

JUNE 2022

THE SPOKESWOMAN

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

Board Installation and Meet the Tech Trekkers

Members are invited to the annual installation of officers and 2022 Tech Trek introductions at a gathering to be held on Saturday, June 25 at Gail Johnson's home at 955 Wyatt Lane in Winters, just 20 minutes from Davis. RSVP to Gail at 530-383-0881 (phone or leave message) or by email to gailellenjohnson01@gmail.com. Please bring a plate of heavy appetizers to share; water will be available or BYOB.

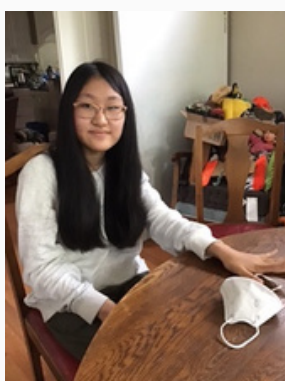
Below are our 2022 Tech Trekkers!



Arya Brent



Logan Kwong



Regina Lim



Athena Murphey

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Board Installation and Meet the Tech Trekkers

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June Calendar

Thursday, June 9th: Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

***Saturday, June 11th:** Canceled - June 11th Book Group

Saturday, June 18th: Celebrate the 19th will meet at 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 25th: Installation of Officers and Teck Trekker Introductions 5:00 p.m. at Gail's home

AAUW 2022-23 Membership Renewals Reminder

AAUW membership renewals for 2022-23 are now due. An email was sent to members on June 6, 2022 with the membership renewal application, a cover letter, and the “Davis Branch 2021 Year in Review” attached. Membership dues are a total of \$108 per year and include AAUW-Davis (\$21), AAUW-California (\$20) and the National Association (\$67). Member dues currently account for 15 percent of AAUW’s annual budget, which sustains and grows AAUW’s programs and work that advances equity for women and girls. A combination of dues, donations, and corporate and foundation funding is critical to supporting AAUW’s salary negotiation workshops, groundbreaking research, advocacy efforts, campus leadership programs, and so much more.

The Branch has established an “angel” fund to help with partial dues payments if your financial situation makes it difficult for you to rejoin. For Angel Fund assistance, please call Gail Johnson at (530) 383-0881. Association Life Members pay only State and Branch annual dues. For the dues to be filed with the National Association on time, please mail in your renewal membership dues before June 25, 2022 to Gail Johnson at 955 Wyatt Lane, Winters, CA 95694.

Checks should be sent to Gail Johnson at 955 Wyatt Lane in Winters, CA 95694 and received no later than June 25, 2022.



Call for Tech Trek Volunteers

After a two-year hiatus, the Davis Branch is sending four rising 8th graders to Tech Trek, the science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) camp to be held at UC Davis from Saturday, July 17 to Sunday, July 23. We are actively seeking volunteers to help with registration, preparation of materials, special programs, and packing supplies on the last day of camp. Please email Estelle at estelle.shiroma@gmail.com or call/text 530-848-9361 if you are able to volunteer.

May Book Group Recap

Karen Lemcke, Shahla Farahnak, Estelle Shiroma, Verena Borton, Barbara Durst, Stephanie DeGraff-Hunt and Juliana Wells participated in the discussion of Madeleine Albright's "Hell and Other Destinations" on May 14th. While the group was gathering, Barbara recommended a book she was enjoying: "A Guide to the Good Life" by William Irvine.

Since Madeleine Albright was a contemporary to several of us, we could relate to what she wrote because we had lived through much of the times and crises she described. The book is a collection of vignettes without a general trend other than the importance of women's participation in policy making and in carrying out policies in support of democratic institutions and values. Depicting Albright's involvement in numerous organizations and business enterprises, as well as teaching, after her official roles as U.S. Ambassador to the UN, U.S. Secretary of State and National Security Council service ended, this memoir illustrates her motto that "Every stage of life should be more exciting than the last."

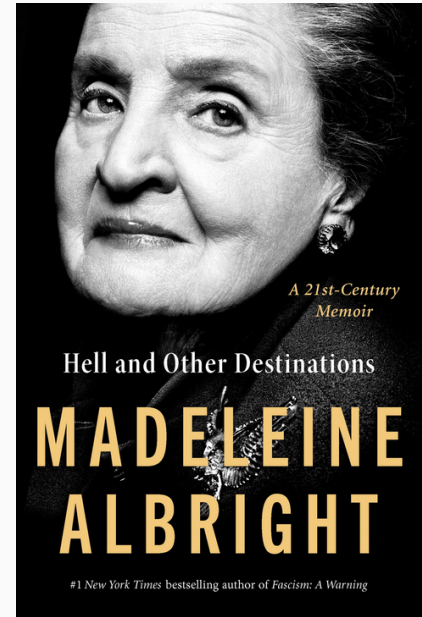
Albright's obituary was extensive and interesting. In the book, she describes being contacted years ago by Richard McFadden from the New York Times with the startling request for an interview in order to prepare material for her obituary. Watching the memorial service at the Washington National Cathedral gave a sense of the respect in which Albright was held for her extensive public service, her non-partisanship and her devotion to family. Her promotion and continued support for the importance of NATO was particularly noteworthy at this time of NATO's role in the war in Ukraine.

Discovering Albright's grandmother's journal prompted a new look at her personal history late in life and a shift in perspective after learning of previously unknown family events in time of war. Discussing this incident that many of us found to be the most moving part of the memoir solicited many comments about family histories, journal keeping and the question why young people tend to be uninterested in the past.

Some criticisms: It was agreed that the title was misleading and negative. A better choice might have been "Hell, Yes! What's Next?" The chapter titles do not give a good indication of the subject matter, making it difficult to reference remembered highlights. There were too many details about her staff and the intricacies of her business ventures.

Book Group members were asked to send possible titles for summer reading to Estelle, to be voted on. The group voted by email and chose the next three books to be discussed over the summer. Due to the length of the books selected, the book group will skip meeting on June 11 and will discuss "The Rose Code" by Kate Quinn on July 9. "The Night Portrait" by Laura Morelli will be discussed on August 13, followed by "A Ballad of Love and Glory" by Reyna Grande on September 10.

All are welcome to join the book group meetings held on the second Saturday of the month at 9 am.



“I want every stage of my life to be more exciting than the last.”

May Celebrate the 19th Recap

While waiting for more members to join on Zoom, Stephanie enthusiastically described her field trip earlier that day to the Seka Hills olive processing facility with members of the Davis Flower Arrangers.

Participating in the general discussion about existing and anticipated laws adversely affecting women, specifically the impact of overturning *Roe v. Wade*, were Stephanie DeGraff-Hunt, Shahla Farahnak, Estelle Shiroma, Juliana Wells and Verena Borton. Unfortunately Marty West was unable to join us to add her extensive legal expertise on the topic. We also missed having the interns to give their input as representatives of a younger generation likely to be heavily impacted by potentially impending U.S. Supreme Court decisions. Participants had gained insights from a [Capital Public Radio interview](#) (starting at 15:05) with two UC Davis law professors, Lisa Ikemoto and Courtney Joslin, and a [National AAUW article](#) on reproductive rights.

Following are some of the observations discussed, not necessarily in logical order:

- Lack of financial allowance or legislation to support children regarding child care, preventive pregnancy measures (contraception), care after birth, compensation for a mother's loss of work income, and routine paid family leave.
- Diminishing separation of church and state; religious views clearly appear to be influencing legal decisions.
- Abortion rulings affect miscarriages, ectopic pregnancies, IVF, surrogates, rapes, incest, drug babies and increasing violence at health clinics.
- As many as 70% of Americans do not want *Roe v. Wade* overturned, and with it other personal rights. Yet lawmakers (almost exclusively male) do not care about the will of the people. Questions about ethics.
- Claiming that certain words are not in the Constitution, lawmakers neglect to mention that we have Amendments to keep up to date with a changing world (our favorite example being the 19th Amendment). Justice Alito's leaked draft opinion hardly mentions the word "woman."
- We recalled Marty West's earlier comment that Ruth Bader Ginsberg focused on the ERA rather than *Roe* because she felt change had a better chance if it came in small increments.
- An unwanted pregnancy is 14 times more likely to result in death than an abortion. How does one choose between a woman and an unborn child? Who decides?
- Nonvaxxers claim it is their right to control their bodies. Why do they and others think it is right to exclude women's choices about their own bodies?
- Why are Supreme Court appointees on the bench for life? The terms could (should?) be cut to 18 years or so.
- Today's divisiveness in our country is encouraging white supremacy to take hold. Immigrants are getting a different view of America. Many cannot go "back home." Their reason for forcibly leaving makes for a different attitude, as opposed to coming to the U.S. for the opportunity for a better life.
- Finally the discussion shifted to a display of Persian photos and artwork at I-House, celebrated with a reception and excellent panel discussion to which Laleh Rastegarzadeh had sent us an invitation. Immigrants have many stories and they should be written down to be shared with children, grandchildren and others when they are ready to hear them.

June 19th is Father's Day. We will gather on the 18th and share stories about our fathers.

July 19th falls in the middle of Tech Trek, so there will be no Celebrate the 19th in July.

Woodland Branch International Event

The AAUW Woodland branch held a virtual International Dinner on May 25, 2022, featuring former Woodland Mayor Xóchitl Rodriquez Murillo via Zoom from Mexico. Juliana, Verena, Stephanie, and Estelle from the Davis branch participated. After hearing from Xóchitl, we listened to music by Mariachi Puente, a band of Davis junior high and high school students, on YouTube videos.

By Valerie Olson

Xóchitl Rodriquez Murillo, the former first Latinx Mayor of Woodland, spoke to us about her formative years spent in Woodland as the oldest of 6 children and the first to attend college at UCD. Her interest in UC Davis stemmed from recreational opportunities on campus while she was a young girl - much like the academic opportunities we provide for middle-school girls on a college campus as part of the Tech Trek program.

Xóchitl grew up in affordable housing but never lacked for love, faith, and parents who encouraged her to pursue higher education. Her parents were farm workers and her mother also worked at a factory for a number of years. After service in the military, and a degree from UCD, Xóchitl recognized the need for grass roots work and began this work in West Covina. When she returned to Woodland she saw the need to continue the grass roots work here.

Recognizing that the large Hispanic population was under-represented in Woodland she ran for the Woodland City Council, and eventually became the first Latinx Woodland Mayor where she focused on certain issues more representative of the under-represented Hispanic population. This included a longer scheduled time away from school so families could return to Mexico without the children losing out on their Woodland education. Two weeks was inadequate since many families wanted to spend a month in Mexico with their extended family. Xóchitl also worked on other issues, such as micro transit options to replace often half empty Yolo Buses, and encouraging communication toward equitable solutions for the homeless population. She spoke a little about the generational gap that still exists in the Hispanic community and how communication and education need to continue to bridge this gap.

Xóchitl currently works in Sacramento where she serves at the pleasure of the Governor as the “Deputy Secretary of Minority Veteran’s Affairs” working with issues of equity, including race and sex-based issues. When asked if any of her work built upon work she had started in Woodland she said she still promoted the idea of young people being part of a legislative solution. Xóchitl sees the need to continue student participation in visits to the Capitol, where she hopes they will better understand governance and the need for their participation, which is particularly important to address inequities in policy and practices.

UNA Updates

The annual UNA-USA Leadership Summit took place June 5-7, with the possibility of attending in person in Washington, DC for the first two days or virtually, while the third day, devoted entirely to advocacy, was available only virtually. Verena Borton, as the only representative from Davis, had attended an advocacy training session and was assigned to June 7 advocacy meetings with Senators Feinstein's and Senator Padilla's legislative staff, and with the staff of Congressman John Garamendi (4 staffers attended) and of Representative Jared Huffman (CA-2). Over 275 voices were heard in 162 Congressional meetings on "Virtual Hill Day." We touched on various topics including climate change, human rights and environmental issues, but the core ask to Congress was for full funding, on time, for the regular UN budget and Peacekeeping assessments for FY23. FYI: the total amount contributed by the U.S. to all UN assessments comes to under \$3 Billion!

Twenty three members of the UNA MidPacific (NorCal & Hawaii) Division met on May 21 for its Semi-annual meeting on zoom. Nine chapters were represented, three chapters were absent.

Takeaways:

- Chapters face challenges, including decreasing membership and lack of robust attendance for zoom meetings. Concern that curtailment of in-person events due to COVID-19 precautions is contributing to a decline in member engagement in UNA programs. Need for greater digital expertise and willingness to take on leadership positions. The same challenge exists on a larger scale: The NorCal Division has vacancies for Vice Presidents for Program and Advocacy, but no volunteers came forward.
- Collaboration has become more important; often provides a solution for better programs and greater outreach. (Example: International Women's Day last March involved 6 entities, including Davis). Plans for the 17th Annual Charter Day in San Francisco June 24-26, "We The Peoples," are still being finalized. Topics: human rights, climate change, the SDGs and racial discrimination. The San Francisco UNA chapter has extended an invitation to a free virtual June 26 Charter Day event with a series of knowledgeable speakers: <https://www.una-sf.org/events> (see flyer)
- Decision to develop a collaborative climate program, including SoCal and Hawaii, before COP27 in Egypt – similar to last year's program, but shorter.
- Enthusiastic support for another brainstorming session with SoCal and Hawaii in coming months. Many good ideas were exchanged, none implemented yet.
- Chapters gave brief updates. UNA Davis described the ongoing UNICEF/Ukraine Relief project. Donations are trickling in, but more are needed in order to submit a second installment for immediate use in Ukraine or nearby refugee settlements. (Send to UNICEF Donations, First Northern Bank, 434 Second St., Davis, CA 95616)



United Nations Charter Day

Keeping Faith with the UN Charter

"The Prevention and Removal Of Threats To the Peace."

SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2022 10:00 am PDT
On February 27, three days after Russia invaded Ukraine, the Security Council called for an emergency session of the General Assembly. For many, this was the moment the UN stepped firmly back onto the world stage. But was it too late? The Charter's mission is about keeping hostilities from ever boiling over. What failed?

The UNA-SF has assembled four renowned UN Experts to discuss these essential and urgent issues.

RSVP: <https://charterday77.eventbrite.com>

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
San Francisco Chapter

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ROGER LIPSEY

STEPHEN SCHLESINGER

THOMAS WEISS

DOCUMENTARY
MICHELLE SONG

MUSICAL INTERLUDE
THE PACIFIC CHOIR

AAUW California News



MEET YOUR NEW AAUW CALIFORNIA BOARD FOR 2022-2023

We are pleased to introduce you to the new AAUW California 2022-2023 Board of Directors! They are:

President, Sandi Gabe
Secretary, Tracey Clark
Finance Director, Roli Wendorf
Directors:
Carole Holzgrafe
Kathi Harper
Janice Lee
Stormy Miller Sabia
Dawn Johnson
Sharyn Siebert
Marsha Swails
Karen Vanderwerken

Thank you to all members who participated in this year's election! Thank you also to the Nominations and Elections team for your work in recruiting candidates!

PUBLIC POLICY: A CALL TO ACTION

As the 2021-22 AAUW year winds down, it's time to be thinking about where our public policy efforts will take us in 2022-23. Here's a sampling of what the committee does for membership, and what it does for women and other marginalized groups in California:

- This year we co-sponsored bills to help low-income working mothers lower their childcare costs, prevent women from other states from being sued in California for obtaining an abortion here. We also secured a legislative resolution recognizing the 50th Anniversary of Title IX.
- We supported 30 other bills that, among other things, require pay transparency reports on gender and ethnicity, and for women in the construction industry; prohibit businesses from charging more for women's products; require colleges to post uniform protocols for reporting campus sexual assault; provide relief for college students with dependent children; establish a state office of Racial Equity; and provide for confidentiality for election workers.
- Next year AAUW-CA will be revising our Public Policy Priorities, working on an original AAUW bill, and facing an important election in fall 2022. We will also be gearing up for a new legislative session and Lobby Day in spring 2023.

If you are interested in making a difference in the lives of women in our communities, this is a call to action for members to sign up to join the AAUW California Public Policy Committee when applications open up later this month.

AAUW National News

UPDATES FROM WASHINGTON

- On April 15th, AAUW awarded its largest amount ever--\$6m to 320 deserving scholars and community programs.
- Check out Gloria Blackwell's interview and [leadership profile](#) featured in Diverse Issues in Higher Education.
- The second of three AAUW Empower events on financial security was held on April 19th. The full series information can be found [HERE](#).
- The STEM team held an informational session to prepare for the summer [2022 STEMEd for Girls](#).
- The Public Policy team is working in coalition and keeping us all informed about front-burner issues regarding [reproductive choice](#).

HONORING TITLE IX's 50th ANNIVERSARY

Register for [AAUW's Title IX 50th Anniversary Event](#). The event will commemorate the anniversary, highlight AAUW's role and recognize our generous supporters and branches.

50 years ago, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 changed the face of education. This groundbreaking civil rights law prohibits sex discrimination in education and protects people of all genders, both staff and students, in any educational institution or program receiving federal funds. Title IX ushered in an era of enormous progress for girls and women from classrooms to playing fields, but advocates continue to fight efforts to weaken it. Join AAUW as we honor five decades of advancing educational equity for all and engage where advocacy is still needed to achieve the full promise of Title IX.

- [Learn about the history of AAUW & Title IX](#): This page offers a look into AAUW's contributions of research and advocacy that laid the groundwork for Title IX's passage and how it evolved over the decades, as well as a list of AAUW resources and events around the 50th anniversary.
- [Hear from experts on the AAUW public policy webinar](#): On June 15 at 3 pm ET, join AAUW's public policy team and guest speakers from the Women's Law Project and GLSEN as they explore tough policy issues by taking a closer look at transgender athlete participation in women's sports and Title IX.
- [Join AAUW for a 50th anniversary celebration](#): On June 23 at 4:30 pm ET, join AAUW and inspiring guests as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Title IX, highlight AAUW's role leading up to Title IX's passage, and reflect on its continued challenges and evolution.
- [Engage in critical grassroots advocacy](#): The Patsy T. Mink and Louise M. Slaughter Gender Equity in Education Act of 2021 (GEEA) is designed to fully implement and reinforce Title IX's protections. GEEA would ensure schools and educational institutions have the resources they need to comply with this landmark civil rights law.

The long-awaited return to a stronger Title IX: The Department of Education's proposed rule change is due this month. While the change was expected two months ago, Education Secretary Miguel Cardona stated publicly he plans to unveil the Title IX proposed rule sometime in June. The expected Title IX regulation update is designed to rescind and correct changes made during the last administration. Much of the delay is related to the Biden Administration's efforts to protect transgender students from any additional discrimination. AAUW provided public comment in 2021 that emphasized the need to create regulations that uphold the commitment to ensuring equal and nondiscriminatory access to education for students at all educational levels. *Stay tuned for this critical update.*

AAUW National News (Continued)

JUNE IS PRIDE MONTH

Happy Pride to our AAUW members, advocates and supporters! June—known as Pride Month—is a time to celebrate LGBTQ+ communities and share pride in living authentic lives. In the face of rapidly growing attacks on LGBTQ+ youths and rights this year, is it also a time to focus our energies on resistance and liberation; AAUW asks you to join these efforts.

This is not up for debate: Equality means including all people.

Despite significant progress, discrimination remains a persistent problem for LGBTQ+ people in a number of key areas such as employment, education, housing, credit, public spaces and services, federally-funded programs and more. The [Equality Act](#) would provide a vital update to our nation's anti-discrimination laws, amending existing federal laws and incorporating existing court rulings to provide explicit and comprehensive nondiscrimination protections nationwide. This critical legislation passed the House of Representatives with bipartisan support in February 2021, but has stalled in the U.S. Senate.

Take action now and urge your senators to support the Equality Act to help realize America's promise of equal justice under the law for LGBTQ+ people!

- **LGBTQIA+ Equal Pay Awareness Day** is coming up on June 15th—join AAUW in [engaging on social media](#)! Learn more about the wage gap experienced by LGBTQIA+ people with groundbreaking [research](#) from our partners at the Human Rights Campaign.
- AAUW [joined](#) with the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and over 130 partner organizations in response to the horrifying gun violence in Buffalo, New York. AAUW [believes](#) in the right to freedom from violence and recognizes gun violence as a public health and safety crisis.
- This week, [news](#) broke of discussion in the White House over the latest plan to cancel \$10k in student debt for borrowers earning less than \$150k a year. AAUW [joined](#) over 500 organizations in response, urging President Biden to enact equitable, broad-based student debt cancellation for all borrowers.
- AAUW [joined](#) more than 230 organizations in support of the [Women's Health Protection Act](#), urging senators to pass this critical legislation to protect abortion access. On May 11, however, a Senate cloture vote on the bill failed 49-51.
- Check out our [letters, comments, testimony and legal briefs](#) to learn more about AAUW's positions and advocacy efforts.



Upcoming Webinars

Exploring Tough Policy Issues through an AAUW Lens: Title IX and Transgender Student Rights

Wednesday, June 15, 2022, 3 p.m. ET

No one should be denied the full range of civil liberties because of their gender identity. Join AAUW's Public Policy team and guest speakers to discuss Title IX and myths vs. facts about transgender athletes in women's sports.

Panelists include:

Amal Bass, director of policy and advocacy at the Women's Law Project, which advances the rights of women, girls and LGBTQ people; and

Tessa Juste, state and local policy manager of GLSEN, which works to ensure LGBTQ students can learn in school environments free from harassment.

Register [HERE](#)

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