

OCTOBER 2022

THE SPOKESWOMAN

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

AAUW Davis Annual Friends and Family Gathering

Afternoon of September 24 at the Cannery Ranch House

The Annual Friends and Family Gathering kicked off the 2022-23 AAUW new year. The primary purpose of the gathering, besides seeing old friends and meeting new ones interested in AAUW's activities, was to meet with two of last summer's Tech Trek campers, Logan Kwong and Gina Lim, and to hear about their experiences at UCD. A third Tech Trekker, Athena Murphey, unfortunately was unable to attend.

Laleh had arranged for the meeting to be held in the Cannery Assembly Room and provided cheery table decorations to accommodate groups of four at small tables. A choice of sandwiches and cookies from Mr. Pickle's Sandwich Shop brought by Shahla were easily accessible with counter space, while the soft drinks and water provided by Stephanie filled another table. The beautiful blue quilt created and donated by Marti Abbott (to be raffled off to earn Tech Trek monies) was displayed at the other end of the counter.

Additional AAUW members present were Marti Abbott, Rose Mary Forehand, Elaine Ginosar, Gail Johnson, Juliana Wells, Rhonda Reed and Verena Borton. Logan was accompanied by her parents, Bessie and Mike, and her sister Zoe. Gina came with her mother, Amy Lim. Other guests were Tate Chatfield, a former Trekker who performed with the Mariachi band several years ago and Sally Ho who was a Trekker years ago and a camp volunteer this past summer. Both Tate and Sally are currently students at UCD.

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October Calendar

October 15, 22, 23, and November 12: AAUW Fund Events (see article)

Wednesday, October 19 at 5:30 pm: Celebrate the 19th by Zoom, Discussion on Abortion Rights with Marty West (check email for updates)

Friday, October 21, 9:30 am to 5:15 pm ET: Virtual Intergenerational Model United Nations (see article)

Saturday, October 22, 8 am to 1 pm: Annual Yard Sale (check email for updates)

Sunday, October 23, UN Day, 2-4 pm at Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento (see article)

AAUW Davis Annual Friends and Family Gathering Continued...

Stephanie welcomed all after the food and beverages were enjoyed and everyone had settled down at tables. She enumerated many of the activities of AAUW and especially encouraged all to enjoy the International Festival in Central Park the following week. AAUW was scheduled to be there with a booth and many volunteers, eager to attract visitors interested in learning about our organization. She also explained why two board members who played critical roles in Tech Trek, Leslie Rubin and Estelle Shiroma, could not be present and had sent their regrets.

Then it was time to give the floor to Logan and Gina, after Gail introduced them and added some comments. Both girls spoke enthusiastically about their experience as Tech Trekkers and what the week on campus had meant to them. After her presentation, Logan talked with Sally and Tate about their mutual experiences, and each of the three reinforced the value of the camp. Laleh and Rhonda talked with Gina and asked her to explain her iPad pictures (which were difficult to see from a distance) in more detail, which she did energetically.

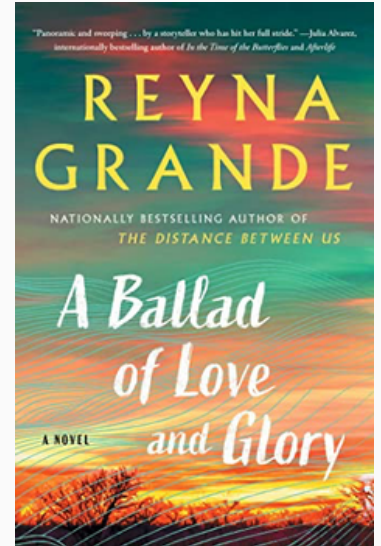
Animated and descriptive letters written by Gina, Logan and Athena after the end of camp were published in the August issue of The Spokeswoman. They are a wonderful illustration of the excitement this STEM camp can elicit and the vistas it opens for selected middle school students.

Thanks to all who attended and helped organize this pleasant and informative afternoon, one of our first in person events since early 2020.



Book Group Featured Guest Author on September 10th

We were privileged to have author Reyna Grande, who now resides in Woodland, join us for our Zoom discussion of her 2022 novel *A Ballad of Love and Glory*.



Stephanie welcomed Reyna and provided some background. Born in Mexico in 1975, Grande was raised by her grandparents after her parents left their children behind while they sought work in the U.S. At age nine she and her siblings crossed the border as undocumented immigrants – a harrowing journey chronicled in *The Distance Between Us*. She became the first person in her family to obtain a higher education (she has a B.A. in Creative Writing and Film and Video from UC Santa Cruz and an M.F.A. in Creative Writing from Antioch University). She received an American Book Award and El Premio Aztlan Literary Award for her novel *Across a Hundred Mountains*. A later novel, *Dancing with Butterflies* received a 2010 International Latino Book Award in its Best Women’s Issues category. Other titles are *A Dream Called Home* and an anthology *Somewhere We Are Human: Authentic Voices on Migration, Survival, and New Beginnings*.

All the books prior to *A Ballad of Love and Glory* were based on personal and family history, an emotionally draining technique Grande admitted. This novel is historical fiction, the author’s first attempt “to write outside of my culture and gender, my first exploration into telling an immigrant story outside of my own experience.” An enormous amount of research was required, a challenging task that took her to Ireland, Mexico and the Rio Grande area, and into countless historical accounts concerning the Mexican-American war, often referred to as “The war the U.S. can’t remember and Mexico can’t forget.” Grande had never learned about this conflict during her years in U.S. schools.

Action moves from Texas to numerous locations in Mexico. It is difficult to picture it all unless you know the geography, so several readers mentioned that they would have liked more maps. So did the author, but the cost was prohibitive.

“Panoramic and sweeping, A Ballad of Love and Glory immerses us in the history of the Mexican-American War, a history all the more relevant today as we face the legacy and painful aftermath of that bloody war. Grande integrates a sweeping Tolstoyan vision and command of language with her very own Latin American popular traditions . . . This is indeed a grand and soulful novel by a storyteller who has hit her full stride.”

— Julia Alvarez,
bestselling author of *In the Time of the Butterflies*
and *Afterlife*

Book Group Recap Continued...

Participants in the discussion asked questions and gained greater insight into the way the characters were developed. For instance, Grande read soldiers' diaries to help in accurately reflecting their feelings and the descriptions of the harsh military life as well as the landscapes. An Irish historian read the manuscript and added facts. She asked herself "What would Riley (the main Irish character) notice in Mexico that was different from Ireland?" When asked how to write dialogue, Grande answered: "By focusing on the character." The text reflects the difference in the language used by literate John Riley and his illiterate friend Maloney.

The character of Ximena is fictional, although there were many women who traveled with the soldiers as cooks, laundresses and nurses. Her name was taken from an 1847 poem by John Greenleaf Whittier, "The Angels of Buena Vista." Ximena has lost her husband and ends up being a "soldadera," tending the wounded on both sides. She very gradually develops affection for Riley who crosses her path numerous times and with whom she shares having suffered under the U.S. Army. Her nursing skills and knowledge of herbs (the latter draws on Grande's own grandmother's expertise) gives her a prominent role on and off the battlefield. It also connects her to General Antonio López de Santa Anna who has lost a leg in battle. Santa Anna is a controversial but powerful general and a multiple times former president of Mexico who used flowery language and was feared as much as disliked. Ximena treads a fine line between obedience and rebellion in her dealings with him.

Religion plays a very significant part in the novel. Catholics are pitted against Protestants. Large numbers of the Irish soldiers, conscripted by the U.S. Army and treated with racist cruelty, desert to the Mexican side of the conflict because they seek the familiar religious community and better treatment. Eventually Santa Anna forms them into a Saint Patrick's Battalion. As a matter of interest, hearing mention years ago of the Saint Patrick's Battalion but being unfamiliar with the unit when it was suggested she write their story, Grande set out on extensive research and even visited Riley's hometown.

There was a comment that some of the torture and extensive and repeated violent battle scenes were hard to read. Grande explained that she wrote about the brutality while she was housebound during the pandemic, feeling anxious and depressed, and transmitted that feeling to the characters in the novel. She definitely wants this to be a novel about war and conflict, with small bits of romance woven in. Her editor insisted on stressing the romance more and did not provide the more realistic cover that Grande wished for.

The Spanish translation of the novel (which changed some of the content by virtue of language and culture) was finished in time for publication in early October. Stephanie was able to attend a presentation in Woodland on Oct. 6 where Reyna Grande spoke to a bilingual audience, flawlessly switching back and forth between the languages. She had told us that her Spanish isn't as fast as her English.

Note: On October 8 Rajika Bhandari, author of last January's selection, *America Calling*, reported that she had learned a lot from Reyna Grande about writing by immigrants.

Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus was discussed on October 8. The selection for Saturday, November 12 is *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict.



This update focuses on global, national, regional and local events of interest this fall to UNA members and associates: UNGA77, Intergenerational MUN, UNA-USA Western Climate Forum and International Festival (see report of combined UNA and AAUW presence at I-Fest).

Global: UNGA77

Heads of state from nearly all 193 Member States gathered in person in New York for the 77th Session of the UN General Assembly. An overwhelming majority of world leaders called for peace, with resounding condemnation of Russia's invasion of Ukraine while urging action to push back on the disastrous impact on global food and energy security. Other major topics were education, gender equality, global health and climate action. Only 11% of the speakers were women and only 28 of the 193 Member States are led by women.

Good news: this year's **Global Fund** Replenishment Conference raised a record-breaking \$14.25 billion to support countries **battling HIV, TB, and malaria**.

The countdown to completing the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 is facing serious setbacks, losing hard-won gains in health, food security, equality and education as a result of COVID-19, conflict and climate change. **No country (including the U.S.) is on track right now to achieve the 17 SDGs by 2030.** Secretary General António Guterres proclaimed: "The SDGs are issuing an SOS."

Memorable quotes: "It is time for multilateralism to reflect the voice of the farmers, represent the hopes of villagers, champion the aspirations of pastoralists, defend the rights of fisherfolk, express the dreams of traders, respect the wishes of workers and, indeed, protect the welfare of all peoples of the Global South." (President Ruto of Kenya). "We cannot solve new problems with old solutions." (UN Secretary General's Envoy on Youth Jayathma Wickramanayake).

Note: Our fellow UNA chapter in Marin hosts programs on the SDGs every other month and welcomes participants. On October 22, 3-4:30 p.m. their free virtual program will address SDG#13, Climate Action. To register contact unamarinchapter@gmail.com

National: IGMUN, October 21, virtual

All, regardless of experience or membership, are invited to celebrate United Nations Day this year by virtually participating in the first national Intergenerational Model United Nations on Friday, October 21 from 9:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. ET. This is an interactive learning program for all levels. There is a charge of \$10. Please see description with link to register, topics and countries to choose from and a detailed schedule here: <https://igmun22.splashthat.com>

UNA Updates Continued



UNA ★ USA
Davis Chapter

UNA Sacramento United Nations Day, October 23, free

UNA Sacramento will celebrate United Nations Day, *Nurturing Peace: Food Insecurity* on Sunday October 23 from 2 pm to 4 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento, Welcome Hall, 2425 Sierra Boulevard, Sacramento. This free event will feature Dr. Amanda Crump of UC Davis, professor of International Agricultural Development, whose talk will focus on the critical intersection of food security and peace. All are welcome and registration is not required. Shelf-stable (unexpired) pantry donations are greatly appreciated and will support local food banks.

Regional: UNA-USA Western Climate Forum held on September 23

Entitled “*Mutually Assured Survival – Priorities for Climate Action*” this forum presented experts in a variety of climate-related fields, giving many examples of possible solutions (a ton of CO2 sequestered in one cubic yard of limestone, other climate restoration options like geothermal, electrification) while also stressing the need for more education, collaboration and citizen action. One speaker said: “We have technology, we have funds, but we lack the will.”

Perhaps the most passionate speaker was 19 year-old Ugandan activist Latifa Nansubuga who advocates for the intersectionality of girl children and climate. Because of her family’s hunger and poverty directly caused by climate change they tried to force her into marriage to an old man at age 13. Her description of how she created urban farming with incredible ingenuity and how she regards that as a viable solution to the climate crisis is truly impressive (and it saved her from child marriage).

UNA’s newly appointed Youth Representative to the UN, Himaja Nagireddy, urged participants to DO, rather than talk. She spoke of the urgency to mobilize youth, to educate and to give young people space at the table in charting policies for less racist environmentalism.

A recording of the forum should be accessible at www.unawestclimate.org There will be a post-COP27 forum in January.

Local: UN Day Proclamation

On October 18 the Davis City Council will once again present a Proclamation for the observance of United Nations Day, and **the UN flag will be flown at City Hall on October 24.**

AAUW and UNA-USA Join Forces at International Festival

On Sunday, October 2, the AAUW Davis and Woodland branches, along with the UNA-USA Davis Chapter, joined many other organizations in Central Park with booths generously equipped with a variety of materials to inform visitors about our respective organizations. As in prior years, the AAUW and UNA booths were adjacent to each other and that helped to spread out the volunteer effort.

AAUW Davis branch members participating included: Stephanie, Shahla, Alexandra, Laleh, and Estelle, dual Davis and Woodland branch members Juliana and Barbara (Durst), and UCD student and former Trekker, Sally Ho. Woodland branch members Carolyn and Brooke also provided support for the AAUW booth. All greeted visitors and talked about AAUW's mission to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, advocacy, and philanthropy. Informational materials, member applications, a signboard displaying Tech Trek photos and campers' thank you letters, and giveaways (rulers and Smarties candies) attracted visitors to the table. Marti Abbott's quilt, donated to raise funds for Tech Trek expenses, was prominently displayed behind the AAUW table although tickets could not be sold at the festival. AAUW student Marlene stopped by to tell us her latest school news. The presence of students Sally and Marlene enticed high school and college students to check out the displays. We thank David, Ken, and Rich for their help delivering materials to the park and setting up and breaking down the booth.

At the UNA-USA table, members explained the purpose of the United Nations Association: **to inspire the public, to educate about and to advocate for the important work of the United Nations**. Special thanks to Laleh, Juliana and Shahla (who are members of both organizations) for tabling and to our youngest AAUW board member, Alexandra, who proudly carried the UN flag in the opening ceremony. A longtime UNA member, age 96, tabled for more than two hours in the afternoon!

It was a beautiful, sunny day, rich in cultural and educational experiences for all ages, and a unique chance to share the missions of AAUW and UNA-USA.



Alexandra proudly carried the UN Flag



Verena, Shahla and Stephanie at the UNA and AAUW tables

A Message from the AAUW Davis Branch President

It was barely more than two weeks ago on September 24th that we celebrated our Tech Trek campers' experiences at the Annual Friends and Family Gathering in the lovely Cannery Community Center. Thank you to Laleh for arranging such a beautiful room where we celebrated our recent Tech Trekkers, Logan and Regina, and their families. As mentioned earlier, Athena and her family were not able to attend this event.

To top it all off we were so happy to welcome two former Tech Trekkers who are now attending UCD. Sally Ho, who attended the Whittier College Tech Trek Camp, and Tate Chatfield, who attended the UCD Tech Trek Camp, joined us and related the important impact Tech Trek Camp had on their lives. The perfect culmination of a lovely afternoon was to see our recent 2022 Tech Trekkers deep in conversation with Sally and Tate as they shared experiences and received advice to make headway in the educational world. Women supporting women is what it is all about...

The International Festival returned on October 2nd, 2022 for the first time since 2019 and it was a great success. Our AAUW booth was again next to the United Nations Association Booth which allowed for easy support of both organizations. The Festival began with a colorful international flag parade which included Alexandra, our newest AAUW board member and former UCD intern, proudly carrying the United Nations flag. It was a moving way to begin anew to support the goals, values, and mission of the United Nation Association and AAUW.

Thank you so much to all of our volunteers from both Davis and Woodland branches. Your engagement with so many visitors to our table brought in a record number of people interested in AAUW. They have all been contacted and invited to participate in our branches and I am sure that with our positive outreach that we can anticipate many new members. We may have even convinced the granddaughter of Marjorie Bell Chambers, a former AAUW National President, to join AAUW. We talked about legacy in a big way and the impact that AAUW really does have in our communities.

Stephanie DeGraff-Hunt
AAUW Davis Branch President

AAUW CA Updates

Women with a Voice! How are you Growing?

by Marsha Swails, Membership Committee Chair, membership@aauw-ca.org

A few months ago, the most unusual thing happened at the Beach Cities Branch scholarship awards. A woman came into the room as the meeting began and took a seat at one of the far tables. Each recipient came forward and shared her Tech Trek, TTAG, and AAUW journey. The gratitude expressed and pride of the families in attendance brought many to tears. At the end of the meeting, the woman revealed that she walked in on the wrong meeting. Hers was in another room, but she felt drawn to the magic in this place and stayed. It turned out that one of our members taught her daughter as well. This lovely woman not only joined AAUW on the spot, she also wrote a check for \$1,000 to support the scholarship fund. Perhaps it actually was magic!

This month the Membership Committee would like to celebrate those branches that are growing their membership. We want you to share your success with branches across the state. Do you have a specific story of a new member? What caused this person to join AAUW? We want to hear from YOU!! What are you doing in your branch that has made a difference in attracting new members?

Everyone has a story. Let us help celebrate the good things you are doing! We will shout them from the rooftop!

Send your stories to: membership@aauw-ca.org

Nominations and Elections

Submitted by Jane Niemeier

AAUW California will be holding an election from April 22 to May 13, 2023, for the following offices:

President-Elect (three-year term 2023-2026)
Chief Financial Officer (CFO) (two-year term 2023– 2025)
Four Directors (two-year term 2023-2025)

Perhaps you are interested but would like to see what goes on at the state board meetings before you fill out your candidate form. Well, you can do that! The state board has monthly check-in meetings that you can observe. Contact President Sandi Gabe (statepresident@aauw-ca.org) for the upcoming dates and Zoom links.

To help you prepare, please click [HERE](#) to learn about the process for running for a state office. Then click [HERE](#) for the nomination form. It asks for your personal information and your AAUW experience, and a 75-word goal statement, among other things. You can fill it out and save it for later if that suits you. You can also clear the form if you want to start over.

As a past board member, I can tell you that we got a lot of work done at our meetings, but we also had fun. And we made good friends from all over the state. You won't regret running for the state board!

AAUW National News

The Complicated Truth about the Pay Gap

As the name of AAUW's seminal report implies, the existence of the gender pay gap is a simple truth. But when it comes to capturing complete data from a rapidly changing labor market, well, let's just say it's complicated. Fortunately, our annual update to *The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap* provides context and analysis to help you make sense of the latest information from the U.S. Census Bureau. Look for it on our [website](#) within the next few weeks. See AAUW's [press release](#) on the latest gender pay gap data.

Honoring Hispanic Heritage

Hispanic Heritage Month—which extends from September 15 to October 15—pays tribute to generations of Hispanic Americans who have enriched our society. We're proud of all of our Hispanic and Latina AAUW members, supporters and funding recipients. Visit our [homepage](#) and social media sites through mid-October to see highlights of their accomplishments.

Apply for a Fellowship or Grant

Spread the word: The submission period for the 2023-24 [AAUW Fellowships and Grants](#) is open. Application deadlines run from November to December 2022. Follow in the footsteps of award-winning authors, scientists, scholars, changemakers and community leaders. The exceptional recipients will pursue academic work and lead innovative community projects to empower women and girls.

Upcoming Webinars

Instagram Webinar

Friday, October 11th at 7 pm. Register [HERE](#)

We're cooking up a delicious recipe for Instagram success. Learn how you can create an Instagram account and get started reaching your audiences. We're making it easy to understand! This is Part III of the Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn – Your Key to Outreach series.

AAUW Fund Events

Where do your AAUW Fund donations go? Attend one or all to hear fellow and grant recipients explain their award-winning work in their own words. Register [HERE](#) to attend these virtual meetings.

Saturday, October 15 at 10 am

Saturday, October 22 at 10 am

Sunday, October 23 at 1 pm

Saturday, November 12 at 10 am

Public Policy Updates

By Kathy Harper, Director, Public Policy Committee Chair, publicpolicy@aauw.org

The 2021-22 Legislative Session officially came to a close at midnight on September 30th, the Governor's deadline for signing or vetoing bills. I'm excited to announce that 25 of our 36 bills for this year are now law – a 70% success rate! Of our six high-priority bills, five have become law. Here is a quick summary:

Economic Security bills
9 signed by Governor

Equal Access to Education bills
6 signed by Governor
1 approved (no signature required)

Social and Racial Justice bills
7 signed by Governor
1 approved (no signature required)
1 incorporated into Executive Order

Click [HERE](#) for a summary of each bill and its status. It can be found on the Public Policy webpage under “Legislative Advocacy” [HERE](#) as well as our detailed Bill Tracker [HERE](#).

Be an Advocate!

Our Voter Education campaign is in full swing; be sure to look for our weekly social media (SM) messages.

Post them on your branch and personal SM platforms.
Sign the Pledge to Vote Yes on Proposition 1 [find it [HERE](#)].
We have added some resources on Reproductive Health to our webpage:

A list of resources for forming alliances can be found [HERE](#).
A PowerPoint presentation on Proposition 1 can be found [HERE](#).

Finally, we had our first Public Policy branch chairs peer group meeting on September 7th, with chairs from 33 branches. We will meet every other month on the 1st Wednesday at 2 pm. Our next meeting will be on November 2nd; we encourage all branch chairs to join us, to stay up to date on state and national issues, to share successes and challenges, and to learn from each other.

Be a part of the solution:

Post SM Voter Education messages every Wednesday.
Sign the Pledge to vote Yes on Prop 1.
Join the Public Policy discussion on November 2nd.

Public Policy Updates Continued...

Get Out the Vote!

This week's hashtags is #vote.

Reminders:

- * Educate yourself on Proposition 1 by clicking [HERE](#).
- * Sign the pledge to vote YES on Proposition 1 by clicking [HERE](#).
- * Post this message to your social media account.

Did you know that **everyone** in California can **vote by mail**?

WHY YOU NEED TO ACT

Expressing your right to vote is important--and voting by mail is safe, easy, and convenient!

TAKE ACTION!

Watch for your **Vote by Mail** ballot to arrive in your mailbox on **October 10th.**

Learn More And Take Action



GOTV
Get Out The Vote



Other News: Exhibition at Crocker Art Museum Highlights Women Photographers

Source: Crocker Art Museum email

Histories of photography long ignored or underrepresented women's contributions to the medium's development as both fine and applied art. In truth, women embraced photography from its introduction in 1839! Modern Women | Modern Vision: Photography from the Bank of America Collection, on view from October 2 through December 31, presents more than one hundred images made by women between 1905 and 2015.

Diverse in style, tone, and subject, these images range from spontaneous to composed, detached to empathetic, monumental to intimate. Cindy Sherman, Imogen Cunningham, Carrie Mae Weems, Dorothea Lange, Diane Arbus, Bernice Abbott, Tomoko Sawada, Ruth Orkin, Barbara Kruger, and other photographers are included, their work revealing the bold and dynamic ways women have contributed to the development and evolution of the medium.

The exhibition has been loaned to the Crocker Art Museum through the Bank of America Art in the Communities program.

More information can be found [HERE](#)

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