News and Events from AAUW Stockton Branch, Inc.

Volume 58 No. 4

December 2022

Celebrate the Season! Saturday, December 10th, 2022 Brookside Country Club

It's time to celebrate! Once again we will gather at the beautiful Brookside Country Club for a festive holiday brunch. Join us at 9:30am on Saturday, December 10th to eat, drink and be merry. Enjoy the company of AAUW members and friends. A delightful string quartet will entertain us and lead us in a sing-along (No masks required this time!).

Menu: Seasonal Fruit

Buttermilk Biscuits with Honey and Sweet Butter Fluffy Scrambled Eggs with Green Onion & Tomato Herb Roasted Red Potatoes Sausage and Cherry Wood Bacon Assorted Juices and Coffee Hosted Self Service Mimosa Station (Kenwood Champagne)

Cost: \$45 (Includes Room Rental, Food and Beverages, Center Pieces, and Entertainment)

Reservation Deadline: Sunday, November 27th

To make a reservation, contact Ronda Sanders at <u>rondasanders@icloud.com</u> or (209) 662-3999 (text or call)

A RESERVATION MADE IS A RESERVATION PAID

President's Message Mesry Christmas

Does it offend you if I say Merry Christmas? How did it come to be that this simple, sincere greeting became politically incorrect? Truly, I don't get it. When I say those words, I don't mean any disrespect to anyone. On the contrary, I am just wishing some happy times to friends, family, and even to people I don't know. It's just my way and my tradition. It's what I'm used to.

Of course, there are many other holidays in December, and, if I am aware of the particular traditions and observances of others. I wish them something appropriate. My attorney and my accountant, for example, are both Jewish, so I send them holiday wishes on blue Hanukkah cards. I have Scandinavian friends who celebrate St. Lucy's Day on December 13th. Prior to the pandemic, I had the opportunity to witness the procession that is central to this tradition. My Hispanic friends celebrate Las Posadas in December with a procession to reenact the journey to Bethlehem.

I have Muslim friends who put up and decorate a Christmas tree and celebrate the holiday with a feast of Halal foods. Many African Americans observe Kwanzaa during December. The Kwanza traditions include feasting, candle-lighting, dancing, gift exchanges, and family gatherings. In fact, most of the December holidays have the similarities that include symbols of light, traditional music, and various communal activities. There are also many other holidays during the year, and I delight that so many have become part of our American traditions.

In the "salad bowl" that is American culture, it is appropriate to celebrate all of these special days and their people. So let's lighten up and show respect to each tradition with open and accepting hearts. Please have a happy Holiday Season. Celebrate as you wish. And have a Happy New Year, too.

(For any who choose to celebrate nothing, you can always observe Festivus.* You may now begin airing your grievances).

*Google it.



2022-2023 **Elected Board of Directors**

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Public Policy Chair Karen Frank

Branch Website: Ronda Sanders stockton-ca.aauw.net

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Sandra Mazzuola President



Tech Trek Update - November

Julie Pichardo

This month our Tech Trek girls participated in Expanding Your Horizons at the University of the Pacific, an annual event inviting girls to explore activities and possible career paths in science, engineering, and math. Our girls attended three workshops during the day.

The first workshop explored absorption of liquid with a "diaper challenge." This activity compared the amount of water absorbed by cotton to modern super-absorbent polymers found in disposable diapers. The girls learned that scientific advances allow a modern diaper to absorb up to 20 times more liquid that a cotton diaper.

In the second workshop, the girls soldered computer chips to create either a simple "Simon Says" type game or a light-up heart. This one was most popular - the girls really enjoyed working with the chips and soldering irons.



Lunch is always a hit at EYH. This year was nachos- yum! Then on to the final course - coding. In this workshop, the girls created a simple webpage about their interests. They worked with a partner to design color schemes, load images, and write about themselves.

The Tech Trek Mentoring program would like to thank the membership for continuing to provide enrichment opportunities for these students. After this event, the girls expressed that they had a great time and enjoyed learning new things.

We even made the paper! Follow the link <u>HERE</u> to read The Record's interview of our own Marissa Garduno describing her experience and interests.

There is also coverage from KCRA <u>HERE</u>.







Christine Franklin, CPA Partner 3031 W. March Lane Suite 133 South Stockton, CA 95219

Phone: (209) 473-2001 Fax: (209) 473-1761 E-mail: cfranklin@kcpag.com

kempercpa.com

Public Policy Update

This following is a synopsis of the 2022 legislation that has passed in California, based on our 3 pillars of public policy:

Economic Security for All Women

8 of our bills were signed by the Governor, 1 was vetoed, and 1 died in the legislature. A couple of the significant bills signed into law were the elimination of the "pink tax" affecting items marketed to women & adding days to bereavement leave.

Equal Access to Quality Public Education for All Students

6 of these bills were signed by the Governor, 1 was vetoed, 1 was approved by the legislature (no signature required) and 2 died in the legislature. Of particular note are 3 of our top priority bills: AB 1968, which requires campuses to develop and post uniform guidelines for reporting sexual assault; AB 2881 which provides additional support for college students with dependent children; and AJR 23 (Assembly Joint Resolution), a Title IX 50th Anniversary Proclamation.

Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society

8 of these bills were signed by the Governor, 1 was vetoed, 1 was incorporated by the Governor into an Executive Order, 1 was approved by and 2 died in the legislature. We saw success on all 4 of our top priority bills in this area: AB 1666, which provides protection for those from other states seeking abortions in California, as well as for those providing services here, from the enforcement of a related civil judgment from their home state; SB (Senate Bill) 523, which requires insurance coverage for over-the-counter contraceptive products; SB 1375, which allows certified nursepractitioners to perform some early-term abortions; and SCA (Senate Constitutional Amendment) 10 which became Proposition 1 on the November ballot & passed by a 2-to-1 margin.

Sectory update

Please make the following additions to your Directory:

New Members:

Phyllis McDonald, 2543 Dutchwood Lane Manteca, CA 95336 Cell: (559) 732-2554 e-mail: <u>fillus@comcast.net</u> Fresno State University

Kathleen "Kate" Morley 450 Goodall Drive Mountain House, CA 95391-1029 Cell: (559) 676-5065 e-mail: <u>katmor.20@gmail.com</u> Fresno Pacific University



REMINDER:

When ordering through Amazon Smile, please designate **AAUW Community Outreach Fund** as your charity. Organizations receive a small percentage on each purchase.

Each month we receive between \$5-6 in our COF Account, but it could be so much more. Thank you for your participation.



DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION

DEI: Defining Racism

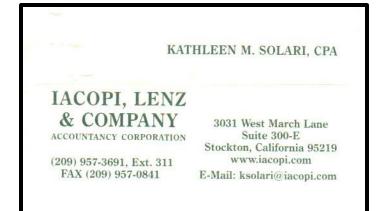
Individual Racism: Personal beliefs and attitudes toward other races that affect the way a person treats people of color. An example would be believing in White Supremacy.

Institutional Racism: Policies or behaviors within an organization intended to discriminate against people of color. An example would be when a hiring manager disqualifies candidates based on their names, citing a "cultural fit" which is a discriminatory practice.

Systemic Racism: Perpetuated discrimination within a system that was founded on racist principles and practices. An example would be when a social work department lacks diversity among staff and students, despite training them to service communities of color.

These definitions and examples come from the School of Social Work at USC. They are not meant to be the definitive answer to "What is racism?" but ones that are accepted by many. I challenge you to find more definitions that we can use to devise a definition that is not only accurate but one we can all accept. You can send your findings to Barbara St. Urbain, DEI Chair for the Stockton Branch of AAUW, at bsuatmjc@aol.com. Thank you.





AAUW Fundraiser Card

First I want to thank all of you who helped produce this card. The committee of Ronda Sanders, Bobbie Landau and Bette Outlaw got the ball rolling. Of course, Ronda lent her artistic skills and Bobbie shared her writing talent. Then our Steamer Editor was asked to make it into a more eye appealing format. Johnny also amended language multiple times. Then Paula Almaas made a suggestion to make the card "pop." Lastly, the Pacific Printing Shop Supervisor, Nancy Rosenblatt, used paper that seem to make the card shine. Thank you again. The Fundraiser Card is either in the mail or you may have already received it.

This Fundraiser is in lieu of the Home Tour, which has always been our biggest fundraiser to support AAUW Community Outreach Programs and AAUW Fund. The last couple years we have had a Virtual Home Tour and ZOOM mini These were well-received tour. and contributions were adequate to maintain our limited program involvement during this period. Now we are moving on to pre-Covid program activities, which means additional funding is needed. During the Home Tour, each member was sent two \$35 tickets. Members could purchase both tickets, one ticket, or return one. Your donation amount is up to you and will be appreciated by all those responsible for carrying out the programs and by those receiving services.



AAUW Stockton Branch, Inc. DELTA STEAMER P.O. Box 690663 Stockton, CA 95269-0663

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Vision: AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measureable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.
Mission: AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women and girls have a fair chance.

December Calendar

Day	Date	Time	Event	Location/Contact
Mon	5	6:00pm	December Board Meeting	Online via Zoom
Sat	10	9:30am	AAUW Stockton December Branch Meeting	Brookside Country Club