

MARCH 2023

THE SPOKESWOMAN

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

Trials, Tribulations, Teamwork, and Triumphs

Stephanie DeGraff-Hunt, President

Recent weeks have been filled with all sorts of ups and downs, but with everyone pulling together there is a sense of optimism as we move forward in our common goal of empowering girls and women through education and careers.

Tech Trek is up and running, but it has been a trial as we are missing Gail Johnson, the backbone of our Davis Tech Trek Camp and the financial guru for the entire Tech Trek Camp at UCD. Gail's knee replacement came at a critical time so Estelle, Juliana, Rhonda, and I stepped up to do what Gail has been doing all by herself in previous years. The steep learning curve has been challenging as we navigated, somewhat on high seas, to sort out the new online application process for Tech Trek.

Innovation and changes brought on due to the impact of Covid plus the rocky implementation of new technological programs have been daunting. Numerous emails, Zoom meetings, tangles, and roadblocks for accessing the new Camp Doc program still have not been completely resolved, but working as a team we have moved ahead.

Just before Gail's surgery, she received clear access for AAUW to reach out to the math and science school district teachers at the four Davis Junior High Schools. A very important cover letter was written and sent to all principals, math, and science teachers. That was the first step in the process of recruiting girls to apply for the four Tech Trek scholarships donated by our branch.

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March Calendar

Wednesday, March 8th: International Women's Day

Thursday, March 9th at 7 pm: AAUW Davis Branch Board Meeting

Saturday, March 11th at 9 am: Book Group

Sunday, March 12th at 12 pm: United Nations Association Program, Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality via Zoom

Tuesday, March 14th: Equal Pay Day

Sunday, March 19th 2:30-5:30 pm: Celebration of Nowruz (Springtime) Cannery Clubhouse, RSVP by March 10 (see article)

Monday, March 20th 7-9 pm: Lobby Day Webinar

Tuesday/Wednesday, March 21st and 22nd Lobby Day meetings

Trials, Tribulations, Teamwork, and Triumphs Continued

Estelle has been an absolute bulwark in sorting through all of these challenges, working at all hours of the day and night. Ultimately, she wrote an overview letter, with assistance from Rhonda, to explain the program for the math and science teachers of 7th grade girls, who are eligible to attend Tech Trek as rising 8th graders.

We divided and conquered by each selecting one Davis junior high school to contact. The letter was sent and, as a team, we followed up to encourage the teachers to collaborate in nominating candidates to apply for the Tech Trek scholarships. Now that nominations have been received, it falls on the team to obtain parental approval and to assist the student candidates in accessing the Camp Doc website where they have to complete an application and write an essay. Once all the applications and essays are reviewed, our team of four will select candidates for interviews, and ultimately make the final decision about which four girls will be the fortunate beneficiaries of a \$1,000 scholarship to Tech Trek Camp at UCD.

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The February Celebrate the 19th was a good time to focus on positivity and optimism as Juliana asked us to think about and share something or someone that we are proud of and to share something that gives us hope. She wrote down inspiring lyrics from Helen Reddy's 1972 song, I AM WOMAN to help us get into the spirit ahead of time. Celebrate the 19ths are wonderful occasions where we get to know each other better as we share important and positive moments and experiences in our own lives.

I am woman, hear me roar in numbers too big to ignore
And I know too much to go back and pretend
'Cause I've heard it all before
And I've been down there on the floor
And no one's ever gonna keep me down again.
** Yes, I am wise. But it's wisdom born of pain
Yes, I've paid the price. But look how much I've gained
If I have to, I can do anything.
I am strong, I am invincible, I am woman.
You can bend but never break me
'Cause it only serves to make me
More determined to achieve my final goal
And I come back even stronger, not a novice any longer
'Cause you've deepened the conviction in my soul
**Yes, I am wise...
I am woman, watch me grow
See me standing toe to toe
As I spread my lovin' arms across the land.
But I'm still a little embryo with such a long, long way to go
Until I make my brother understand

Trials, Tribulations, Teamwork, and Triumphs Continued

Following up on the positive stories that were shared at Celebrate the 19th this past month, I want to highlight a few of the positive AAUW and UNA programs.

As mentioned in the February Spokeswoman, the new Virtual Gov Trek program was launched on January 28th with over 60 future leaders and 40 volunteers in attendance from across California. The series of five sessions continues with two more sessions to follow. Session 2, Women's Leadership & Political Participation was held on February 11, 2023. Session 3: Ready, Set, *Live*! Campaigning 101 was held on February 25, 2023. Session 4: Campaign Simulation will be held on March 11. Go to the [Gov Trek](#) link for more information and news from CA AAUW in this edition for details on the Gov Trek Finale and Campaign Competition on Saturday, March 25, 2023.

We can't wait to see how our future leaders will change the world. The Davis branch aspires to be involved with the Gov Trek program in its second year.

The United Nations Association (UNA) Silicon Valley Chapter and UNA Davis Chapter are collaborators in a program to celebrate International Women's Day on March 12 from 12 pm - 2 pm. The AAUW Davis branch is also a co-sponsor of the program titled, "Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality." Program details and registration information for the hybrid in-person and Zoom event are provided in the UNA article in this Spokeswoman.

It is team work that makes all of these triumphs happen.

February 11th Book Group: "The Book Woman's Daughter"

by Juliana Wells and Rose Mary Forehand

On February 11, 2023, AAUW members and guests gathered around their Zoom devices for a discussion led by Rose Mary of "The Book Woman's Daughter," sequel to "The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek," by Kim Michelle Richardson.

Pre-book discussion covered climate issues such as water for almond orchards, but water restrictions for homeowners. When will it stop or be worse for homeowners, but not these seemingly unrestricted orchards? Food for thought.

The discussion began with the question: *Who needs a Declaration of Emancipation? Why might a child seek to be emancipated? Did Honey have good reason to seek emancipation?*

Response: Definitely. Her parents had been jailed/sent to an institution due to what was then referred to as laws against miscegenation-Latin meaning 'to mix-race, stock, species, genus'. Her father was white and her mother was seen as a blue person-actually a genetic disorder. Methemoglobinemia is the scientific name for the disorder. People in rural Kentucky had no idea what it was and saw the blue people as evil and criminals. Although it was treatable with methylene blue, Cussy, Honey's mother, dismissed it due to the side effects. She was sterilized in jail against her will due to laws that encouraged racism, discrimination and violence. After the death of Loretta (Honey's guardian after her parents were arrested), and her parents jailed/institutionalized, Honey did not want to be under the control of anyone, nor thrown in juvenile jail to work at hard labor until she was 21. Emancipation was the only way out. She had a job. She proved she could take care of herself. Just being able to read and write was more than most folks there could do! This family had hidden from the law since the time of the marriage of the parents. Sadly, they wanted more children.

Honey discovered that Loretta had attended one of Kentucky's Moonlight Schools which served the uneducated and the elderly. The Moonlight Schools were initiated by Cora Wilson Stewart to promote literacy among adults in the Appalachian region of Kentucky. Reading about Wilson Stewart is fascinating. She is considered the founder of literacy in Kentucky. She attended Morehead Normal School (later Morehead State University) and University of Kentucky.

After the death of Loretta, Honey had to provide for herself, which led to accepting the packhorse librarian position. In this position she helped the women in the hills and hollers of Kentucky gain knowledge, as well as some sort of freedom in their beaten down, hard lives. In a sense they could see 'the outside world' through the books carefully selected and distributed by Honey.

February 11th Book Group Continued

What role did the animals play?

Junia, Cussy's and now Honey's mule, was protective, highly observant and knew how to travel the difficult roads. Pie, Pearl's horse, was also protective and a comfort. Wrenna's rooster Tommie was extremely protective of the young girl. He bristled at the men teasing Wrenna holding him. Tommie eventually scratched the meanest, worst teaser so badly that he died in the hospital. Animals treated humanely and loved by their owners often come to the aid of those owners, just as these animals did.

How important was Cussy to the rural readers?

She delivered her conversation and company and chose very appropriate books for each person. She taught her daughter, Honey, to read and write. (An aside - the packhorse librarians were part of the Roosevelt Work Program Administration-WPA.) Honey became an accomplished packhorse librarian by carefully choosing books and articles she thought would interest the families she served.

Misogyny:

Men not only showed misogyny in abusing and controlling their wives, but they verbally and sexually harassed other women, such as Bonnie, the widow who had to work in the mine. Two of these men set fire to Pearl's fire tower, wanting her job and believing a woman could not and should not have 'a man's job'. Violence against women was almost a given in certain areas of Appalachia.

Some participants thought the fire incident could have been more suspenseful. Banning of books and outlawing interracial marriages have long been a part of history. The movie, "The Lovings," is an example. (Note: the following title gives a recent example of censorship and a teen's view of it: "Attack of the Black Rectangles" by Amy Sarig King.) Laws banning interracial marriage in America were first passed in the 17th century. The US Supreme Court declared these laws unconstitutional in 1967. In California these laws were abolished in 1948. Alabama finally abolished these laws in... 2000!!!

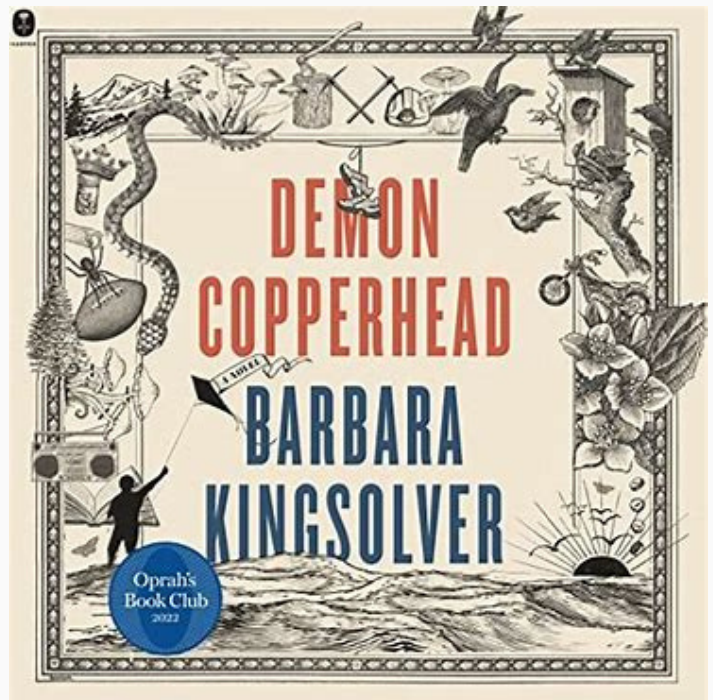
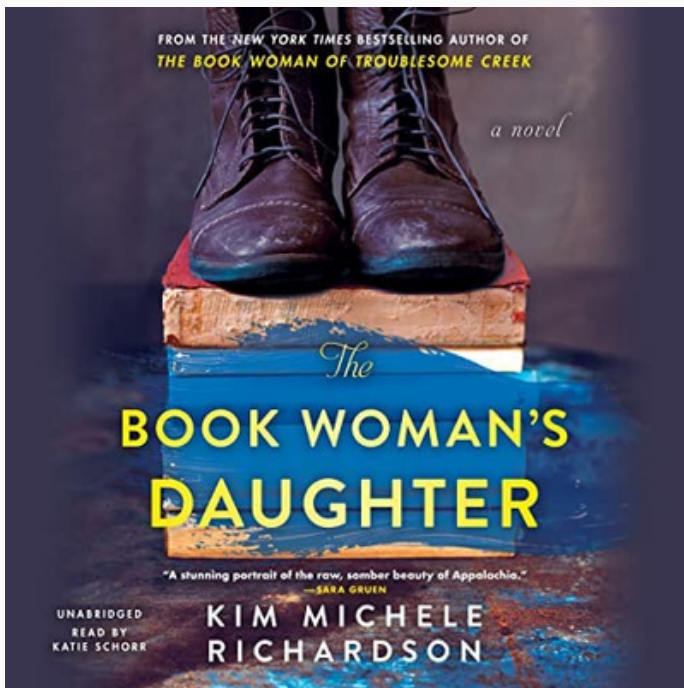
For many years misogynistic laws have berated women, caused child marriages, caused women to have low wages and caused women to be seen as inferior beings.

The closing of the book vividly portrays what a community that stands together can accomplish. Honey appealed to the court for emancipation to become an adult (after accidentally reading an old article in a newspaper in the library). The community showed up in court for her as they understood what a wrong would be committed if she was not declared emancipated. Communities can do amazing things when they see a wrong being done to a member of their circle.

February 11th Book Group Continued

Commentary by Rose Mary: I visited Appalachia this past summer-Boone, North Carolina, which is the home of Appalachia State University. Lovely community, heavily visited in the summer with many summer homes. I had read the book by then and tried to imagine traveling the backwoods (heavily forested, hilly country) as a young girl on horseback. This book is historical fiction. Actually being there I could easily imagine how real what I had read could actually be.

On Saturday, March 11, the Davis BookGroup will discuss “Demon Copperhead” by Barbara Kingsolver.



March 1 "Secrets of the Sprakkar" Book Review

Carolyn Van Hoecke

The Woodland AAUW Book Group kindly extended an invitation to Davis members to join them for a discussion on March 1 of "Secrets of the Sprakkar – Iceland's Extraordinary Women and How They Are Changing the World". Following is a review submitted by Carolyn Van Hoecke.

Here is the definition from the book: "SPRAKKAR (plural noun): An ancient Icelandic word meaning extraordinary or outstanding women. Pronounced: SPRAH-car (singular: sprakki).

For the past twelve years, the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report has ranked Iceland number one on its list of countries closing the gap in equality between men and women. Certainly, Iceland has made meaningful progress, from electing the world's first female president who served for 16 years, to passing legislation specifically designed to help even the playing field at work, in sports, and at home. We can learn from what Icelanders have already discovered and continue in the overlapping areas that still need improvement.

Iceland is possibly the best place on earth to be a woman and many have used their opportunities to make meaningful progress and seed a movement for hope. "Secrets of the Sprakkar" is a window into what a more gender-equal world could look like. Iceland's benefits include paid parental leave (up to one year split between parents) affordable childcare, and broad support for gender equality, family stability, and acceptance of the necessities of parenting as core values.

Author and journalist Eliza Reid examines her adopted homeland's attitude toward an ingrained cultural sense of fairness, and the influence of current and historical role models. Reid's own experience is as an English-speaking immigrant from small-town Canada. She went to university in England where she met her history professor husband, who would later become the president of Iceland. As an outsider, she spent much of her time learning the language and culture of Iceland, especially from women. Her ceremonial position as First Lady of Iceland, while raising 4 children, and working as an independent travel journalist and magazine editor give her keen insight into how the rules of society play more of a role in who we view as "equal" than we may have understood. While many facts are included, her magazine writer's expressionism is easy and fun to read and she is an earnest seeker of truth behind the façade.

Starting with many remarkable examples of women's success with business, politics, and family, including her own, she also includes illustrations from many underserved individuals who, even though Iceland is the most peaceful and hopeful country in the world, are still struggling with the issues we all too readily recognize. In addition to the celebrated Sprakkar, she highlights the special circumstances of single moms, handicapped, LGBTQIA+, and the many recent immigrants contrasted with the sheer joy and optimism of current college age students and winning women athletes. The book provides much to contemplate.

Celebrate the 19th Recap

Juliana Wells

On February the 19th, we celebrated the 19th Amendment, women getting the right to vote, with our theme of what makes you proud and/or hopeful. Juliana Wells, Verena Borton, Stephanie DeGraff-Hunt, Estelle Shiroma, Alexandra Vigil, Rhonda Reed and Shahla Farahnak participated.

Juliana started out the discussion by mentioning how proud we should be that board members stepped in and stepped up to make sure that Tech Trek would take place this year. Stephanie visited Gail and gave us an update on her rehabilitation after knee replacement surgery. Juliana also proudly read the lyrics to music she wrote in 1974 regarding nature's call to us (see to the right).

We then heard about hope for continued positive interactions between siblings with the exchange of new information and perspectives. We expressed hope for the Iranians near and far to be safe and careful and for better human rights outcomes during our lifetimes.

We were thankful for job-seeking advice and success; for music and art which give us positive outlooks; for our animals continuing to give us happiness: chickens starting their laying, dogs patiently reminding us to feed them, a 17 year-old cat alive, loving, and well.

We are hopeful to stay healthy, continue meeting new people, enjoying flowers and good books, and seeing our friends. We look around proudly as we belong to AAUW fulfilling our mission and helping and encouraging students.

“Nature: Be With Me” by Juliana Wells

Come and sit by my shore
Come now and play in the rain- oh
Come and find what you feel with me
When your mind is full of pain.
Take the time to come and find me.

Come to my ocean and look at my sky
Flowers and windstorms are free
Touch what you can and be touched by the “why”
Calling and waiting to see you
Calling you to me, to enjoy- to free your mind.
Take the time to come and find me.

Come share my sunrise at dawn
Come now and find what you need-oh
Time can't be stopped and a moment is gone
—spirit freed. Be with me

Come to my mountains for air
Run with my rivers in Spring-oh
Rest in my meadow with life all around
I've room for you.
Take the time to come and find me.

Come to my forest with eyes open wide
Sit by my side near a tree
Listen to sounds only stillness can bring
Tune in and try to be free.
Oh come. Be with me. I'm calling.

Celebrate the 19th, the Spring Equinox, and Persian New Year (Nowruz)

The AAUW Davis branch and member Laleh Rastegarzadeh are co-sponsoring a cultural celebration of the Persian New Year (Nowruz) on Sunday, March 19, 2023 from 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm at the Cannery Ranch House at 2000 Cannery Loop in Davis. Nowruz has been celebrated as the beginning of the new year by more than 300 million people all around the world for over 3,000 years in the Balkans, Black Sea Basin, Central Asia, Middle East and other regions.

Laleh will introduce guests to traditional Nowruz customs in Iran and neighboring countries. Persian sweets and tea will be served. As space is limited, please respond [HERE](#) by March 10.



Lobby Day Training

Members who will participate in Lobby Days on March 21 and/or March 22, 2023 should have completed the Lobby Day Interest Survey by February 28, 2023.

Lobby Day participants must now attend a mandatory training session on March 20, 2023 at 7:00 pm. Register [HERE](#) to receive the Zoom link. Participants will learn to be an effective advocate to support AAUW's priority bills during meetings with State representatives and/or their staff.

IBC Meeting Summary

Rhonda Reed

The Capital Counties InterBranch Council (IBC) had its quarterly meeting in February. A primary discussion topic was the January 28 AAUW Fund event. The group felt the event was a success but was disappointed by low attendance (32). One thought was that information about the event was distributed late. We discussed ways to get information out earlier next year. IBC agreed that this is a good event that IBC should continue.

Many thanks to the Sacramento Branch, which has agreed to handle any IBC- related funds for the foreseeable future through their branch. The operating procedures will be amended to reflect this.

Attendees discussed other ways that branches could coordinate and support each other better. There was general disappointment about the missed opportunity to nominate girls for GovTrek in 2022 and branches hope to recruit participants next time. Also, the IBC is looking for feedback on intercounty issues that could benefit from coordination among our branches.

Equal Pay Day

This year Equal Pay Day is officially March 14th and represents how far into the year women working full-time, year-round must work to be paid what men were paid the previous year. Check out all the information on the AAUW [2023 Equal Pay Day calendar](#) Sign up as a [Two-Minute Activist](#) and keep up to date on AAUW National's policy work. See the [letters, comments, testimony and legal briefs](#) to learn more about AAUW's positions and advocacy efforts. There is a great deal going on to help empower women.

National Conference for College Women Student Leaders



Minda Harts was announced as the keynote speaker for NCCWSL 2023. She is the bestselling author and leading advocate for equity in the workplace. Minda is a highly sought-after speaker who is committed to empowering women to thrive at work, even when they come up against the sexism and racism that's still present in so many workplaces.

Minda's bestselling books include *The Memo: What Women of Color Need to Know to Secure a Seat at the Table*, and *Right Within: How to Heal from Racial Trauma in the Workplace*. She is assistant professor of public service at New York University's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service and the founder of The Memo LLC, a career development company.

A rising star, Minda was named the #1 Top Voice for Equity in the Workplace by LinkedIn in 2020, and one of the top 100 People Transforming Business by Business Insider in 2022. We are honored that she'll be sharing her expert insights and advice with the young leaders at this year's National Conference of College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)!

After the years of meeting virtually, this year's conference is back live and in person at the University of Maryland, College Park from May 31-June 3, 2023. It's going to be an exciting weekend full of actionable advice, profound motivation, and of course, amazing and inspiring women.

The Davis branch plans to sponsor AAUW@UC Davis student leaders at NCCWSL.

AAUW CA News

AAUW Fund Donations Soar!

Karen Vanderwerken, Director, AAUW Fund Committee Chair, aauwfund@aauw-ca.org

Your determination and generosity helped AAUW donations reach more than \$700,000. As of 12/31/2002, the donations were:

\$595,562 by individuals

\$124,300 by branches

\$719,862 total

Kudos to all branches!

Annual Event: Lights, Camera, Action! Get Ready for the Academy AAUWards Coming on April 22, 2023, on Your Zoom Screen!

Charmen Goehring, Meetings Planner, meetings@aauw-ca.org

We have two amazing speakers planned for you amongst all the red-carpet happenings and awards. We will be hearing from AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell. Gloria is also our main representative to the United Nations. Gloria spent 15 years managing our Fellowships and Grants program, awarding over \$70 million in funding to women scholars and programs in the U.S. and overseas. She has worked to increase girls' participation in STEM and to increase AAUW's outreach to girls and women of color. We will also get to meet Secretary Eileen M. Vélez Vega, who is serving as the first woman Secretary of the Puerto Rico Department of Transportation and Public Works. Ms. Velez Vega, an engineer who is a fierce advocate for girls in STEM, has an inspiring story to tell. She is also a colleague of our very own Tech Trek Program Director, Mary Issac.

Get ready for a fun-filled event worthy of a Hollywood red carpet. Join us on April 22nd as we celebrate AAUW California and our fantastic branches and members!

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Statewide Chat: What is JABEID? And Why is it Important to AAUW?

Stormy Miller Sabia, Director, DEI Committee Chair, diversity@aauw-ca.org

How can we co-create spaces and embody Justice, Accessibility, Belonging, Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity (JABEID)? We often hear these terms but may struggle with ways we can put them into practice in our branch meetings, programs, and outreach. Join us for a rich conversation led by Dr. Lata Muri, Co-President of the Santa Maria Branch. Dr. Murti is Associate Professor of Sociology for the School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Global and author of *With and Without the White Coat: The Racialization of Southern California's Indian Physicians*.

You won't want to miss this conversation on Monday, March 27th at 6 pm! Click [HERE](#) to register.

Individuals with access or accommodation needs can reach out to diversity@aauw-ca.org prior to the event.

Nominations and Elections: Why Wait Until May?

Charmen Goehring, Nominations & Elections Chair, nominating@aauw-ca.org

The nomination period for board candidates has ended and it turns out that we have exactly the number of candidates that we need. According to our bylaws, we do not need to hold an election and those candidates are automatically welcomed to the board. So, congratulations to President-Elect Charmen Goehring, Chief Financial Officer Kathy Ford, and Directors Amy Hom, Melissa Maceyko, and Sigrid Moranz. We appreciate these members stepping up into leadership on the state board for the next couple of years. See their profiles on the candidate page of our website [HERE](#).

We will still be voting on the Public Policy Priorities this spring. The state election voting period will be April 22-May 13. You will have the opportunity to vote for new Public Policy Priorities for 2023-2025. Each member with an email address on file will receive an email with a link to their ballot. Members without email will receive a paper ballot.

The proposed Public Policy Priorities will be posted on the website soon. Please check for them!

Public Policy: The Gender Pay Gap is Alive and Not Well!

Kathleen Harper, Director, Public Policy Committee Chair, publicpolicy@aaupw-ca.org

Big news this month is that National is changing its methodology and terminology in terms of discussing the gender pay gap. They are asking that we no longer talk about it in terms of “the day that women ‘catch up’ to men,” the feeling being that we will never catch up! They are asking that we focus on the size of the gap itself. They are providing statistics specifying that the gap for “all women vs all men for all full-time workers” = 84%; and for “all women vs all men for all workers, including part-time and seasonal” = 77%. These are the numbers that will be used for the “all women” Equal Pay Day date of March 14th. For all non-white women, the same measurement is being applied within that group and specific dates have been assigned. See National’s Equal Pay page for percentages and dates.

Other big news: National has finally hired a new Public Policy Director. Her name is Meghan Kissell. She was the Public Policy Field Director in 2012-15.

Finally, in state news: The state Public Policy Committee will meet during the first weekend of March to determine our legislative agenda for 2023-24. Stay tuned for results.

Gov Trek: Will You Be Attending?

Shauna Ruyle, Gov Trek Program Director, govtrek@aaupw-ca.org

Session 5: Gov Trek Finale & Campaign Competition Saturday, March 25, 2023, from 10 am – 12:30 pm.

You can be in the “room where it happens.” Join us for the final session of the Gov Trek program on Saturday, March 25, 10 am – 12:30 pm. Listen to inspirational remarks from Senator Toni G. Atkins, then watch the final competition between eight teams of smart, talented young women who are exploring careers in public service. They have spent four Saturdays crafting a realistic campaign simulation for this competition. Who will win? Who has the best stump speech, the best campaign flyers, and the best voter outreach plan?

Registration is required, click [HERE](#) to register.

UNA Update

Verena Borton



The February 17th **UNA-USA Global Engagement Summit** (GES) at United Nations headquarters in New York was jam-packed with information from 7am to 3 pm PT, and even beyond that for the hundreds attending in person. Under headings like *Fortifying the US-UN Relationship*, *Human Aid*, *Protecting Human Rights*, *Actualizing the SDGs*, *Maintaining Peace and Security*, *Preserving our Cultural Heritage*, *Upholding International Law*, *Supporting the Evolution of the UN*, and *Supporting Sustainable Development and Climate Action*, a wealth of information was presented mostly in moderator/panel format between opening and closing plenaries. Youth was well represented, as were recognized leaders in the work of the UN at home and abroad. Shared here are some highlights.

Representing UNICEF was the “Roving UNICEF Emergency Coordinator” Shameza Abdulla who had just received her travel instructions for departure to earthquake ravaged Türkiye and Syria later that day. What to pack? A tent, a sleeping bag and a mosquito net as the essentials. She stressed the extensive coordination between multiple UN agencies, instead of just working in “silos.” She spoke with urgency about the “silent emergencies” that don’t get as much news coverage as the immediate disasters such as the earthquakes and war in Ukraine: drought, cholera, food insecurity, interruption of education, lingering Covid effects, and lowered inoculation rates for children’s diseases. Selly Muzammil, a native of Indonesia, spoke as Partnership Officer of the World Food Program, describing the major effort to

UNA Update Continued

“provide aid for those in need without bias” that resulted in raising \$14 Billion in 2022. She became involved in WFP’s work during the 2005 Aceh Tsunami as a member of the Emergency Response team. She sees the organization’s biggest challenges for 2023 as climate change, remaining pandemic risks and the increasing worldwide needs posed by food insecurity.

During the segment on Human Rights, with UNA-USA Youth Observer to the UN Himaja Nagireddy moderating, lawyer Craig Mokhiber made this startling statement: “In the U.S. guns are a human right, but healthcare is not.” Leyla Sharafi from the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) stressed the emphasis on unequal access (as for instance in Afghanistan where women and girls are denied basic healthcare services) while also praising the power of social movements.

Examples of actualizing the Sustainable Development Goals were provided by Jamal Hill, American Paralympic medalist who is dedicated to teaching others to swim in the hope of overcoming the drowning epidemic in low-middle income communities, and Jen Mozen, vice president of a company that is a leading social responsibility platform helping to connect youth to bring the SDGs to local projects. The moderator, Harshani Dharmadasa, who has many years of experience in human rights law, international development and public policy, pointed out that youth had volunteered more than a million hours during 2022 in support of the SDGs. The four most popular SDGs in this group were #4 (education), #3 (health), #11 (sustainable cities and communities) and #16 (peace and justice).

The topic of maintaining peace and security, among the most critical functions of the UN, was discussed by Lieutenant Colonel Paul Snyder, who served in Africa and now is at headquarters, and Daria Miglietta Ferrari who has served in peacekeeping missions as well as at headquarters. Both have strongly encouraged recruiting more women in peacekeeping.

Moderated by Kathryn Kross of the Better World Campaign (UNA’s sister organization at the UN Foundation), three individuals concerned with preserving cultural heritage illuminated their personal viewpoints: Justin Hill who founded the Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center, Christinia Eala, a traditional Lakota grandmother who fights for indigenous rights, and Estelle representing UNESCO, describing fighting against “campaigns to obliterate memory.” It was fascinating to watch the positive synergy in the informal dialogue between Hill and Eala.

UNA Update Continued

Sofia Borges, Senior Vice President of the UN Foundation, tackled the topic of International Law in dialogue with H. E. Mr. Odo Tevi, Permanent Representative to the UN from Vanuatu and Vanuatu's ambassador to the U.S. Some years ago law students collaborated to write an initiative about climate danger in low-lying island nations to present to the General Assembly with the ultimate goal of an appeal to the International Court of Justice. Unsuccessful initially, a core group of ambassadors from other Pacific nations and legal experts are now working on a resolution to bring before the General Assembly in the near future. Mr. Tevi, in his role as Special Envoy from Vanuatu on climate change, described the effort as a transparent, inclusive process (supported by more than 100 civil society groups and active youth), that he hopes will gain a simple majority for passage in the General Assembly.

Executive Director of the Better World Campaign Jordie Hannum addressed Supporting the Evolution of the UN by pointing out many reforms that have taken place following the Secretary General's United to Reform initiative, as well as many more still needed. His comments were supported by Jake Sherman, Minister Counselor, UN Management and Reform at the U.S. mission to the UN, who focused on reducing the U.S. carbon footprint through energy innovations in peacekeeping missions. Deanna Bitetti from the UNHCR New York office illustrated the advantage of the current method of cash assistance to refugees (as opposed to shipping goods) in giving recipients the dignity of choice, providing economic inclusion and social cohesion. She emphasized the importance of asking refugees what is needed and presenting a welcoming environment.

UNA Davis is collaborating with the Silicon Valley UNA chapter and the Society of Women Engineers at Santa Clara University organizing a hybrid program in celebration of **International Women's Day** on March 12 from 12 noon to 2 p.m. The title of the program, "Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality," with a list of high-profile women speakers with expertise related to the topic (see below), appears to line up well with AAUW's mission. UNA Davis has committed to co-sponsoring the event and the AAUW Davis branch board unanimously agreed to join as co-sponsors as well. Speakers will include:

Julia Boorstin – CNBC Senior Media and Technology reporter, author of recently published book "When Women Lead"

Julie Clugage – Co-founder and ED of Team4Tech, non-profit that uses technology to educate under-resources learners including in developing countries

Patricia Murillo - Chief Learning Officer of How Women Lead, head of Women Leaders for the World Program

Bonita Banducci – Santa Clara University Gender and Engineering Adjunct Lecturer

UNA Update Continued

Dr. Sharon Hsiao – Santa Clara University Computer Science and Engineering Assistant Professor

Mei Lin Fung – Chair of the People Centered Internet; Co-Chair of UN Commission on Status of Women; Expert Roundtable on Digital Innovation for 2023 UN Women Report



Image courtesy of UNWomen.org

UNA • USA International Women's Day Celebration swe Society of Women Engineers Santa Clara University

The UN Association of Silicon Valley and Santa Clara University SWE Present:

Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality

Sunday, March 12th, 2023 from 12pm to 2pm PT at Santa Clara University Sobrato Campus for Discovery and Innovation Room 2302 or on Zoom

RSVP Required



<https://siliconvalleywomensday.eventbrite.com>

Julia Boorstin CNBC Senior Media & Tech Correspondent and author of When Women Lead	Julie Clugage Co-Founder and Executive Director of Team4Tech	Dr. Sharon Hsiao SCU Computer Science and Engineering Assistant Professor
Bonita Banducci SCU Gender and Engineering Adjunct Lecturer	Patricia Murillo Chief Learning Officer for How Women Lead	Mei Lin Fung Co-Founder of People Centered Internet

UNA Update Continued

UNA Davis has also agreed to co-sponsor a celebration on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the **California State Capitol World Peace Rose Garden** on Saturday, April 15, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in downtown Sacramento, 15th & L Streets. The Davis chapter has participated in prior meaningful and beautiful International World Peace Rose Gardens events when people of all ages, faiths and cultures gathered together to reaffirm the Garden's commitment to peace. www.WorldPeaceRoseGardens.org

(Our own UNA Peace Rose beds at 600 A St. in Davis will reach their 30th anniversary in 2025!)



 **20th ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION OF THE
CALIFORNIA STATE CAPITOL
WORLD PEACE ROSE GARDEN** 
April 15, 2023
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM
Downtown Sacramento, 15th & L Streets

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We invite you to join us for the Celebration!
People of all ages, faiths and cultures, will gather together
to reaffirm the Garden's commitment to peace.

 **UNA • USA** Davis Chapter **If you have any questions, please contact Sylvia Villalobos at**
Sylvia@WorldPeaceRoseGardens.org • (916) 395-8303 