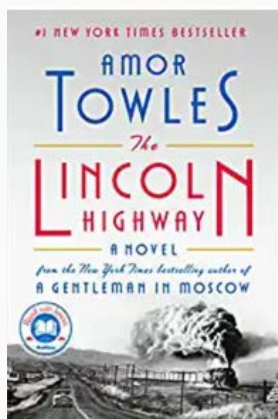
- Kay Altizer (Napa AAUW president) gave a serious, heartfelt recommendation for the passage of AB92 (Child Care Family Fee Waiver). Her professional life revolves around Special Education administration and she sees the painful struggles of families trying to care for their children. Alicia said that Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry supports this bill, but financial concerns still need to be worked out so that everyone understands the full fiscal impact. A lot of fine tuning is required so that the bill truly does what it is intended to accomplish. We also advocated for this bill last year on Lobby Day, so it remains a work in progress.
- Joy Barnes (Napa AAUW past president) passionately outlined her position in support of AB1666 (Abortion: Civil Actions). I only wish that I had recorded our meeting because Joy's dedicated advocacy for this bill clearly explained the importance and impact of this legislation that could easily be used as a rallying call for women's rights.
- Carolyn Stewart (Napa AAUW) spoke about why the successful passage of AB1968 (campus sexual assault) on April 7, 2022 was so important. Carolyn shared how there was a general lack of support in her local community for Title IX in the schools until women and girls stood up for their rights. She underscored the importance of this kind of legislation to ensure that all women and girls receive the respect and proper treatment that they deserve.

All of us further researched these bills using the website <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov> in addition to utilizing the briefs sent to us by AAUW's political advocate, Kathy Van Osten. More details on the three priority bills, as well as all 33 bills AAUW is supporting this year, can be found in the [Bill Tracker](#) on the Public Policy page of the AAUW California website under "Legislative Advocacy."

Last year, AAUW California held the inaugural one-day Lobby event in March 2021. So, kudos to the State Public Policy Team who took on the huge challenge of organizing an entire Lobby Week. AAUW supports and co-sponsors many important bills and does extensive background work to facilitate positive legislative changes.

April 9th Book Group Recap

Nine members (Karen, Carolyn, Helen, Stephanie, Kathy, Rhonda, Estelle, Juliana and Verena) met to discuss Amor Towles' "The Lincoln Highway," guided by Karen who posed some prepared questions to get the conversation started. Perhaps the most striking observation was that the novel really is only peripherally about the Lincoln Highway* (see note), but it did give some historical information about its creation and helped to tie San Francisco and New York together. Why these two locales? San Francisco was the original and ultimately also the final destination of two boys in search of their mother and a new life. New York is where they ended up heading instead due to the interference of two other boys. The entire sequence of events plays out in ten days in the 1950s.



The novel is not a travelogue but rather the playing out of expectations and dreams of each of the travelers. Eighteen-year old Emmett is released from a work farm where he was doing time for involuntary manslaughter to take care of his precocious 8-year old

"And I do it because it's unnecessary. For what is kindness but the performance of an act that is both beneficial to another and unrequired?"

AMOR TOWLES

brother Billy after the death of their father. Their farm has been foreclosed and they want to find their mother who left long ago and to start a new life out west. Before they can leave in Emmett's car, however, two other boys from the work farm show up, having stowed away in the warden's car. Duchess and Wooly, also eighteen-year olds with troublesome backgrounds and difficult childhoods, aim to head in the opposite direction, namely New York, and those two end up "borrowing" Emmett's car for the trip. What follows are adventures by car and boxcar, stopping here and there "to take care of business," and eventually they all meet up again in New York.

Billy finds solutions to any problems they encounter by referring to his book about legendary heroes. He is particularly interested in his new friend Ulysses (who saved him on the boxcar ride) while Ulysses, in turn, is

April Bookgroup Recap Continued...

fascinated to hear Billy tell the story about Homer's hero and to find solace in Billy's prediction that he, too, will find his wife and child back after a lengthy search.

Most of the characters in this novel are male. Sally, the daughter of the next-door farmer in Nebraska, is the only female character we get to know

somewhat (though not as well as most of us had wished). She might be described as an early feminist who is determined to chart her own life and speak for herself. The author lets her speak in the first person, as is also the case with Duchess. All others are described in the third person.

Note: *The Lincoln Highway came right through Davis; there is a marker at B St. and Russell. "On July 1, 1913, a group of automobile enthusiasts and industry officials established the Lincoln Highway Association (LHA) "to procure the establishment of a continuous improved highway from the Atlantic to the Pacific, open to lawful traffic of all description without toll charges." In its time, the Lincoln Highway would become the Nation's premier highway, as well known as U.S. 66 was to be in its day and as well known as I-80 and I-95 are today."

On May 14 the Book Group will meet to discuss Madeleine Albright's "Hell and Other Destinations" ~ A 21st-Century Memoir." The Albright quote that explains the title: "There's a special place in Hell for women who don't help other women" ~ Starbucks even put this declaration on a coffee cup.

Madeleine Albright died of cancer on March 23, 2022. Her funeral service took place on April 27 at the Washington National Cathedral. Listening to the speeches at the service is very enlightening (also amusing in spots) and adds to our understanding of this leader.



Plaque donated by Davis Chamber of Commerce

Recap of April Celebrate the 19th (Amendment)

The Zoom gathering hosted on April 19th by Shahla was joined on short notice by Alexandra, Rhonda, Stephanie, Laleh, Verena and Juliana. Main topics discussed were the Pence Garden Tour, Lobby Week, the business meeting and mentoring ideas.

Stephanie told about the partnership she had facilitated between the Pence Gallery and Davis Flower Arrangers whereby members of the DFA group were organizing to exhibit flower arrangements at one of the garden locations on the day of the Garden Tour (May 1st).

Before Lobby Week in early April, more than 100 California AAUW members took mandatory training workshops giving them instructions on how to talk to the legislators or their representative staff, how to discuss the bills AAUW is supporting, and how to understand the lengthy process the bills have to go through on their way to passage. The workshops were beneficial but Stephanie, in charge for Davis, reported that the actual logistics during Lobby Week were disappointingly frustrating. The group that included Davis, Woodland and Napa members was not able to meet, as planned, with Senator Bill Dodd and Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry despite personal visits to the offices beforehand, and no explanation was provided. They did meet with staff members. Stephanie observed that the Napa group has had a lot of prior experience with lobbying (see detailed report on pp. 2-3). We were provided with a list of short summaries of the bills that were to be discussed.

We briefly touched on the business meeting held on April 11 downtown at Tres Hermanas. It was a very windy day, so the meeting was moved inside where the noise level and the rectangular seating arrangement made conversation extremely difficult. The food was good, but attendance low and it felt strange for Board members to vote themselves into office. Plans are being made for a more congenial gathering in June for the installation including the traditional meeting with Tech Trekkers and their parents.

Various ideas were proposed for how to structure mentoring, something we have touched on in several previous meetings but have not yet concretely developed into a plan for our branch. It was suggested that we not think in terms of mentor/mentee, but rather in terms of an exchange of ideas and concerns in a conversational tone. Perhaps consider it as a collective for meeting, exchanging ideas and sharing project plans with emphasis on support from a network of cross-generational women with perspectives from different professions. There was general agreement that it would be good to pick a regular day and time similar to Celebrate the 19th so members (including especially the UCD student organization) could drop in with a question or just to hear what others had to say in an informal setting. For easy accessibility and efficient use of time this might best be done via Zoom.

UNA Updates

UNICEF/UKRAINE Fundraising by UNA Davis chapter

Profound thanks to those of you who responded with generosity to the appeal for donations to the fundraising effort for the children of Ukraine at the request of our contacts at the U.S. Fund for UNICEF in New York who have for decades appreciated the Davis community's participation in supporting the United Nations Children's Fund. In the interest of providing immediate assistance during the developing crisis, we mailed a check with our first installment of donations to New York the second week of April. In answer to the question whether our contributions were immediately applied to the needs in Ukraine, we received this reply:

Yes, the donation has been sent to Ukraine and put to immediate use! Thanks to your generous support, UNICEF has been able to send crucial health supplies to hospitals in Ukraine to support newborn babies – here is a video <https://www.unicefusa.org/stories/inside-underground-newborn-intensive-care-unit-war-torn-ukraine/39881> that shows the great impact that you have helped us make. Please feel free to share this video far and wide.

The needs are greater than ever, both in Ukraine and in the surrounding countries that have received five million refugees, and so our fundraising continues. If you have not already done so, please consider sending a check with a tax-deductible donation made out to "UNICEF Donations" to our account at First Northern Bank, 434 Second Street, Davis, CA 95616. Alternatively you may send your donation c/o Verena Borton, 101 E. 7th Street, Davis, CA 95616 - it will be deposited at First Northern Bank within 2 days of receipt.

***Why not send a donation as a
gift in honor of a special person in your life?
Thank you for caring about the youngest victims
of war, destruction, loss and fear.***



UNA Updates Continued

2022 UNA-USA hybrid Global Leadership Summit, June 5-7

For the first time since 2019, it is possible to attend the first two days of the annual summit in person in Washington, D.C., while you can also register to attend virtually. On the final day of the conference, members meet with their elected officials in a virtual Lobby Day to make the case for continued U.S. support for the UN.

To register for the summit (deadline May 23). “US. TOGETHER. FORWARD” go to www.unausa.org.

Budget request for FY2023

Included in the administration’s budget request for FY2023 is fully paying our dues to the UN and UN peacekeeping. As a result of years of underpayments during the previous administration, the U.S. currently owes more than \$1 billion to UN peacekeeping; the proposed budget would allocate a sizable down payment towards our debts, helping to restore our credibility on the world’s stage.

UNA-USA Executive Director Rachel Bowen Pittman wrote: “I applaud the Administration for its commitment to supporting multilateral institutions proven to save lives, including the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the ACT-Accelerator partnership that delivers vaccines globally and the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).” But “much more needs to be done to push Congress to deliver the essential resources we owe to the UN. Now is the time for the U.S. to lead by the power of our example, work with our allies, and build a world that works for all people.”

Peace Roses

As promised in an earlier Spokeswoman, the UNA beds of Peace Roses south of 600 A Street are now in full bloom - a quiet vision of beauty and hope for peace at a time of war.



Upcoming Webinars

Let's Talk Taxes: Government Filings Demystified

Even though all AAUW branches are tax-exempt organizations, they are still required to submit annual filings to several government organizations – the IRS, California Franchise Tax Board, and the California Attorney General's Office. In this webinar, the Finance Committee will guide you through the gamut of forms such as 990s, 199s, RRF-1, CT-TR-1 and raffle reports, and answer questions. The webinar is useful for branch finance officers and presidents.

May 24, 2022, 7pm

Click [HERE](#) to register

AAUW Updates

AAUW California Annual Event

The AAUW California Annual Event, titled “Adventures in AAUWLand,” was held online on April 30th. Nearly 250 participants heard from CEO Gloria Blackwell, Lisa Maatz, former AAUW national Director of Public Policy and Government Relations, and Dancing Rocket Scientist Jasmine Sadler. Congresswoman Jackie Speier was presented with AAUW California's 2022 Equity Champion Award. Mary Isaac (Dr. Mimi) was awarded the State Named Gift Honoree for her leadership with the virtual Tech Trek camp in 2020, 2021, and 2022. The three top Speech Trek finalists gave inspirational speeches on the questions, “Has the United States lived up to its pledge of liberty and justice for all? Would requiring the study of diversity, equity and inclusion in a high school setting ensure liberty and justice for all?” Hear the speeches [HERE](#). Small groups met in breakout rooms to informally discuss important issues suggested by members.

If you weren't able to attend, you can view the recording [HERE](#).

A creative six-minute animated video of our accomplishments can be viewed [HERE](#)

Where are my Emails?

AAUW National has received reports that some members are not receiving emails.

Click [HERE](#) and update your preferences to get back on the AAUW email list.

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