

JANUARY 2023

# THE SPOKESWOMAN

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

## A Message from Stephanie

A Happy New Year to all of you! AAUW is jumping full swing into 2023 with empowering changes and events. I hope the information included here will inspire you to join us in new adventures and advocacy for AAUW.

Our local AAUW branch is pleased to announce that the New Year brings two new UCD interns to join our current team. Toni Brady, who you have already met if you attended the December 4th Holiday Fundraiser for the Willow Clinic, is a junior focusing on Environmental Science and Management. Toni is an alumna of the UCSB Tech Trek 2015 program and was connected

with the Torrance AAUW branch. She is eager to further the expansion of women in STEM and in AAUW programs. Cristele Moztarzadeh is a sophomore majoring in Communications and pursuing a Professional Writing minor. Her experience as Copy Editor and Writer for Miami Palmetto Senior High School's newspaper, The Panther, helped foster a creative writing environment among her peers. Cristele is particularly proud that her article on the case of Sophie Long received recognition as the most viewed in the paper's history.

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## January Calendar

Thursday, January 12 at 7 pm -  
Board Meeting

Saturday, January 14 at 9 am - Book  
Group Discussion (Zoom)

Wednesday, January 18 - Last day  
to sign up for Lobby Day Training

Thursday, January 19 - Celebrate  
the 19th Amendment

Friday, January 20 at 7:30 pm -  
AAUW@UCD Meeting Featuring  
Marty West

Wednesday, January 25, 7 pm -  
Growing California AAUW Webinar

Thursday, January 26 - Deadline to  
register for AAUW Fund Event  
Saturday,

Saturday, January 28, 1 to 3 pm -  
AAUW Fund Event (Zoom)

## A Message from Stephanie Continued...

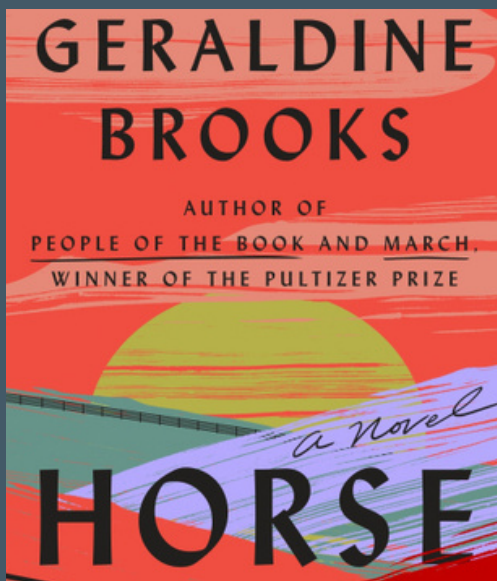
Toni and Cristele are now receiving support and training from Aislinn Kenny and Beth Miller, our interns since September 2021 and who will graduate in June 2023. We are fortunate to have the support of Aislinn and Beth as they share their knowledge and ease the way for Toni and Cristele. Interns play a major role in bringing a new look and energy to the Spokeswoman, the Welcome Packet, the Year in Review Summary, as well as our AAUW website, Facebook page, and our new Instagram account.

Leslie Rubin, our Branch Secretary, who does all the legwork to post the intern positions, screen candidates, and set up interviews is looking forward to introducing Toni and Cristele at the January 12th board meeting where she will elaborate on their new roles. Hats off and a big shout out to Leslie and our wonderful interns.

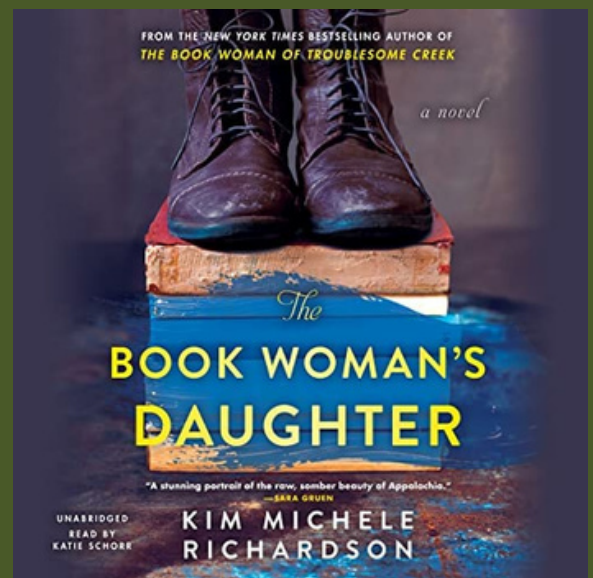
## Book Group Reminders

The book group will kick off the New Year on Saturday, January 14 at 9 am to discuss “Horse” by Geraldine Brooks. The February 11 reading selection is “The Book Woman’s Daughter: A Novel” by Kim Michele Richardson.

All are invited to join on second Saturdays at 9 a.m. on Zoom. A Zoom link will be sent by email the week of the book group meeting.



*"Words could be snares. Less of them you laid out there, less likely they could trap you up."*  
- Geraldine Brooks in *Horse*



## AAUW Fund Event on January 28, 1-3 pm

### *Capital Counties Interbranch Council*

Your local InterBranch Council is delighted to offer members the opportunity to hear directly from four powerful women. AAUW CA State President Sandi Gabe, always engaging and knowledgeable, will bring us up to date on the issues that inspire us.

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**Sandi Gabe**



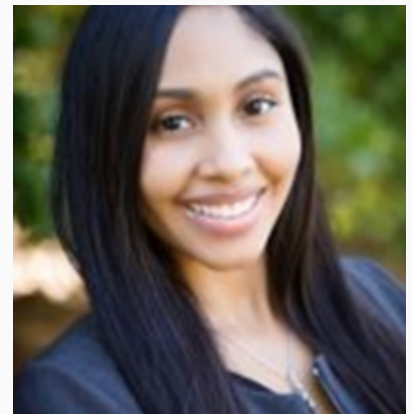
**Stormy Miller Sabia**

Our AAUW CA Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Director Stormy Miller Sabia will speak on the progress we're making in DEI, and the challenges we face.

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Following these articulate leaders, two dynamic AAUW Fund Grant recipients—Kyndra Cleveland and Isha Poudel—will present their research, connecting us to the passion that motivates their work and their lives. Register for this free Zoom event with the link below. Our members generously support AAUW Funds—this is your chance to hear from the women you sponsor.

Kyndra Cleveland, pursuing her law degree at the University of California, Berkeley, seeks to amplify the voices of parents and children navigating legal systems by bringing the results of her research to policy decisions. Children in the many thousands are removed from their families during crises, and then often suffer a chaotic future without a chance for family reunification. These children can be lost in the system – but Kyndra and the Policy Advocacy Clinic at UC Berkeley are working to give them a voice, and to change policy to increase their well-being. She is a polished speaker on a topic of special relevance to AAUW's advocacy for girls.



**Kyndra Cleveland**

## AAUW Fund Event Continued...

Isha Poudel, a graduate student at UC Davis studying international agricultural development with a focus on gender equities, takes us to Nepal with a compelling project that lets us see the world a little differently. In Nepal, three-fourths of the economy is agricultural—but 80% of the farmers are women. Men have emigrated to other areas to work, leaving the women farmers to deal with the challenges of gender bias, of food insecurity, of COVID-19, and of global warming. Her research may build Nepali support to ease their challenges.



**Isha Poudel**

**Don't miss these terrific women on Jan. 28! To receive the Zoom link, register on Eventbrite [HERE](#) before January 26.**

## Don't Miss AAUW California's Webinar: "The Kindness of Color"

*Janice Lee, Program Committee Chair AAUW California*

Be sure to join us for a poignant presentation by Janice Munemitsu, author of *The Kindness of Color*, on Tuesday, January 10th at 7:00 pm.

Hear the true stories of two families: one Japanese American and one Mexican American and their separate battles with racism, incarceration, and school segregation in the WWII era. Unexpectedly, their lives intersect, paving the way for a landmark court decision in California.

Ms. Munemitsu will share stories and photos from her family in a personal tale of how the kindness of friends and strangers provided hope and strength to persevere against unjust treatment.



**Click [HERE](#) to Register**

# Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

*Stormy Miller Sabia, Director, DEI Committee Chair, [diversity@aauw-ca.org](mailto:diversity@aauw-ca.org)*

## LET'S TALK DEI: RECAP AND THANK YOU!

The AAUW California DEI Committee sends a great big THANK YOU for your participation in our first DEI coordinator/director community conversation - "Let's Talk DEI." We prepared an agenda that identified the goals of the meeting, organized breakout rooms to provide you an opportunity to get to know one another, and hoped your group of DEI branch coordinators/directors would become collaborators around issues of diversity, equity and inclusion. Not only did you do just that, but you collectively took the ball and hit it way out of the park! All the breakout rooms buzzed with friendly introductions and candid biographical information that showed amazing variety yet a similar longstanding commitment to equity for women and girls.

While we thought we would have to spend time explaining the meaning of DEI, you have been advocating for diversity, equity and inclusion one way or another for many years in your own milieu. Those coordinators/directors who were new to DEI quickly grasped the scope of the challenge ahead and didn't seem to shy away. We couldn't have asked for a better outcome from Session I. To those who provided feedback and input, thank you for your openness and transparency as we work to improve the space and community dialogue.

Did you miss "Let's Talk DEI: Session I"?

Here's a [link](#) and password (653525) to access the recording!

With that tremendous momentum behind us, we want to maintain the collaboration and sisterhood that developed at our first meeting as we plan at least two more events between February and April. Please be on the lookout for a separate email from the DEI Committee requesting your input on dates and times. Let's Talk DEI Facilitators are Lenore Gallin and Barbara St. Urbain, members of the AAUW California DEI Committee.

Looking forward to working together in an equitable New Year!

# Share the Chance to Make a Change

*Marsha Swails, Membership Committee Chair, [membership@aauw-ca.org](mailto:membership@aauw-ca.org)*

## **WOMEN WITH A DREAM: LET'S GROW!**

As I say goodbye to 2022, I often think about opportunities that I should have pursued. One particular opportunity makes me realize that finding new members for AAUW is as simple as asking. A close friend of mine was willing to meet with my branch leadership team to talk about some creative fundraising ideas. She was about to leave on a trip to Europe when I became ill and needed surgery. After she returned and I recovered, I mentioned that I would still like her to meet with our branch leaders. She hesitated. Then she said, "I was waiting for you to ask me to join AAUW, but another friend invited me to join a group in Manhattan Beach. I just don't feel I have the time now." True confession. Here I am, a leader in AAUW, and I missed this opportunity. I still hope to draw her in, because I see her skill and talent. She actually wanted to find a community of women. I will not give up on her, but I see that all I had to do was ask. I truly believe she will still join! (I have a plan ☺)

What did I learn? We are dreamers. We look at the girls who join Tech Trek, Speech Trek and now Gov Trek, and we viscerally know that our mission to empower women and girls can change the world. I should never hesitate to extend the chance and simply say the words "join me" to be part of a life-changing organization.

On January 25th, the Membership Committee invites you to our webinar "Growing AAUW California." We are so excited to share some new ideas to energize and grow your branches. What might be in store for 2023 for your branch? Be part of this energizing discussion! Register [HERE](#).

# 2023 Public Policy Events

*Kathleen Harper, Director, Public Policy Committee Chair, [publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org](mailto:publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org)*

## **NEW CONGRESS, NEW LEGISLATURE, NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED IN PUBLIC POLICY - SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE IN 2023!**

Your AAUW California Public Policy team has been hard at work planning all kinds of public policy activities to engage you, your members, and your branches. Here's a preview:

- January – Lobby Days Opportunity for all members to sign up to help advocate for our priority bills. Sign up to participate and register for training [HERE](#). Deadline is January 18th.
- February – Black History Month.
- March – Busy Month!
- Women's History Month
- AAUW California Legislative Agenda released, will be available on our website
- Equal Pay Day – March 15th\*. Opportunity to educate your community and your membership about the Gender Pay Gap
- Lobby Days! Mandatory training for all participants on March 20th; two days of advocacy with state legislators, March 21st and March 22nd
- April – Proposed changes for 2023-25 Public Policy Priorities submitted for vote by all members. Opportunity for all members to weigh in on the committee's recommendations.
- May – Asian American and Pacific Islander Women Equal Pay Day, May 3rd
- June – Pride Month. Opportunity to educate your members on the challenges faced by women in the LGBTQ+ communities

\*Note that these dates are tentative; they are not official AAUW-confirmed dates at this point and may be subject to change.

If you joined AAUW because you believe in our mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research, don't miss one or more of these opportunities to get involved!

## **News from Our AAUW Students at UCD**

The AAUW@UCD students are kicking off the Winter Quarter with a special event on Friday, January 20 featuring branch member Marty West, Professor of Law Emerita. Marty has been asked to speak about the Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe v Wade and how this will affect women's rights and health in the future. The students are also interested in hearing about paid leave in the workplace (such as maternity leave) and how workplace discrimination impacts women. The students cordially invite branch members to attend and participate in the discussion from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Details on the meeting location on campus are still being worked out but more information will be sent to members by email.

## UNA Update

The annual UNA-USA Global Engagement Summit (GES) unites world leaders with our nation's top grassroots change-makers and will be held at UN Headquarters on Friday, February 17th in-person and virtually. More than 1,000 community leaders, students, lifetime advocates and young professionals from across the country are expected to sit in the seats of UN decision makers. In previous summits, over half of the audience consisted of youth members who are committed to advancing global engagement both through their activism and career pursuits.



The theme for GES 2023 is “Empowered and Emboldened for Impact” – highlighting for UNA members the need to feel empowered in order to let decision makers in the U.S. government and the United Nations know they support bold action to see impact in terms of improving the fate of people, justice, and our planet.

During this hybrid event, in person participation will be offered to UNA-USA members, while virtual participation is open to the public – anyone who is interested in foreign policy, local issues with global implications, Sustainable Development Goals, and support for a strong U.S.-UN partnership. The event will consist of a 1-hour Opening Plenary, eight ½ hour sessions and a 1-hour Closing Celebration.

For registration, click [HERE](#). There is a \$25 registration fee.

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