

THE SPOKESWOMAN

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

President's Message

By Stephanie DeGraff-Hunt

One of the highlights of the year for me is our June celebration at Ding How restaurant, where we bring our incoming Tech Trekkers and their families together for the first time. It truly is the icing on the cake to finally celebrate together because everyone involved, from the candidates to the selection committee, has gone through an arduous, months-long procedure to get here. It begins with the nomination and application process early in the new year. This is followed by interviews with the applicants and their parents, and ultimately, the difficult decision process of selecting the final candidates.

We are grateful to the 7th grade math and science teachers, who nominate their students. Honestly, if we were a gigantic branch and could send all of their nominees, we would, because every single one of their nominees was a star. Again, a huge shout out to the teachers who take the time and use their insight to provide AAUW with an outstanding list of nominees for Tech Trek Camp. We couldn't even begin the process without the teachers' involvement. I hope this explains my excitement and joy in celebrating the selected candidates and their families at our June event.

The 2025 Tech Trek Awardees are:

Naomi Beebee from Emerson Junior High School
Mileydi Espinoza Garcia from Harper Junior High School
Janelle Diaz Navarro from Holmes Junior High School
Abigail Russel from Holmes Junior High School

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June Calendar

Saturday, June 7 - noon: Board Installation and Meet the Tech Trekkers, Ding How Restaurant

Thursday, June 12 - 7 pm: Monthly Board Meeting by Zoom

Saturday, June 14: Book Group Meeting cancelled

Saturday, June 21 - 9 am: Celebrate the 19th at the UC Davis Arboretum

Thursday, June 26 - 11 am: Webinar - Being Black in the Ivory: Truth-Telling about Anti-Black Racism in Higher Education (see article)

Save the Dates!

Saturday, July 12 - 9 am: Book Group Meeting via Zoom

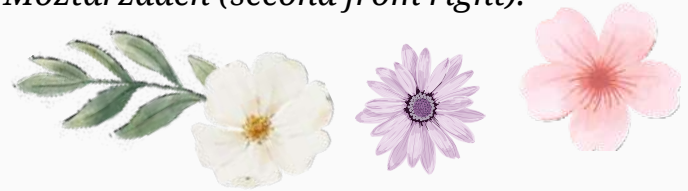
July 13 to 19: Tech Trek week

Thursday, July 17 - 9 am: Tech Trek Visit Day

This year, we had so much fun during the luncheon that we forgot to take pictures. Laleh, who is fantastic at taking important photos, was out of town and unable to attend. But trust me, we all had a grand time. Three Tech Trekkers sat at the long table, along with their family and AAUW members. Another Tech Trekker and her family sat at a table with many of our members from Woodland, along with Marlene Amador Doctor, a former Vallejo Tech Trekker (2005) and former AAUW@UCD student organization leader. At another table, two of our incoming UCD interns, Anureet Saini and Sharron Kozin, were seated with our much-appreciated graduating UCD interns, Emmi Kuimelis and Cristele Moztarzadeh. Cristele and Emmi received flowers, Verena Borton's colorful woven lanyards and AAUW Graduation Cords for their upcoming graduations. AAUW members from Davis, Vacaville, Winters, and Woodland were interspersed among all the tables.



Incoming student interns Anureet Saini (far left) and Sharron Kozin (far right); graduating interns Emmi Kuimelis (second from left) and Cristele Moztarzadeh (second from right).



Graduating UCD student interns Emmi Kuimelis (left) and Cristele Moztarzadeh (right).



And the food. Oh my. I ordered too much, but it was all tasty and lots of take home boxes went home. The staff at Ding How thanked all of us for coming, too, as they enjoy our enthusiasm and happiness.

Special appreciation to everyone who spoke, as your insights and words of wisdom, kindness, and encouragement for our 2025 Tech Trekkers meant a great deal. It is important that we enjoy these special moments together because the wisdom and the happiness shared will continue to flourish. You could see that in the smiles.

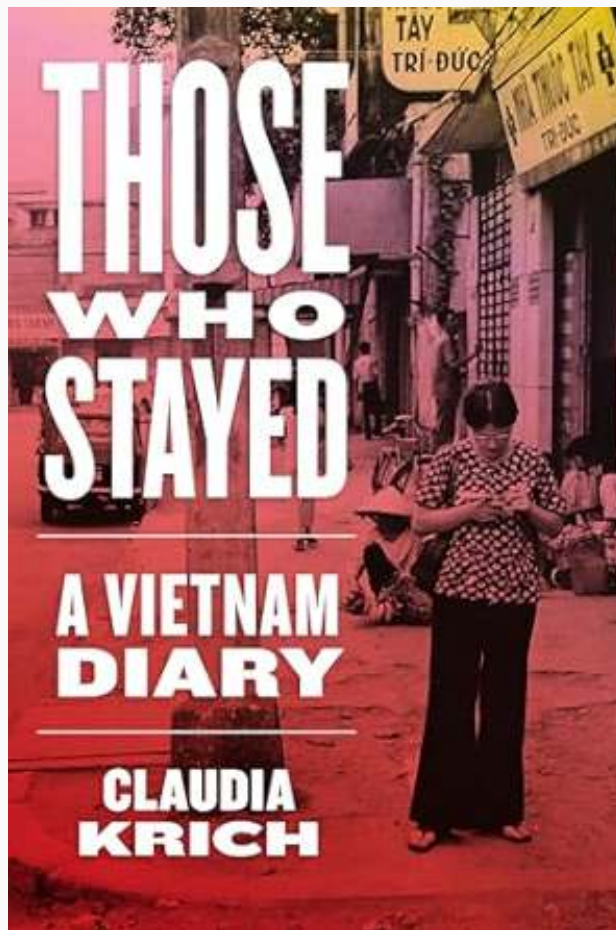
Thank you to everyone!

May 17 Book Group Recap of
***Those Who Stayed – a Vietnam Diary* by Claudia Krich**
By Carolyn Van Hoecke

Recently, we learned about another view of the end of the Vietnam War, one that is substantially different from what we read in the press and saw in the Ken Burns documentary. We were treated to two chances to meet with local author Claudia Krich. The first was with a large crowd on her book tour stop at the Davis Library on April 30, 2025, the actual 50th anniversary of the end of the war on April 30, 1975. Claudia's talk was accompanied by a wonderful slideshow of photos taken on that day and followed up with very animated questioning from an audience who may have been surprised by the many happy, peaceful young faces and welcoming activities that were depicted. Regardless of what may have happened elsewhere in Vietnam on a different day, on that actual date and in that particular place, there is no doubt that the incoming soldiers were peacefully received.

Our second chance to visit with Claudia was a far more intimate meeting when Woodland and Davis AAUW members gathered for lunch at Morgan's Mill on May 17. She talked about the complicated circumstances leading up to her being one of only a handful of Americans who were actually present on April 30, 1975. After mulling over her feelings about whether and how to tell her story, she finally decided she needed to write a book. Her publisher agreed and has included her book as a reference volume. While annoyances of this category meant that Claudia had to extensively document with footnotes and also provide a detailed index, a benefit is that her book is considered a history and will not go out of print. One has to wonder whether, eventually, the true story she documents will become common knowledge.

Moving on into her fascinating subject matter, we had an enjoyable and far-ranging discussion about the activities of the American Friends Service Committee and the complications of cultural differences and diligence of maintaining good relationships with all of the various controlling entities that sometimes changed from morning to night. One of the most powerful quotes from the conversation was, “I was never frightened as a woman, but as a human who might be shot.” We learned a lot about what it takes to operate behind enemy lines armed only with peaceful medicine and goodwill toward all. In all, the program provided needed medical attention and prosthetic devices to uncounted numbers of children. The journals Claudia kept carry a striking immediacy, remaining vivid even 50 years later. We invited Claudia to join AAUW. Her schedule is still crammed, but she’s thinking about it.



Because of scheduling conflicts, the Book Group is not meeting on June 14th. Our next meeting is scheduled on July 12th at 9 am. We will discuss *Say More - Lessons from Work, the White House, and the World* by Jen Psaki.

June Celebrate the 19th: Walking Tour of UCD Improvements

The June Celebrate the 19th will be held on Saturday, June 21st from 9 am to 11 am, featuring a tour of [UCD campus projects](#) led by member Susan Collopy. Susan is a landscape architect and the Assistant Director of Design and Construction at UCD. Susan will lead us on a leisurely 1.7-mile walk across campus to view the latest improvements of campus facilities that will include a walk-by tour of:

- Arboretum waterway project
- Mrak Hall - security improvements and eggheads
- New construction at the Chemistry Building
- KDVS new location
- Walker Hall - historic building renovation
- Memorial Union
- Seismic upgrade work in progress at various buildings
- Gorman Museum
- Wyatt Deck

We will loop back through the Arboretum and end at our starting point. Although much of the route is shady, please be prepared for the sun (hat, sunscreen, water, etc.) and wear comfortable shoes.

We will meet at the entry of the Shrem Museum of Art at 8:45 am. Free parking is available at the Gateway Parking Structure on Old Davis Road south of the Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts. After the tour, all are welcome to gather for a snack or beverage at a nearby cafe off-campus, as most campus facilities will be closed after the Spring Quarter ends. RSVP to Estelle at estelle.shiroma@gmail.com or text/call (530) 848-9361 by June 20th.

UNA Update

By Verena Borton

In-district meeting with Congressman Mike Thompson

UNA Davis was honored once again with an invitation to meet with our Representative or his field staff a third time since January. Three of our board members met with Congressman Thompson and District Representative Lucy Brazil at Mishka's café on May 30th. In an effort to illustrate how national funding cuts by the administration affect local constituents, we presented the example that major cuts to USDA's traditional deliveries to USAID and food banks and school lunches are having a major impact on our region's farmers, food-insecure families and children as well as on international recipients.



Left to right: Molly Thompson (no relation), Congressman Mike Thompson, Lynn Dykstra and Verena Borton

Regional meetings

On June 5th concerned UNA members from Northern and Southern California chapters met on zoom to discuss the latest devastating news about threatened UN funding cuts (more detail below) and how to organize specific advocacy efforts in California. Applications for participation in the June 23-24 UNA Advocacy Summit in Washington were accepted primarily for members from red and purple districts, excluding most UNA members who have the most advocacy experience.

UNA San Francisco has organized several big events surrounding the celebration of Charter Day in late June, commemorating the signing of the UN Charter in San Francisco in 1945.

Annalena Baerbock elected as President of the upcoming 80th session of the UN General Assembly

Former German foreign minister Annalena Baerbock, a strong proponent of multilateralism, was recently elected as only the fifth woman in 80 years to lead the General Assembly. She will assume that position in September during the 80th annual UNGA.

Opposition to Rescissions package

An urgent message from UNA-USA headquarters arrived on June 9th, alerting members that a vote is slated on the Rescissions Package on the evening of June 10th in the House of Representatives. Rescission is a formal way for the president to propose canceling funds that Congress has already enacted. As UNA Executive Director Rachel Pittman wrote: “This rescission package doesn’t just reduce funding – it unravels decades of bipartisan U.S. investment in the United Nations and the global partnerships that have long advanced peace, health, and security. Congress must reject these cuts and reaffirm America’s commitment to global leadership.” If approved, these cuts (secretly hidden among the hundreds of pages of the so-called “Big, Beautiful Bill”) would be far-reaching – destabilizing fragile regions, worsening humanitarian crises, and putting American lives at risk.

Besides our individual actions by writing to our congressional representatives to urge opposition, the national UNA-USA office joined a coalition of organizations in signing a letter to Congress opposing the White House’s proposed rescissions package. The letter urges all Members of Congress to reject any attempt to rescind previously approved foreign assistance funding. This is about more than specific programs: it’s about protecting Congress’ constitutional authority and standing up for American values of global leadership, humanitarian support, and stability.

The WHO’s Pandemic Treaty

In late May, delegates from 193 out of 194 countries met in Geneva for the World Health Assembly, an annual gathering of health ministers who set the agenda for the World Health Organization. Absent was the United States which pulled out of WHO within days of the Trump administration taking office. The WHO adopted a potentially transformative international agreement on pandemic preparedness and response.

In America's absence, other countries – notably China – stepped into the void and offered a previously unprecedented degree of international leadership. Quoting Mark Leon Goldberg: “What happened in Geneva wasn't just about health – it's a window into what global governance looks like when America walks away. This very well might be what multilateralism looks like in the future, should the U.S. continue to stay on the sidelines of agreements and negotiations that the rest of the world values. The rest of the world will press on. China will step up. America will be irrelevant.”

What are the consequences of the U.S. not paying its dues?

Under Article 19 of the UN Charter, countries that fall more than two years behind on payments for their assessed dues lose their voting rights in the General Assembly. Why does this matter? In the General Assembly decisions are made by majority vote. Without a vote, states forfeit the ability to steer outcome, promote their interests and back their allies. When it comes to lobbying for seats on key UN bodies that set the global agenda, a single vote can tip the scales. Losing the GA vote doesn't just sideline a nation, it can reshape the success or failure of a state's foreign policy agenda through the UN. A UN without the U.S.- either entirely or as a voting member- would mean less peacekeeping capacity, diminished enforcement of international law and a fractured human rights framework. In other words, a less safe and less secure America.

The Trump Administration's FY26 latest budget proposal (as of May 30)

Funding for the UN itself is zeroed out.

UN funding is distributed through a series of accounts.

Contributions to International Organizations: down 83% from \$1.54 billion to just under \$264 million. Spared: NATO, International Civil Aviation Organization, International Maritime Organization, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the International Telecommunications Union.

Contributions for International Peacekeeping: \$0

Voluntary Contributions to UN Agencies: GONE. This includes UNICEF, UNDP, UN Women, UNFPA, UNEP and OHCHR. That is a direct hit to global health, humanitarian relief, women's empowerment and weather resilience programs that have traditionally enjoyed bipartisan support.

The proposed budget eliminates Food for Peace, a global food security initiative that purchases more than \$2 billion annually from U.S. growers.

The following draws heavily on information from UNA's sister organization, the Better World Campaign

Foreign assistance and why it matters to Americans

If you ask the average American what percentage of the federal budget goes to foreign aid, they might guess 10%, possibly even 20%. The real number is just over 1%. Yet this small sliver of spending packs a global punch- funding everything from emergency food in Haiti to healthcare programs in Africa.

Foreign assistance (or aid) is money, goods or services that the U.S. gives to other countries. That can mean sending tents and medical teams after an earthquake,¹ funding clean water infrastructure, supporting health campaigns like PEPFAR for HIV/AIDS or even financing democratic elections. In FY2023, the U.S. disbursed \$71.9 billion in total foreign assistance. That's roughly 1.2% of the total federal budget. By comparison, the U.S. defense budget in 2023 was \$816.7 billion, roughly 11 times greater than our aid investments.

In FY2023 U.S. aid went to programs in 177 countries. The biggest recipient was Ukraine, receiving \$16.6 billion. Other top recipients included:

- *Israel, \$3.3 billion in military aid
- *Jordan, Egypt and Ethiopia, combined \$4.65 billion
- *Global HIV/AIDS response - \$10.66 billion
- *Disaster relief and humanitarian aid - \$15.6 billion
- *Global health security - \$1.5 billion
- *\$2.3 billion backed democracy, governance and rule-of-law programs

The proposed budget doesn't just disinvest from the UN – it dismantles the bipartisan architecture of U.S. global engagement.

Who Delivers Foreign Aid?

Since the early 1960s, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has been the engine behind foreign aid, delivering around \$40 billion annually. Following recent changes by the Trump Administration, USAID has been eliminated as an aid delivery

mechanism, its functions reorganized under the State Department. The Treasury and several other federal entities also distribute assistance. It is important to note that not all aid is humanitarian. Military assistance accounted for \$8.2 billion, or just over 11% of last year's total aid budget. Through programs like Foreign Military Sales, countries can buy American made weapons and equipment, often with U.S. government financing. These sales added up to \$117.9 billion in FY2024.

Why Does it Matter?

Foreign assistance is often framed as a charity. In reality it's a strategic investment to prevent instability and conflicts before they start. Aid helps stabilize fragile states, contain global health threats and strengthen American allies.

That means fewer pandemics, fewer refugees and fewer U.S. troops deployed. Foreign assistance supports American values and advances U.S. interests, often at a bargain price. "Foreign aid is a national security insurance," said former Defense Secretary James Mattis. "If you don't fund the State Department fully, then I need to buy more ammunition" he added.

While the threat of unilateral impoundment and draconian cuts to historically bipartisan programs loom, the ball is in Congress' court. It is up to lawmakers to decide whether the U.S. continues its long legacy of global leadership or walks away.



**UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Davis Chapter

AAUW National News

Results of 2025 Election

By Shannon Wolfe, Managing Director and Chief of Staff

On behalf of the AAUW National Board of Directors, I am pleased to share the results of our 2025 national election. Thank you to all who voted and played a role in shaping the future of our organization. The full voting results can be found [here](#).

I am delighted to welcome our newly elected board members:

- Hope Bennett
- Aaliyah El-Amin
- Dr. Monique Taylor
- Dr. Mayida Zaal

We are also honored to welcome Dr. Hope Ricciotti as a newly appointed board member. Each of these outstanding women brings invaluable experience and commitment to advancing equity for women and girls. We look forward to their leadership and contributions in the years ahead.

In addition to our board elections, I'm pleased to report that both the proposed changes to the [AAUW bylaws](#) and the [Public Policy Principles and Priorities](#) were approved by an overwhelming majority of our voting members. These changes reflect our collective commitment to bold, forward-thinking advocacy and organizational effectiveness.

As we look to the future, we also take a moment to extend our deepest appreciation to our outgoing board members:

- Cherie Sorokin, Board Chair
- Dr. Gloria Rodriguez, Board Vice Chair
- Dr. Mary Zupanc, Nominating Committee Chair
- Peggy Cabaniss, Board Finance Chair

Each has served with dedication, wisdom, and passion, helping guide AAUW through a pivotal time in our history. We are profoundly grateful for their service and impact.

Thank you again for your active participation in this year's election and for all you do to support AAUW's mission. Together, we are creating a more equitable world for women and girls.

June 26 Webinar

Join AAUW on Thursday, June 26 at 11:00 am (2:00 pm ET) for an inspiring conversation with American Fellowship alumna Dr. Shardé M. Davis, author of "Being Black in the Ivory." In this special installment of our In Conversation series, Dr. Davis shares the personal and collective experiences behind her powerful book — a bold call to action that lays bare the realities of navigating race, academia, and systemic inequities in higher education.

Don't miss this thought-provoking dialogue on truth-telling, transformation, and what it means to thrive — and push for change — in spaces never built for you. Register [HERE](#).

AAUW-CA News
AAUW-CA Website

2025 Election Results

AUW California is fortunate to have talented and dedicated members who are willing to step up and serve our state organization. The continuity of leadership is critical to the successful execution of our advocacy, programs and projects. New members provide our state leadership team with the important ingredients of energy, enthusiasm and engagement.

Co-President Elect (uncontested)

Three-year term

2025 – 2026, Co-Presidents Elect

2026-2028 Co-Presidents



Sigrid Moranz



Sharyn Siebert

Directors

Two-year term (2025 – 2027)



Melissa Maceyko



Amy Hom

There are many ways to serve AAUW and our mission; standing for election takes a special kind of member – one who is willing to lead. Thank you to all the candidates who ran in 2025, and congratulations to our returning board members!

Ballot Initiatives

Ballot initiatives on public policy priorities and the California dues increase passed.

Public Policy Priorities

97% of California's voting members voted a resounding YES to approve the Public Policy Priorities. The Public Policy Committee would like to thank all our members who provided input, as well as those who took the time to vote.

California Dues Increase

75% of California's voting members voted YES to approve the dues increase effective July 1, 2025. The Board of Directors thanks those members who took the time to cast their ballot.

The new California annual dues amount is \$30. Students are unchanged at \$10.

Public Policy News

AAUW California Mobilizes to Advance Priority Legislation

By Amy Hom, Co-chair Public Policy Committee

AAUW California advocates came out in full strength on April 8th and 9th to participate in Lobby Days 2025. A total of 197 people representing 66 branches, including our Public Policy Interns and other college students, turned out to advance our priority legislation. 84 people came to Sacramento on April 8th to meet in-person with legislative offices; 104 people held virtual meetings via Zoom on April 9th; and 9 people met with district offices. Because many offices prefer to keep their calendars open until the last minute, our committee worked furiously right up until the day of the event to schedule meetings. Meetings were requested with all 120 legislative offices, and 94 meetings were secured. In other words, we met with 78% of all legislative offices - a record for AAUW California!

Unsurprisingly there were a few hiccups, but a vast majority of the meetings went off smoothly. While most meetings were with staff, ten of the meetings were with legislators. Reports from the teams indicate that all of the meetings were courteous and cordial, including those with offices who did not agree with some of our positions. Many teams were received with enthusiasm and gratitude for AAUW's scholarships, activities, and programs such as Tech Trek. Some staffers expressed interest in joining AAUW, and one staffer generously shared information with our Public Policy Interns about a Fellowship program she participated in which ultimately led to her current job. Overall we successfully met with 94 offices to advance our key legislation and increase awareness about AAUW and all the things we do to advance gender equity.

We asked the legislative offices to support SB 771 and SB 418, and oppose AB 579. SB 771 (Stern) "Social Media Platforms Endangering Californians", sponsored by AAUW California, would hold social media platforms liable if their algorithms or AI aid or abet users to intimidate and threaten marginalized groups. SB 418 (Menjivar) "Ensure Equal Access to Care for All" would prohibit a health plan or a health insurance provider from denying coverage or denying benefits to a person based upon their race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex - including sex characteristics such as intersex traits, pregnancy, and gender identity. AB 579 (Castillo) "Yaeli's Law", which we opposed, would prohibit parental denial of support for youth self-identity from being considered as child abuse and the basis for custody or removal decisions.

Our positions on SB 418 and AB 579 are protective of the rights of transgender people, meeting the challenges of the current moment. A number of the offices expressed support for our positions with empathy and personal stories about legislators' family members who are transgender.

Shortly after our Lobby Days event, we learned that AB 579 is dead. The bill was held in the Assembly Rules Committee and was not referred to a policy committee, effectively killing the bill. We quickly replaced AB 579 with AB 1098 (Fong) "Title IX and the California Sex Equity in Education Act" as our third "A" priority bill. AB 1098 would expand protections for pregnant graduate students and institute protections for pregnant undergraduate students, prohibiting postsecondary educational institutions from discriminating against a student based on their current, potential, or past pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions.

We invite you to track the progress of our top 3 bills, and all of the bills on our Legislative Agenda, by viewing the 2025 Bill Tracking Report. The report will continue to be updated as the bills move through the legislative process, so you can always check back to see the latest status.

BE AS ACTIVE AS YOU CAN, BUT STAY A MEMBER

“If you think you are too small to make a difference, you haven’t spent the night with a mosquito.” African proverb

Formatted by Emmi Kuimelis