

THE SPOKESWOMAN

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

What is AAUW in Davis Up To?

By Stephanie DeGraff-Hunt, Davis Branch President

AAUW Davis, along with the 100-plus AAUW California Branches, continues to set our sights on bringing people together in support of the AAUW mission. We give our time, donations, and energy to make this possible. We may be small in numbers, but we feel, think, and act with passion. Below is a brief synopsis of what we have been up to in the past few months to support the AAUW mission.

For September Celebrate the 19th, we gathered at a table in the Cannery Community Center to write postcards to specific Senators and Representatives asking for their support in favor of the discharge petition that would allow a vote on the Resolution to support the ERA Amendment. Verena brought unique horticulturist postcards that were certain to garner attention. Later in September, we celebrated with our five Tech Trek Campers and their families at the Community Room in the Cannery, thanks again to Laleh's connections with the Cannery Community. We reached out to the teachers who nominated their students for Tech Trek so they could appreciate the success of their students. We continue to keep track of our Tech Trek Campers and were thrilled to have two of our former Davis Tech Trekkers serve as volunteers at this year's UCD Tech Trek Camp. Many of our board members gave a great deal of time and energy throughout the Camp activities and events and helped immensely with the closing, packing, and storing of the camp materials.

October began with the Reading of the Proclamation that Verena had written and submitted to the City Council in honor of United Nations Day. What a treat to hear it read and to hear Verena speak about the great impact and importance of the establishment of the United Nations. It was truly an honor to be there in support of this special event.

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Dec-Jan 2024 Calendar

Friday, December 8, 5:30 pm: Annual Holiday Gathering

Thursday, December 21: Deadline for AAUW Fund Contributions

Monday, January 8: Virtual UNA Annual Meeting and Election

Wednesday, January 10: Deadline for AAUW Fund Luncheon reservations

Thursday, January 11, 7:00 pm: Monthly board meeting

Saturday, January 13, 9 am: Book Group meeting via Zoom

Friday, January 19 - Celebrate the 19th - email reminder will follow

Saturday, January 20, Noon to 2 pm: AAUW Fund Luncheon (Northridge Country Club)

Saturday, January 20: Registration deadline for Gov Trek

* Due to holiday events and travel schedules, the December board meeting, book group meeting, and Celebrate the 19th gathering did not take place.

What is AAUW in Davis Up To? Continued

For the October Celebrate the 19th we had lots of folks pitching in to help with the setup and pricing of items for the yard sale, which was held two days later and was quite a success. It is a great time to catch up with one another, meet new people who are interested in our mission, and sell well-loved items to members of our community.

The following day, October 22nd, we met at the International House for the first in-person gathering of the United Nations Association since 2020 to hear Dr. Catherine Brinkley speak about taking local action to reach the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. Dr. Brinkley is the Director of the Center for Regional Change and Associate Professor of Human Ecology at UC Davis.

October ended with the Sahaya Walks, a virtual program that benefits Sahaya International which provides health care, education, shelter, and food for HIV-infected children in India and elsewhere (Sahaya works in several countries). There was an online program on Saturday and an in-person outdoor social gathering held at a local park on Sunday, October 29th with an optional short walk, snacks/drinks, and games.

On November 13th, Rhonda and I attended the Capitol Counties Interbranch Council (IBC) meeting where we delivered our recommendations for four potential speakers for the annual AAUW Fund Luncheon which will be held on January 20, 2024, from 12:00 to 2:00 PM at the Northridge Country Club in Fair Oaks. This will be the first in-person luncheon since 2019 so we are anxious to make sure that everything is perfectly planned. Rhonda and I were responsible for selecting two AAUW Fellowship speakers for the Luncheon. This entailed listening to 5 to 8-minute video presentations of 30 AAUW Fellowship students who have received grants to continue with their studies and research.

At the IBC meeting Sue Miller, a key player and long-time former director of the Public Policy Committee for AAUW CA reported on the School Board Project. Branches that are registered as a nonprofit 501(c)(4) organization may endorse candidates for school boards and educate the community about what is going on and who exactly is running for a school board position. There has been turnover on many school boards with members who have often been contrary to the AAUW mission. Therefore, AAUW CA continues to monitor the changes and encourages branches to support candidates who support our mission. We encourage members to attend school board meetings to see what is going on. AB 1078 is the bill to watch in conjunction with the School Board Project. A [toolkit](#) has been designed by AAUW CA to assist us with background and ways to advocate for school board members who are committed to the maintenance of high standards for education for all students, including access to diverse and historically accurate information.

What is AAUW in Davis Up To? Continued

Sue also announced that Lobby Days will be Tuesday, April 2nd, and Wednesday, April 3rd in 2024. There will be options for virtual and in-person meetings. We are all invited to learn about the key bills and to prepare to advocate for them. Join us as we head to the state capitol and speak out for what we value.

The November Celebrate the 19th took place at the Three Ladies Cafe, where we folded letters asking for member donations to support the work of AAUW and the Davis branch. Juliana placed awesome stamps on each envelope, one highlighting Title IX and on the return envelope, a stamp of Ruth Bader Ginsburg (RBG), looking quite fierce and determined in her Supreme Court robe. We hope that many of our members have taken the time to enjoy the stamps, read the letter, and make a donation to support our endeavors.

This holiday edition of the Spokeswoman reports on December events, including the reading of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights on December 3rd and our annual holiday gathering on December 8th.

There are many ways you can engage with our Davis branch and support the AAUW mission. Join us at a book group meeting on the second Saturday of every month or come to Celebrate the 19th. It is with hard work, dedication, time, and energy that AAUW members are part of a powerful group with a positive message. We look forward to seeing you in 2024!

Recaps of October 14 and November 11 Book Group meetings

By Juliana Wells and Verena Borton

Participating on October 14 in a discussion of “Be Mine – a Frank Bascombe Novel” by Richard Ford were Estelle Shiroma, Karen Lemcke, Verena Borton, Cathy Tkach, Helen Thompson, and Juliana Wells. The group’s general feeling about the book was fairly negative. Those who were familiar with Ford’s first book said it was better. “Be Mine” is the last in a series built around national holidays – this one Valentine’s Day.

Billed as a story about caregiving, we accompany Frank, a sportswriter, and his 47-year-old son Paul who has Lou Gehrig’s disease on a road trip in a rented RV from Rochester, Minnesota to Mount Rushmore after Paul has completed an experimental protocol at the Mayo Clinic. The cold weather, unsatisfactory conversation, and Paul’s declining mobility make it a sad story, lacking a loving relationship between father and son as well as the anticipated excitement about arriving at the destination. Frank’s caregiving efforts are sketchy and based partly on guilt about having been mostly absent in Paul’s life. Many issues are touched upon but not explored.

Observations about details in the landscape, weather, and random people met along the way are interesting, demonstrating keen observation skills. The Corn Palace in South Dakota rated a detailed description, bringing good memories for Cathy who had visited this unusual tourist spot. Frank repeatedly mused about the theories of the German philosopher Martin Heidegger, noteworthy for Verena who as a child had met him and vacationed in his primitive mountain cabin in the Black Forest.

On November 11, Cathy Tkach, who had suggested the selection, led the discussion of “Tom Lake” by Ann Patchett. Participating were Barbara Durst, Verena Borton, Estelle Shiroma, Karen Lemcke, Helen Thompson, Carolyn Van Hoecke, and Juliana Wells. Cathy had previously enjoyed books by Patchett (especially “Bel Canto”) and was drawn to this novel by the book’s cover. She asked the group whether they would like to meet with any particular character in the book. No outstanding preferences were given.

The basic story is of three adult daughters and their parents marooned on their Michigan cherry farm during the pandemic, with the mother gradually stringing out her life story while the daughters are impatient to get to the aspects they are most curious about, concerning their mother’s life as a promising actress and her love affair with an actor during summer theater at a place called Tom Lake. Much of the novel is about acting and specifically about Thornton Wilder’s “Our Town” – from a high school production in a New Hampshire town to a film produced in Hollywood. The family has enlightening discussions about career choices, from acting to agriculture to veterinary medicine, with the ultimate simple rural life favored by the parents.

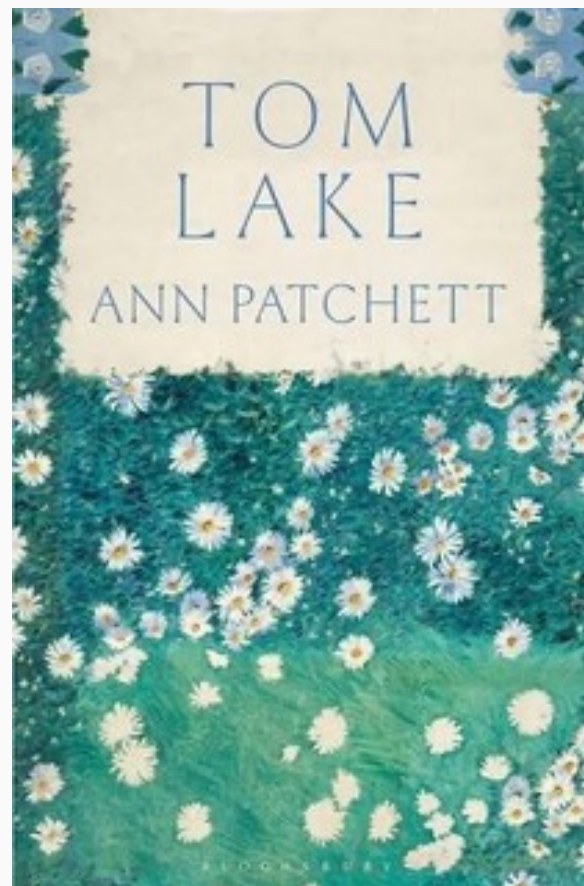
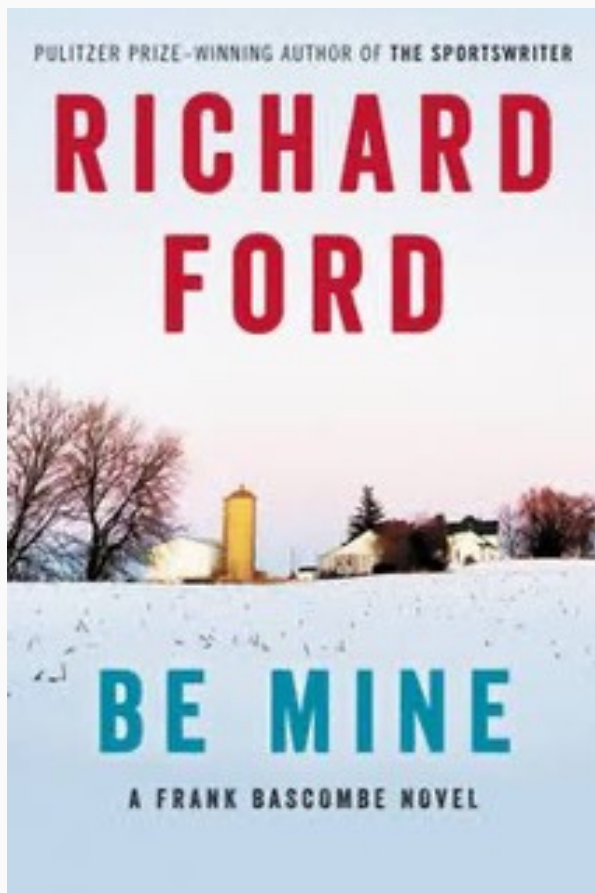
Recaps of October 14 and November 11 Book Group meetings Continued

The group discussed children's curiosity (or lack thereof) about family members' life stories. School assignments to interview a parent or grandparent help preserve some of the history, as does correspondence. It is interesting to note what we may choose to tell our children or grandchildren if asked. Cathy encouraged all to write stories, not necessarily complete life stories, but at least short ones to help preserve memories.

The ending of "Tom Lake" was abrupt and seemed unfinished. For a better ending, Cathy wrote one and read it to us with much gusto. It was suggested she should consider sending her ending to the author.

Additional comments. Various symbolisms were annoying: life is a bowl of cherries, cherry-picking, Chekhov's "Cherry Orchard." It was refreshing to have New Hampshire and Michigan as geographical settings as opposed to the coasts. The mother's video, played endlessly, was a good device to illustrate her life as a rising film star. It was interesting to read the discrepancy between what she told her daughters and what she was thinking.

Because of busy schedules and travel plans, the Book Group did not meet in December. On January 13, the group will discuss "The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store" by James McBride.



AAUW Davis Branch Co-sponsors UN Day Program on October 22

By Estelle Shiroma

To celebrate the 78th Anniversary of the United Nations, the UNA-USA Davis Chapter held a program at the International House on October 22 with Dr. Catherine Brinkley, Associate Professor in Human Ecology and Community Development at UC Davis as keynote speaker. The AAUW Davis branch was a co-sponsor, along with UC Davis Center for Regional Change and UC Davis Global Affairs, International House, and the City of Davis.

In opening remarks, including a land acknowledgment and appreciation to co-sponsoring organizations, Verena Borton said that UN Day has been celebrated around October 24 every year since the founding of the United Nations in 1945. After being introduced by Edgar Trujillo, Dr. Brinkley spoke about taking local action to meet the [UN's Sustainable Development Goals](#), telling the audience about her personal journey to become a change-maker. She encouraged local participation to address topics of concern such as poverty, hunger, educational inequalities, environmental justice, and climate change.

Dr. Brinkley demonstrated a [database mapping tool](#) that can be used to engage in local planning action to address the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. This online tool is publicly available for communities to search for new ideas used elsewhere in California's cities and counties. Dr. Brinkley demonstrated how the search engine works to access information from 42 cities and 58 counties in California. Data on housing, land use, affordability, open space, parklands, noise, safety, environmental justice, and more can be accessed in the database. Dr. Brinkley spoke about global warming as an example of how the planning process can be improved. Most experts believe that global warming has led to climate change over time and is the result of a chain of events. Climate change creates stressors in the community infrastructure. We need to reduce greenhouse gasses to get ahead of climate change. This starts with conversations and finding common ground to address such issues. The audience was encouraged to engage in holding these conversations and initiating actions locally.

After Dr. Brinkley's talk, guests had an opportunity to speak with her while enjoying refreshments. Seven branch members attended: Laleh, Estelle, Stephanie, Rhonda, Juliana, Shahla, and Verena - almost all dual AAUW and UNA members.



Verena introduces Dr. Catherine Brinkley at the UN Day event.

Davis Branch Holiday Gathering on December 8

By Estelle Shiroma

Davis branch members and students celebrated the holidays on Friday, December 8th at Estelle's home. We feasted on an assortment of appetizers and sweets while catching up with each other.

Janelly Navarrete, Program Manager for the Short Term Emergency Aid Committee (STEAC), was the featured speaker. She is a UCD graduate with a degree in Community Development and has been working at STEAC for three years. Janelly spoke about STEAC's mission to provide short-term assistance for Yolo County families and individuals with income below the poverty level during times of crisis.

The program assists with rent, utilities, food, and job training intended to serve as a safety net for those who are struggling to make ends meet. STEAC works exclusively through referrals from other agencies, unlike other public service non-profit organizations. In partnership with the Davis Joint Unified School District, STEAC provides weekend food packs for school children who face food insecurity and may otherwise go hungry before returning to school on Monday. In 2021-22, STEAC distributed 81,000 meals in the community, provided \$370,000 in rental and bill pay assistance for families threatened with eviction, and provided help for 2,700 clients with transportation, legal documents, or medical expenses.



Janelly Navarrete, STEAC Program Manager



Members listen attentively to Janelly speak about services provided by STEAC.

Davis Branch Holiday Gathering on December 8 Continued



Following Janelly's talk, the long-awaited raffle drawing was held. During the year, tickets were sold at various AAUW events to raise money for branch projects and Tech Trek scholarships. Raffle prizes included a beautiful twin-sized handmade quilt sewn by Marti Abbott; a stunning lap blanket handwoven by Verena Borton; and a festive floral arrangement by Ray Borton. We thank raffle prize donors for their much-appreciated generosity and support.

Members made monetary and food donations to support the weekly food distribution program and food packs for kids.

First place winner Elaine Ginosar



Third place winner Marlene Doctor



Second place winner Julia Logan with daughter, Grace, a 2023 UCD Tech Trek scholarship recipient.

AAUW Fund Donations Due by December 21st

In November, members received a letter asking for their continued support of AAUW programs that advance equity for women and girls. End-of-year donations are due by December 21st. Checks for AAUW funds should be made payable to AAUW; if a specific fund (e.g., Greatest Needs, Economic Security, Education and Training) is selected, note it on your check. For Tech Trek donations, make checks payable to AAUW CA-SPF. Please mail donations to Gail Johnson at 955 Wyatt Lane in Winters, California 95694.

AAUW Fund Luncheon on January 20, 2024

The annual Capitol Counties Interbranch Council (IBC) AAUW Fund luncheon will be held on Saturday, January 20, 2024 from noon to 2 pm at the Northridge Country Club, 7600 Madison Avenue in Fair Oaks, California. The keynote speaker is Tracy Ramondini, Elk Grove Sheldon High School teacher and Gov Trek State Committee member, who will report on the Gov Trek program.

In addition, two AAUW Fellows will speak on their educational experiences. Krystal Lau is a Selected Professions Fellowship recipient pursuing a Master of Business Administration degree at Stanford University. Her studies focus on digital literacy and education products for new-to-internet users. Joyce Weaver received a Career Development Grant and attends the Academy of Art University in San Francisco, obtaining her Master of Arts degree in Game Development. After graduating, she wants to create realistic and stylized 3D video game characters to inspire girls and women, especially women who look like her, to enter the gaming industry.



Krystal Lau



Joyce Weaver

Reservations are due by January 10, 2024. See the flier below for details.



AAUW Fund Luncheon

Sponsored by your Capitol Counties Interbranch Council

Saturday, January 20, 2024
Noon – 2 PM

Northridge Country Club
7600 Madison Ave. Fair Oaks, CA

Keynote speaker: Tracy Ramondini, Elk Grove Sheldon High School teacher and Gov Trek State Committee member, will update us on the Gov Trek program.

In addition, two current AAUW Fund Recipients will share their educational journeys, focusing on details and progress of their work.

Reserve your spot today; deadline for reservations is January 10, 2024.

Make your \$40 check payable to
AAUW CHAR, P.O. Box 1555, Fair Oaks, CA 95628

Name _____ Branch _____
Phone _____ email _____



Please indicate your menu choice:

- Turkey w/mashed potatoes & veggies
- Vegetarian Risotto

Congratulations to Marlene and Ryan: Trekking Into Marriage!

On August 24, 2023, Marlene Amador married Ryan Doctor in a civil ceremony in Santa Barbara, California. The couple met while studying at UC Davis and had been dating since 2013. Marlene is a former Tech Trekker who attended camp at Mills College in 2005. She is a founding member of AAUW@UCD. Marlene will be receiving a chemistry degree from Sacramento State University in 2024. Ryan is a biomedical engineer and works in Information Technology at Genentech in San Francisco. We celebrate the marriage of Marlene and Ryan and wish the Doctors a lifetime of love and happiness!



Cheers to Marlene and Ryan Doctor!

UNA Update

By Verena Borton

Successful events for two of UNA Davis' signature programs, United Nations Day and Human Rights Day recently took place in-person. The third, International Women's Day, is expected to take place in March.

After an outstanding first in-person Davis UNA event since 2020 – UN Day, October 22 – our team (including invaluable assistance by Laleh Rastegarzadeh and Edgar Trujillo) was very busy organizing the next event, Human Rights Day, scheduled for Sunday afternoon, December 3, at International House. This involved recruiting up to 30 native speakers of languages other than English and an equivalent number of English speakers, all to participate in a reading of the individual articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The UDHR was adopted on December 10, 1948, thanks in large part to the efforts of Eleanor Roosevelt, dynamic and persuasive leader of the United Nations team that drafted the Declaration. We were therefore commemorating the UDHR's 75th anniversary.

Everyone was invited to participate as a reader or quietly witness this observance that has been a deeply meaningful experience since its inception in 2004, illustrating the diversity of our community as we reflect on the universality of the Declaration. All 100 attendees received a copy of the UDHR document and many enjoyed the reception afterwards. Mindful of current events, there was and is great urgency to focus on the meaning of the 30 articles that outline every human being's rights.

Aware of the critical role of water in today's world (clearly not felt strongly in 1948) we added an unofficial Article 31, based on the 2010 General Assembly Resolution 64/292 proclaiming: "Acknowledging the importance of equitable access to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as an integral component of the realization of all human rights, the United Nations General Assembly on July 28, 2010, recognized the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights."

Elsewhere in this newsletter please find a thoughtful impression of experiencing the program by one of the participants, Mary Loibl.

Difficult Times for the United Nations

While engaged in the planning and incredibly complex organizing of the local human rights event, devastating world events demanded and continue to demand our daily attention, especially since they dramatically demonstrate the fragility or complete absence of human rights for millions.

UNA Update Continued

It has been painful to witness the inability of the United Nations to have a major impact on stopping the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East; the UN Security Council's wielding of veto power resulted in several unsuccessful attempts to pass resolutions on the Israel-Hamas war. The United States regrettably exercised its veto power multiple times.

On December 12, the UN General Assembly voted to demand a humanitarian ceasefire in a strong demonstration of global support for ending the Israel-Hamas war. The vote in the 193-member world body was 153 in favor, 10 opposed and 23 abstentions. The U.S. and Israel were joined in opposing the resolution by eight countries: Austria, Czechia (Czech Republic), Guatemala, Liberia, Micronesia, Nauru, Papua New Guinea and Paraguay. Invoking a rarely used article of the UN Charter, Secretary General António Guterres previously called on the Security Council to “press to avert a humanitarian catastrophe” in Gaza and unite in a call for a full humanitarian ceasefire between Israel and Palestinian militants.

At least 135 UN personnel working in Gaza for UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine) have been killed since the beginning of the war, making it the deadliest conflict for UN staff in the history of the organization.

Meanwhile, the ominous and precarious congressional vote on the funding of the UN in the FY24 budget was put off by some weeks, but recent events have not made the conditions for a positive outcome any more favorable, while the need for full funding is greater than ever.

Virtual UNA Davis Chapter Annual Meeting and Election on Monday, January 8, 2024

All UNA members and other interested persons are invited to attend a free meeting via Zoom on Monday, January 8 to hear a report on the chapter's past year's activities, a preview of the coming year, and to elect a minimum of three officers: president, treasurer, and secretary, with additional opportunities for positions focused on advocacy, membership and program planning.

Please consider becoming an active leader of the Davis chapter of UNA-USA, one of more than 220 chapters across the country and a longtime recognized organization in Davis. Not a current member, but would like to run for office? Visit unausa.org/join to renew or register for membership. Not sure you want to join? Attend the meeting and learn more about our organization which has a close partnership with AAUW. Register at unadavis.org or contact Verena at verenaborton@gmail.com

UNA Update Continued

Impressions of a Gathering to Focus on the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights

By Mary Loibl

It was a wintry sunlit afternoon as participants and audience gathered at the International House in Davis in observance of the 75th anniversary of the adoption by the United Nations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

I was there as one of the sixty-four speaking participants and would be reading Article 3 in English after the person seated in front of me had read the article in Japanese. We were seated in concentric circles with native speakers reading in many languages sitting in the inner circle, followed by the translation in English by community members seated in the outer circle. There was symbolism in the physical arrangement. As I looked at the program, I was struck by the diverse languages represented - including Albanian, Mongolian, Pashto, Hungarian, Arabic, Hebrew, Swedish, and a few languages that were totally unfamiliar to me such as Setswana, I-Taukei, Bulu, and Tetum. (The latter four are spoken in Botswana, Fiji, Cameroon, and Timor-Leste.)

But beyond the program notes, there was the presence of young and old, people from so many cultures. I turned to speak to the young woman on my right and we talked about what had drawn us to the program. She spoke of her participation in the Human Rights program at UC Davis. And for both of us, and I imagine for many, we had come to affirm the value of the aspirational Declaration of Human Rights, and its importance in our lives, especially as a beacon for a better, more equitable world. As the articles were read, I felt the attentiveness, conviction, and spirit of unity reflected in the voices and faces around me. It was a powerful experience.

After the reading, there was time for us to share our thoughts on the articles and the gathering. People spoke of how certain rights especially resonated with them. One person mentioned Article 13, the right to freedom of movement and residence within a state's borders, as well as the right to leave any country and return to his country, pointing to the situation in Gaza where that right is disregarded. Another person who had worked on water issues in Venezuela spoke of the unofficially added Article 31, citing the right to clean water and sanitation, and how both rural and urban communities worldwide still lack access to water. People also cited Article 26, the right to education; Article 23 which includes the right to equal pay for equal work and to form unions; Article 15, the right to a nationality, especially as there are millions of stateless people throughout the world; and Article 29, in which an individual's duties to a community and respect for the rights of others is emphasized. One person mentioned talking to his son about the Declaration of Human Rights, and his son promptly replying, "That means I have my rights, too!" Laughter followed and it was noted that the UDHR website has an illustrated guide to the rights and further information and activities for children and adults.

UNA Update Continued

Throughout the discussion, individuals highlighted how meaningful it was to learn about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, particularly by reading the rights aloud, together in community, with the far-reaching echoes of so many languages.

Afterward, there was the opportunity for further informal conversations at the reception. I enjoyed talking with women from Egypt, Mauritius, and Peru, and also with an American woman who had three generations of her family participating in the reading! I could feel the great joy that permeated the room as people chatted, meeting other participants and sharing in the goodwill, renewed energy, and hope kindled by gathering that afternoon in observance of an enduring vision and statement.



Participants reflect on the powerful experience shared after hearing the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights read in many languages and observe a few moments of silence in recognition of fellow human beings deprived of these rights.

AS SANDI SEES IT

By Sandi Gabe, President AAUW California, statepresident@aauw-ca.org

Looking for the Perfect Holiday Gift?

Happy Holidays from my home to yours. Navigating the holidays sometimes feels like an obstacle course as I try to celebrate my own beliefs while being sensitive to others' preferences. Sometimes I get tongue-tied trying to decide whether to say, "Happy Holidays," "Merry Christmas," or "Happy Hanukkah" in an effort not to exclude or offend anyone.

This time of the year brings celebrations, and opportunities to gather with family and friends. It can also lead to an increased feeling of isolation and loneliness. A 2020 study found that social isolation and loneliness pose serious health risks for the older adult population. Social isolation has been associated with about a 50% increased risk of dementia and other serious health problems.

Do you know someone who might be isolated or lonely?

You can make a difference by giving the gift of caring. Pause the frantic holiday preparations and reach out to a friend, member, or neighbor whose social circle might be small, and share a conversation. One person. One short conversation. One amazing outcome. You'll be astonished at how good this small act of kindness can feel. I encourage you to do it.

COMMUNICATIONS

By Dawn Johnson, Director, Communications Committee Chair, communications@aauw-ca.org

Missing emails?

We never thought we'd say this, but are you getting enough emails?

We routinely hear, "But I didn't get the email!" You can take a couple of steps to be sure you don't miss a single word from AAUW California.

- Check your spam folder. In addition, some email programs take matters into their own hands and preemptively file emails into folders such as "Social" or "Promotions."
- Once you find an errant email, take note of where it was put so you can check there periodically.
- Add the domain "@aauw-ca.org" to your email provider's "safe senders" list. Here's how. If your email system's "safe" list requires a full email, add "siteadmin@aauw-ca.org."
- Be aware of when routine communications are scheduled and watch for them. For example, the B2B is published on the 5th of the month and the California Connection on the 8th.

- Use your email program’s Search function and poke around by subject matter or key word, such as “peer group” or “bylaws” or “reminder.”

Don’t be in the dark!

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION

By Charlene Goehring, Director, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, diversity@aauw-ca.org

Moving Beyond Cultural Competency

For many years now, cultural competency has been cited as the ideal way to be more inclusive. And it certainly does help one on a journey towards being more equitable and inclusive. But, cultural humility is really a better aspiration. Whereas cultural competency says, “I am an expert,” and leads to a feeling of knowing everything there is to know about others, cultural humility says, “You are the expert,” and leads to a lifelong process of learning, self-reflection, and knowing we don’t have all the answers. Both are similar in that they work to address inequities and encourage collaborative work.

As we navigate the holiday season, I am reminded of a meme I saw on social media that says, “Why do I say Happy Holidays? Between November 1st and January 15th, the world’s major religions celebrate at least 29 different holidays. Mine isn’t the only one that matters.” I hope you might consider this regarding your branches and the journey towards a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive membership.

PUBLIC POLICY

By Amy Hom and Melissa Maceyko, Directors, Public Policy Committee Co-chairs, publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org

Save the Date! Lobby Days 2024 are Tuesday and Wednesday, April 2nd and 3rd

We encourage all AAUW California members to participate in this act of advocacy that is essential for the achievement of our legislative priorities. In addition to our members, we plan to invite college students to join the event. Their participation will enable us to reach more legislative offices, and we hope that this introduction to our organization will inspire these advocacy-minded young people who share our values to join AAUW.

We are planning a hybrid event with meetings scheduled virtually over Zoom as well as in person at the Capitol. Members who live in and around Sacramento will have the option to participate in person. Legislative offices are willing to meet virtually or in person, and the virtual option makes it easier for AAUW members around the state to participate.

Training materials on the bills and the event will be posted on the state website in mid-March, and a mandatory training webinar will be held on March 25th.

Lobby Days provide a wonderful opportunity to meet with your legislators and advocate for legislation to promote gender equity and improve the lives of women and girls. We hope that you will join us in this important activity to advance our values.

An interest survey including a registration form will arrive in your inbox in mid-January. Be sure to complete and return the form to be added to the communications list for the event.

GOV TREK

By Shauna Oenning Ruyle, Gov Trek Program Director and Gov Trek Committee Chair,
govtrek@aauw-ca.org

We're Gaining Momentum...

We are pleased to announce that, to date, 40 young women leaders from across California have registered for Gov Trek 2024!

Thank you to the inspiring branch leaders who rallied girls in their communities to join AAUW California's leadership program for high school girls.

We aim to have 140 students in the program, and we need at least 50 to proceed. With your help, we can inspire more women to step up and take the lead! Together, let's drive the change we want to see and elevate more women to leadership roles.

Share the Gov Trek flier with your local high schools, public libraries, and nonprofit partners, and post it at Starbucks! The flier (in English and Spanish) can be found [HERE](#).

Share the Gov Trek informational video on your Facebook account. Find the video link [HERE](#). Cut and paste the video link into your post. The video will appear as the image. You can remove the video URL from the text portion and replace it with the following text:

ATTENTION: California High School Junior and Senior Girls

Are you or someone you know interested in exploring career opportunities in public service or elected positions? If so, tell them about this free virtual program presented by AAUW California.

Students can register online, on a first-come, first-served basis on the AAUW California website.

The registration deadline is **January 20, 2024**.

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

Formatted By: Cristele Moztarzadeh