

THE SPOKESWOMAN

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

AAUW Members Can Be Changemakers

By Stephanie DeGraff-Hunt

Public policy and advocacy are vital to the impact of AAUW. Our involvement as members is so important. I encourage you to reach out to members of Congress to step up and complete the job of voting for the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. It is long overdue.

AAUW has long been at the forefront of the push to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). This critical amendment seeks to ensure that sex and gender equality are enshrined in the U.S. Constitution, providing a legal foundation for protection against discrimination. In 2020, Virginia was the 38th and final state needed to achieve the three-fourths state ratification requirement. Even though three-fourths of states have ratified the ERA, it still has not been recognized in the Constitution. This four year delay leaves the progress we've made on gender equality vulnerable to reversal by courts or changing laws.

AAUW National and other like-minded organizations are intensifying advocacy efforts by rallying support and pressing lawmakers to recognize the 28th Amendment. This critical amendment seeks to ensure that sex and gender equality are enshrined in the U.S. Constitution, thus providing a legal foundation for protection against discrimination.

One might think the U.S. Constitution already guarantees gender equality, but that's a dangerous misconception. The 14th Amendment ensures equality for MEN, but remains silent on women. That is why the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment is so critical.

The ERA's text is simple: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex." The passage of the ERA will be profound, offering constitutional protections against gender-based discrimination in education, employment, and healthcare. AAUW's commitment to the passage of the ERA is critical to help us create a fair and just society.

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September 2024 Calendar

Wednesday, September 11, 11 am:
Voter Registration Webinar (see
Public Policy News)

Thursday, September 12, 7 pm:
Monthly Board Meeting

Saturday, September 14, 9 am: Book
Group Meeting via Zoom

Thursday, September 19: Celebrate
the 19th tbd

Monday, September 23, 7 pm:
Getting Out the Vote Webinar (see
Public Policy News)

Saturday, September 28, 7 am to 1
pm: Annual Yard Sale

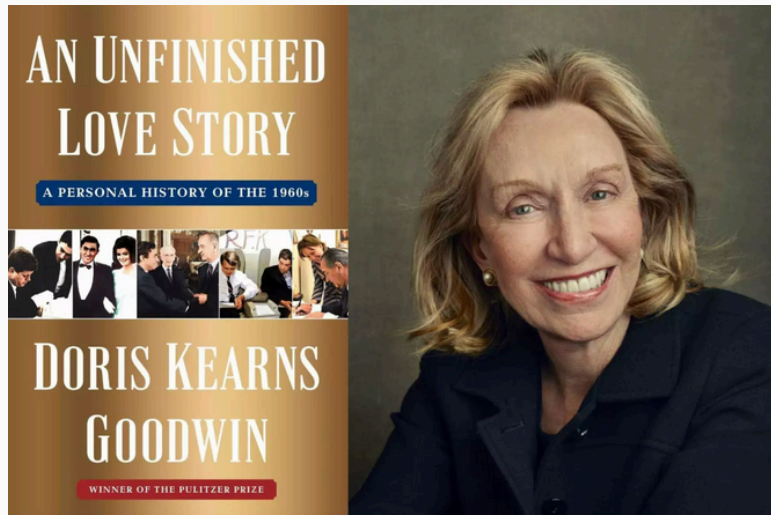
Save the Dates:

Sunday, October 6, noon to 6 pm:
International Festival

Sunday, October 13, 2-4 pm: Annual
Friends and Family Gathering

Recap of August Book Group’s Discussion of “An Unfinished Love Story – a Personal History of the 1960s” by Doris Kearns Goodwin

By Carolyn Van Hoecke



Ten of us gathered virtually on August 10 to discuss the book selection of “An Unfinished Love Story – a Personal History of the 1960s” by one of our country’s most admired historians, Doris Kearns Goodwin. Comments started with a review of the considerable literary contributions of the author and observations from participants who have read her prior works. Special recognition was given to her Pulitzer Prize winner, “No Ordinary Time: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, the Home Front in World War II”. Kearns, now 81 years old, is still giving interviews and encouraging young people to extend what previous generations have started.

“An Unfinished Love Story” is primarily about Kearns Goodwin’s husband, Dick Goodwin, and his contributions as a speechwriter who shaped the rhetoric and sharpened the visions of major politicians during the Kennedy and Johnson eras of the 1960s. The book was written during Dick Goodwin’s last five years, age 80-85, when he was past his influential period, and is based upon the many dozens of boxes of original documents he had accumulated over his long periods of academic and government service during the height of his career. He was present in the room when many decisions about the New Frontier and the subsequent Great Society were made, and he created the language that introduced these programs to the rest of us. It was agreed that had he not been married to a prominent historian, these significant contributions might have passed without notice and now be housed in an obscure archive with credit given only to the speaker and not the writer of those famous words.

In his 20s, Dick was one of the brilliant young men of John F. Kennedy’s New Frontier. In his 30s, he named and helped design Lyndon Johnson’s Great Society and was a speechwriter and close advisor to Robert Kennedy. Doris Kearns was a 24-year-old graduate student when she was selected as a White House Fellow. She worked directly for Lyndon Johnson and later assisted on his memoir.

Recap of August Book Group’s Discussion of “An Unfinished Love Story – a Personal History of the 1960s” by Doris Kearns Goodwin Continued

Much of our discussion time centered on an analysis of the structure of the book and how best to convey the various old and new, public and private bits of information. The subject matter covers what happened historically, when they were young, intertwined with the contemporary process of discovery as Doris and Dick explored and reconsidered documents they had not handled for decades. The author’s writing style encompasses personal memoir, biography, autobiography, journaling, and contextual descriptions from a serious historian. Opinions on the choice of presentation varied. Book reviewers also had mixed conclusions. Some found this mixture of styles off-putting.

Our morning closed with a discussion among our members about the history and journaling projects within our own families. Several people had surprising and gratifying examples of how their families were documenting significant events.

On Saturday, Sept. 14th at 9:00 am the book group will discuss “One Big Open Sky” by Lesa Cline-Ransome, written entirely in ballad poem style from the viewpoint of a young girl whose family migrates from Mississippi to Nebraska, starting in 1879, as part of the Black homesteader movement. The book is available in hardback, ebook (ebooks.com), Audible, and Kindle.

Contact Karen Lemcke at lemckekaren@yahoo.com if you are interested in learning more about the book group.

August Celebrate the 19th

The August Celebrate the 19th (Amendment) was held at the Tres Hermanas outdoor patio in Davis, where a group of ten including two guests, enjoyed each other’s company. The main topic planned for discussion was “Getting Out the Vote” and possible collaboration with the Davis League of Women Voters to register voters. Some brought information from [AAUW’s website](http://AAUW.org) to educate voters on public policy initiatives. Although the discussion was short-lived as we moved on to other topics, future events are envisioned over the next few months to promote AAUW’s public policy initiatives in the upcoming election.

Save the Dates!

Annual Yard Sale

Start cleaning out your closets and get ready for the **Annual Yard Sale** at Rhonda's home in the Old East Davis neighborhood. The yard sale is scheduled on **Saturday, September 28**, just as UCD students return to town. We will need help from 7 am to 1 pm for set up, sales, and break down. Watch for an email to sign up to help; contact Rhonda at salmonlady@sbcglobal.net if you have questions. Popular items to donate include tools, jewelry, bicycles, home goods, toys, books and student-oriented furniture. Donated items should be clean and gently used. Proceeds from the yard sale are used to fund branch projects and Tech Trek scholarships.

International Festival

The AAUW Davis Branch is a Community Sponsor of the International Festival to be held on October 5-6 at 10 College Park in Davis. The festival celebrates the cultural diversity of our area through food, dance, crafts, cultural activities, artisan vendors, and international cuisine. On **Sunday, October 6**, AAUW Davis will be tabling at the festival from noon to 6 pm to share our mission and programs with the local community. Volunteers are needed to table, as well as help with set up and break down. Contact Stephanie DeGraff-Hunt at sdegraffhunt@gmail.com to volunteer.

Fall Friends and Family Gathering

On **Sunday, October 13**, the Annual Fall Friends and Family Gathering will be held at the Cannery Ranch House from 2 to 4 pm. Join us to get to know each other and to greet our new members who joined us from the Woodland Branch. Our four Tech Trekkers will present their reports on what they learned at camp this summer. We can hold this event at the Cannery facility thanks to our gracious resident host, Laleh Rastegarzadeh.

Details on these events are forthcoming in email reminders.

September 2024 UNA Update

By Verena Borton

September always is a very busy month for UN-related events, this year even more than most years. To begin with, there is the September 12 Virtual Mobilization Summit from 8 a.m.-noon PT via Zoom for those of us who could not attend the Leadership Summit in Washington this past June, providing four hours of programming aimed at enhancing your understanding of key international issues and the advocacy process.



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**THE WORLD
NEEDS THE UN;
THE UN NEEDS US.**

Virtual Mobilization Summit
September 12, 2024

REGISTER NOW

<https://bit.ly/virtualsummit2024>

The Zoom link to join will be provided in the confirmation email.

The **UN Summit of the Future** will take place in New York September 20-23. As leaders from the 193 member states gather in the General Assembly, they will address strengthening global governance and aiming to make sure that the world is prepared for the big issues of our time, like climate change, pandemics, digital transformation and beyond to meet the challenges of the 21st century. This summit is focused on inclusivity: representing voices of member states, civil society, the private sector, and especially young people.

September 2024 UNA Update Continued

The Summit of the Future, a culmination of years of discussions and diplomacy, is hailed as a “once-in-a-generation-opportunity” to revitalize international cooperation and make the UN more responsive to the issues of tomorrow.

“The most important ingredient in international cooperation is trust” says Michele Griffin, Policy Director of the Summit. “Trust in each other. A sense of our shared humanity, our interconnectedness. And the summit is designed to remind all of us, not just governments and not just people who will be at the UN in New York in September, but everyone, that we have to work together to solve our biggest shared problems”.

The Summit will produce three major outcome documents: the “**Pact for the Future**”, formalizing key UN reforms; “**The Global Digital Compact**,” aiming to harness digital technologies for global good; and the “**Declaration on Future Generations**,” a guide for policy making in the future.

September 21 marks the **UN International Day of Peace**. UNA Davis, along with other UNA chapters in the Northern California Division, voted to co-sponsor the 40th anniversary of the PeaceWave to be held at the **San Francisco Civic Center Plaza from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.**, featuring lots of international and local talent. The event is free and open to the public.

On **October 1 the Davis City Council will present a Proclamation for UNA Davis’ observance of UN Day** to be held at International House on October 27. Our chapter has been honored with a similar recognition by the City Council for many years. The occasion is more than just an acknowledgment – it is an opportunity to amplify our message about the UN’s critical role in global peace, security and human rights. It highlights our local commitment to fostering a strong and constructive relationship between the United States and the United Nations.

UNA Davis signed up at the Community Sponsor level to support International House’s International Festival (I-Fest) on October 5 & 6, celebrating the cultural diversity of our region with music, dance, crafting, cultural activities, artisan vendors, and international cuisine. On October 6 UNA Davis will have a booth from noon to 6 p.m. to publicize the United Nations Association and our local events.



September 2024 UNA Update Continued

Plans for **UN Day on October 27** (3-5 p.m. at I-House) **with a focus on the Sustainable Development Goals** are underway. UNA Davis is collaborating with UCD Global Affairs and hopes to be able to draw on select local nonprofits to demonstrate the LOCAL aspect of the GLOBAL goals. There are plans as well for an art exhibit by 5th grade students from North Davis Elementary, illustrating young persons' interpretation of the SDGs.

Food for thought:

UN Women issued a statement on August 28 expressing deep concern over a new morality law by the Taliban targeting women, which imposes extensive restrictions on personal behavior, “effectively erasing women from public life.” The law on the “promotion of virtue and the prevention of vice” significantly deepens the already severe curtailment of the rights of Afghan women and girls, including requirements for women to cover their entire bodies and faces, and it forbids women’s voices in public.

Over the past three years since regaining power, the Taliban have subjected Afghan women and girls to over 70 edicts, directives and decrees, stripping them of fundamental rights.



AAUW-CA News

Public Policy Updates

By Amy Hom and Missy Maceyko, Co-chairs AAUW-CA Public Policy Committee, publicpolicy@aauw.org

AAUW Public Policy Priorities and the Election

Highlight: Reproductive Rights

AAUW, [nationally](#) and in California, has long made a commitment to ensuring that every person has the freedom to determine their own reproductive health. One of AAUW California’s Public Policy Priorities (PPPs), which are voted on by our membership biennially, states that we seek to advance “social and racial justice for all members of society, including self-determination in reproductive health.” While AAUW has long been active in the fight for reproductive rights, this fight has become newly pressing since 2022, when the Supreme Court, newly realigned under the Trump Administration, overturned [Roe v. Wade](#) (1973) via their decision in [Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization](#) (2022).

AAUW-CA News Continued

In the wake of Dobbs, [14 states have banned abortion completely](#), while others have made access all but impossible by criminalizing abortion early in pregnancy. In 2023, [more than 171,000 people were subject to the emotional and financial cost of traveling beyond their home state to gain abortion access](#), an increase of 100% from data collected in 2019.

In a post-Dobbs world, [pregnancy has also become more dangerous for many people](#) including those who need emergency care access, those with less comprehensive healthcare coverage, and those with more problematic pregnancies. [Black women](#), and [Indigenous women](#), who have historically higher maternal mortality rates, are particularly at risk given these developments, even as [abortion bans disproportionately negatively impact people of color](#) for a variety of reasons, overall. Problems of medical access to reproductive healthcare are further exacerbated by the [decrease in medical school graduates applying for residency in states with abortion bans](#) where providers of care are also criminalized. Collectively, this means that a countless number of people are now forced to carry a pregnancy to term against their will, even as many are also unable to access comprehensive reproductive healthcare, including abortions as emergency medical care, [putting their lives, wellbeing, health, and future fertility in danger](#).

Dobbs has also emboldened legislators and activists who seek to further limit reproductive rights. This has already led to active attempts and stated desires to [ban IVF](#) and [contraception through fetal personhood amendments](#); to [resurrect the 1873 federal Comstock Act](#) to challenge abortion medication, equipment, and access at the federal level; and to generally challenge federal laws protecting individual rights to privacy on which Roe was built, such as [through increased tracking of menstruation](#) and pregnancy outcomes, and even [criminalization of miscarriage](#). A powerful anti-reproductive freedom movement also seeks to [enshrine a 15-week abortion ban, federally](#).

In response, a bipartisan group of federal legislators have taken action to attempt to walk-back the worst impacts of Dobbs and prevent a federal abortion ban through proposing legislation, such as the [Women's Health Protection Act](#) and [Reproductive Freedom for All Act](#), which would enshrine a right to abortion access into federal law. In a similar vein, the Biden-Harris Administration has thrown the weight of the federal government behind investigation and action to mitigate some of the negative post-Dobbs impacts, including [pushing back against state-level bans for emergency abortion access](#) and [strengthening contraception access](#).

In the fall of 2022, in line with the PPP stating that we seek to advance “social and racial justice for all members of society, including self-determination in reproductive health,” AAUW California joined with coalition partners to advance and pass [Proposition 1](#), which amended the California Constitution to prohibit the state from “denying or interfering” with an individual’s reproductive freedom. In line with our PPPs, in the 2023 and 2024 legislative cycles, AAUW California has continued to advance legislation that not only protects but expands on self-determination in reproductive health, including expanding [contraception access](#) and sex

AAUW-CA News Continued

education for young people; creating healthier conditions for pregnancy, including championing [pregnancy-related leave benefits](#) and [healthier conditions while incarcerated](#); seeking greater protections from increased surveillance of menstruation and pregnancy; and [seeking protections for health care workers and doctors who offer reproductive healthcare in California](#), in part by [protecting providers from the enforcement of laws enacted in other states](#).

If YOU want to take action now to urge your federal legislators to advance the Women’s Health Protection Act, check out the Two Minute Activist from AAUW National [HERE](#). And vote for state and federal candidates that will advance this kind of legislation once in office!

Getting Out the Vote Training

The Public Policy Committee will present a webinar titled, “Getting Out the Vote (GOTV) in a Polarized World” on Monday September 23, 2024 at 7:00pm. The webinar will address Voter Registration, GOTV Logistics, Voter Education/Suppression, and Community Collaboration/ Having Difficult Conversations. You can register for the webinar [HERE](#).

Election Resources

AAUW National has provided some excellent [Election Resources](#) including Voter Issue Guides, trainings, how-to’s, and webinars. There are some informative webinars under the Resources tab including “How to Engage with Elected Officials” and “Title IX & Transgender Student Rights.”

There are also a number of recorded webinars related to voting under the “Trainings” tab, as well as registration links for two upcoming webinars:

- Get #VoteReady: Last Minute National Voter Registration Day Planning (Sept 11 at 11:00 AM PDT) - Register [HERE](#)
- Issues in the Home Stretch and Voter Protection (Oct 16, 4 PM to 5 PM, PDT) - Register [HERE](#)

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

Formatted By: Cristele Moztarzadeh