

THE SPOKESWOMAN

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

Advocating for Tomorrow: Be a Voice for Change in 2025

By Stephanie DeGraff-Hunt, AAUW Davis Branch President

AAUW has a long and distinguished history. Since 1881 AAUW has been empowering women and girls and is the United State's oldest and largest women's organization. For an amazing 144 years AAUW has been advocating for women and girls. Education is the foundation upon which AAUW grows which leads to a better life for our families, our communities, our country, and the world.

In our new year of 2025, I encourage you to engage as much as possible in our local AAUW branch activities and events, as well as with the United Nations Association and the League of Women Voters, as all of these organizations hold strong beliefs in the value of education and advocate for the equality of women and girls.

AAUW Davis plays a key role in the success of the UCD Tech Trek STEM Camp for girls entering the 8th grade. We support community organizations such as Make It Happen, Empower Yolo, Davis Community Meals and Housing, STEAC, and others. We are actively involved in Public Policy via Action Alerts, forums, and Lobby Days; we read and discuss books in our monthly book club meetings; and we hold social and informative Celebrate the 19th (Amendment) events. We work with the UCD campus affiliates and engage UCD students as interns and follow up with former Tech Trekkers.

There are many ways for each and everyone of you to become involved and I welcome you to become an active AAUW member in this new year and beyond. Together we will continue to make a positive and lasting impact to create a better place for everyone.

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January Calendar

Thursday, January 9, 7 pm: Monthly Board Meeting via Zoom

Thursday, January 9, 3 to 4 pm: Title IX 2024 Revisions Webinar

Saturday, January 11, 9 am:
Monthly Book Group Meeting via Zoom

Sunday, January 12, 2 to 4 pm:
Annual Holiday Gathering and Donation Drive

Thursday, January 16: Deadline for online or mailed payment to attend AAUW Fund Luncheon

Wednesday, January 22, 1 to 2 pm:
Reproductive Rights Webinar

Saturday, January 25, noon to 2:30 pm: AAUW Fund Luncheon

Wednesday, January 29, 5:00 pm ET: Deadline for submitting comments on proposed changes to dues, national bylaws, and public policy priorities

Thursday, January 30, 5:30 to 7:30 pm: Women in Leadership Speaker Forum

Women in Leadership Speaker Forum on January 30, 2025

By Shahla Farahnak

The first meeting of the 2025 AAUW Davis Branch “Women in Leadership” speaker series will be held on Thursday, January 30 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the Davis Public Library Blanchard Room, 314 E. 14th Street in Davis. The speaker series is being held to promote community outreach and engagement. We aim to bring diverse topics of interest in today’s world and speakers who will inform, inspire, and expand the horizon of possibilities for young future leaders as they seek to chart their future career paths. We strongly encourage and recommend participation in this forum by college and university students, as well as high school juniors and seniors. Please help us get the word out and we hope you can join us.

It is our pleasure to have Joanna Regulska, Jolynn Shoemaker, and Annie Chen, UCD graduate and former AAUW@UCD member, as our guest speakers at the first forum of the 2025 AAUW Davis Branch “Women in Leadership” speaker series. Our distinguished panelists will share highlights of their impressive career journey and will cover specific topics within their area of expertise related to their research and the interesting work they are doing. Abstracts and speaker bios will be sent by email later this month and will also be posted on the AAUW Davis website.

AAUW Davis Branch Women in Leadership Speaker Forum Panelists:

Joanna Regulska, Vice Provost and Dean - Global Affairs, University of California Davis. Distinguished Professor of Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies.

[Vice Provost and Dean Joanna Regulska Biography | Global Affairs](#)

Joanna will highlight her research findings about women’s leadership in social change. She will also discuss her leadership role in Global Affairs and her efforts to advance the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Jolynn Shoemaker, Director of Global Engagement, Global Affairs, University of California Davis.

[Jolynn Shoemaker](#) | [Director of Global Engagements](#) | [Global Affairs](#)

Jolynn’s presentation will highlight Global Affairs Sustainable Development Leadership Initiatives including partnerships and student opportunities to advance the SDGs.



Annie Chen, University of California Graduate (2019), B.S. Environmental Sciences. Science Communication Specialist, Tri-Valley Air Quality Climate Alliance and co-owner of sustainable lifestyle brand, [“Sciencely Handmade”](#).

[Global Aggies: Challenge Accepted!](#) | [Global Affairs](#)

Annie will discuss the importance of accessibility and inclusivity for a well-rounded sustainable society, as well as how her career path was influenced by the pandemic.



Reminder to Register for the AAUW Fund Luncheon on January 25, 2025

The Annual Capital Counties Interbranch Council (IBC) gathering will be held on Saturday, January 25, 2025 from noon to 2:30 pm at Northridge Country Club, 7600 Madison Ave., Fair Oaks. Introductions begin at noon, followed by lunch and speakers highlighting two AAUW Fund recipients. [Online](#) or mailed payment must be received by January 16. Information for mailing checks can be found below. Include the form when you mail in payment.

The Northridge Country Club is about a 45-minute drive from Davis. If you would like to carpool or can drive others, please contact Stephanie DeGraff-Hunt at sdegraffhunt@gmail.com or (530) 902-8394.



North Ridge Country Club, 7600 Madison Ave. Fair Oaks

Join the party! AAUW Fund Luncheon

Sponsored by your Capital Counties Interbranch Council

Saturday, January 25, 2025
Noon – 2:30 PM; doors open 11:30

Keynote speaker: *Charmen Goehring, AAUW California President, speaking on our current challenges & opportunities, and on the positive work of AAUW Funds.*

In addition, two active AAUW Fund Scholars will share their remarkable journeys, highlighting the details and progress of the work AAUW is supporting.

Make sure you have a place at the table! To use a credit card (fees apply) click [here](#). OR – write a check for \$32 to AAUW Sacramento. Mail to Reservations Coordinator, Hedda Smithson, 4033 Main Street, Fair Oaks, CA 95628-7520. **Online or mailed payment must be received by Jan. 16th, 2025.**

If mailing, include this information, & menu choice:

Name _____ Branch _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Menu choices:

- Turkey Breast, Mashed potatoes, vegetables OR
- Thai Chicken Salad OR
- Pasta Primavera (vegetarian)
AND
- Limoncello cake OR Fruit cup



UNA Update

For a description of **UNA Davis' 18th observance of the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights** last December 8th and a wonderful collection of photos taken at the event, go to the [January UNA Davis newsletter](#):

For those who have never participated in this traditional (since 2004) event, the pictures and impressions will give you an idea of what is involved and why it is a meaningful experience that you might like to be involved in next December. To hear 31 different world languages spoken in a short period and a small space was truly amazing. Some participants commented that it felt like being at the UN!

Among many other interesting items in the January newsletter, you will also find a fascinating report by our UNA board member Molly Thompson who just returned from studying in **Korea** and who firsthand experienced the upheaval there last month. Waiting for her report delayed our usual publication of the UNA Newsletter on the first of the month.

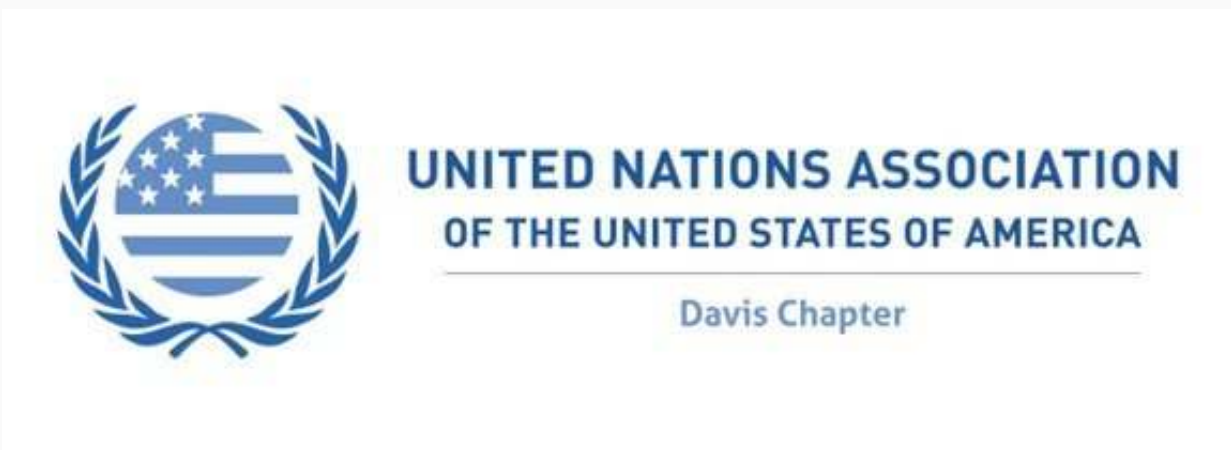
We are preparing for our **Annual Membership Meeting** to be held via Zoom on Tuesday, **January 14, 7 to 8:15 pm**. Davis UNA members as well as others who are interested in finding out more about our chapter are invited to this free event during which a review of the past year and a look forward to coming events and initiatives will culminate in the **election of board members for 2025**. The newsletter contains a form for anyone interested in nominating themselves or someone else to serve on the Board to submit after RSVPing.

UNA-USA in Washington just announced that they will hold a first ever **General Membership Meeting** on Monday, **January 13 from noon to 1pm**, promising lots of information for all who can join.

Sacramento UNA will hold its free Annual Meeting in person on Sunday, **January 26, 2-4 pm** at The Stanford Gallery at the California Railroad Museum. All are invited.

Other upcoming meetings: the **Northern California Division** will meet virtually February 13th or 15th; the biggest yearly UNA-USA event is the **Global Engagement Summit at UN Headquarters** (theme "Once Upon a Future"), date either February 21st or 28th, depending on when the General Assembly Hall is available; annual **UNA Davis International Women's Day** on **Sunday afternoon, March 9th, at International House**. No other details to share yet.

News of a possible AAUW dues increase directs attention to the **unchanged membership dues of UNA-USA that remain at \$50/year** at the Standard level (higher levels available, students free to age 25) – truly a bargain! As UNA board member Edgar Trujillo likes to point out, the cost of a cup of coffee per month.



AAUW CA News

Lobby Days 2025 - Save the Date!

By Rhonda Skipper, Member AAUW California Public Policy Committee

Get ready to advance legislation that makes a difference! This spring the AAUW California 2025 Lobby Days event will be held over two days: an in-person meeting day at the State Capitol on Tuesday, April 8 and a virtual meeting day over Zoom on Wednesday, April 9, 2025. We encourage all AAUW California members to participate in this opportunity for advocacy that is essential to achieve our legislative priorities!

Starting in January, the Public Policy Committee will evaluate new bills introduced in the state legislature that are aligned with our Public Policy Priorities. In mid-March, the committee will select 30-35 bills to make up AAUW California's 2025 Legislative Agenda, including the top three bills that we will advance during Lobby Days. Training materials on these three bills will be posted on the state website by March 26, 2025, and a mandatory training webinar will be held on March 31, 2025 at 7:00pm.

A registration form will arrive in your inbox in early January 2025. Please be sure to complete and return the form so that you get necessary updates about Lobby Days, including your team and meeting details.

After registering, you will be assembled into teams of 3 or 4 AAUW members and matched with Assembly and Senate districts. For in-person meetings, each team will be scheduled to meet with at least three legislative offices. For Zoom meetings, each team will be scheduled to meet with one to three legislative offices. Regardless of whether you participate in-person or online, each meeting will last for 15 to 30 minutes.

Because legislators have many commitments during the busy legislative season, most Lobby Days meetings will be held with legislative staffers and it is not always possible to schedule AAUW members with their legislators. However, be assured that these meetings are always impactful. Because teams will represent AAUW California as a bill sponsor and/or supporter, legislative offices will consider these meetings as important as constituent meetings.

Lobby Days 2025 is scheduled just before the legislature adjourns on April 10th for Spring Recess. AAUW members are encouraged to participate in person on April 8, 2025, and directly advocate at the State Capitol as these in-person meetings are the most effective way to advance our priority legislation. Even though we know that being in-person is impactful, AAUW California is not able to pay for your travel to Lobby Day in Sacramento. For those who are not able to come to the Capitol, there will be an opportunity to meet with legislative offices virtually via Zoom on April 9, 2025.

We understand that travel incurs a cost, and we appreciate you considering the in-person option. If you can afford to take a road trip, consider carpooling with your fellow members, and if driving a long distance, sharing accommodations to make in-person Lobby Day a more budget-friendly event. In addition to our members, this year some of your Lobby Days teams will include college students who have been invited to join in via a college outreach pilot project. Through this project, we will be distributing Lobby Days event flyers to several colleges and universities from November to February. Increased college student participation will enable us to reach more legislative offices; however, most importantly, we hope that this introduction to AAUW will inspire advocacy-minded young people who share our values to join AAUW.

Lobby Days is a wonderful opportunity to meet with legislative offices and advance bills to promote gender equity and improve the lives of women and girls. We hope that you will join us in this important activity to promote our values.

If you have participated in Lobby Days in the past, we would love to hear your feedback on what worked and what didn't. Please send your comments to publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org.

Are Gender-based Scholarships Problematic?

Not for AAUW, but the current legal and political climate has made universities wary to offer them.

By Missy Maceyko, Co-chair AAUW California Public Policy Committee

Title IX of the Higher Education Act of 1972 bans sex-based discrimination in educational institutions that receive federal funding. An outgrowth of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which offers workplace protections on the basis of ‘sex,’ Title IX was created to address historical marginalization on the basis of sex/gender in education. In sum, Title IX was created to provide women with equal access and success in educational institutions, to redress the historical marginalization of women in educational settings relative to men.

The definition of what counts as sex-based discrimination has necessarily expanded over the years, eventually coming to protect everyday Americans from things like pregnancy discrimination and gender-stereotype discrimination (e.g. not getting a promotion because you are not performing in a way that aligns with the gender you are perceived to be). In 2024, the Biden Administration extended a 2020 Supreme Court decision about LGBTQ+ workplace discrimination to Title IX, providing protections to the LGBTQ+ community by acknowledging that LGBTQ+ discrimination is often the result of animus derived from gender stereotyping.

The spirit of Title IX is to protect those who have been historically marginalized on the basis of sex/gender. However, as part of the larger pushback against social justice and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), we have seen a sharp uptick in watchdog efforts and legal action around educational programs and scholarships focusing on fostering gender (and racial) equity. **Those bringing these lawsuits suggest that programs and scholarships that are explicitly for women violate Title IX because they discriminate against men.** For instance, between 2016 and 2022, Mark Perry, an emeritus professor at the University of Michigan’s Flint campus and a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, filed [410 Title IX complaints against universities that offer programs or awards for women, but not men](#).

Lawsuits like those brought by Mark Perry **lean into the concept of equality**, the idea that fairness is giving everyone the exact same things. This is opposed to **leaning into the concept of equity**, where fairness is reaching equilibrium by giving some individuals and groups different protections and support to make sure that everyone has what they need to succeed. If one student scrapes their knee and you give everyone a bandaid, this is equality. If one student scrapes their knee and you give only that student a bandaid, this is equity. Leaning into equality work does not make sense when equity should be the target to redress an historical and/or current harm.

However, **given the threats of legal action to DEI programs, and given the ongoing legal wrangling over rules and guidance about gender equity and gender equality under Title IX, many educational institutions are unsure about the legality of their gender equity programs and initiatives.** Furthermore, the threat of legal action has had a chilling effect as institutions with shrinking budgets fear the cost and burden of ongoing legal challenges based on gender equality and equity efforts.

Scholarships that seek to target protected groups to overcome historical forms of marginalization have become a target in the larger attack against DEI, Title VII, and Title IX. If a college or university is wary of listing your AAUW scholarship, this might be why. AAUW does not receive federal funding under Title IX, so can offer gender-specific scholarships and programs without this same fear.

January Webinars

2024 Revisions to Title IX: How they Impact AAUW Values and Public Policy Priorities

Learn about the changes from the Trump to the Biden administrations and the future challenges.

- Presented by: Kathi Harper, Public Policy Committee member and chair of the School Board Project
- Thursday, January 9th, 3 - 4 pm
- Due to late notice, please check the [AAUW website](#) for a link to this webinar

Reproductive Rights: Where Do We Go from Here?

Mark the 52nd anniversary of Roe v. Wade. Join this Zoom presentation hosted by AAUW Silicon Valley Branch to explore shifts in American jurisprudence regarding women, the law, and the future of reproductive rights.

- Presented by: AAUW Silicon Valley, featuring Emily Bazelon, New York Times journalist, Yale Law professor and research fellow, Political Gabfest co-host, and author
- Wednesday, January 22nd, 1 - 2 pm
- Register [HERE](#).

AAUW National News

Your Voice Matters

AAUW members have an opportunity to provide feedback on:

- Proposed dues changes
- Proposed changes to AAUW national bylaws
- Proposed changes to the Public Policy Priorities

The Board of Directors is considering a change to AAUW member dues to help meet rising costs. AAUW member dues have not kept pace with the cost of supporting AAUW's membership and the Board will consider a \$5 per year increase in dues from 2025-2029. This dues change supports AAUW's commitment to financial sustainability, the financial strength of the national office and our ability to support branches and states.

Additionally, every AAUW member has the right to comment on proposed changes to the bylaws and Public Policy Priorities before they are put to the membership for a vote this spring.

Please look for an email from Shannon Wolfe, dated January 8, 2025, for links to each of the above-listed proposed changes. Comments can be submitted until **Wednesday, January 29** at 5:00 pm ET.

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

Formatted by Emmi Kuimelis