

The Key to DEI: Considering Another “E” Saturday, January 20th, 2024 Central United Methodist Church - 3700 Pacific Ave.

The start of the New Year and the commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday compel us to reflect further on the topic of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). How can we withhold judgement on those whose lifestyles and viewpoints are different from our own? How can we encourage acceptance and inclusion within our families, workplace, and community?

Join us on Saturday, January 20th for a reading, writing, and discussion session led by former SUSD English Teacher and current AAUW Writing Group Chair, Erica Dei Rossi. Erica will lead the group through individual and group exercises that promote both introspection and interconnectedness. Special emphasis will be placed on empathy, which Dei Rossi considers the key to achieving DEI.



Erica Dei Rossi

When: Saturday, January 20th, 9:30am

Place: Central United Methodist Church
Fireside Room - 3700 Pacific Ave.

Cost: \$10

Reservation Deadline: Sunday, January 14th
Call or Text Reservation Chair Betty Parsons
@ (408) 309-8958 to Make a Reservation
bjpars_95120@yahoo.com

A RESERVATION MADE IS A RESERVATION
PAID

President's Message



2023-2024

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“We should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter what their color.”
Maya Angelou

On December 20th, 2023, 750 immigrants became U.S. citizens in a ceremony in Roseville, CA. The new Americans came from 76 different countries and cultures, from Mexico to Afghanistan, from India to Vietnam. The new citizens vowed to protect and defend the Constitution and to renounce allegiance to their previous country. To achieve citizenship, these people had to pass a test that many who were born here could not.

This citizenship ceremony is proof that diversity is a cornerstone of American democracy. It is our duty as Americans to strive to make our country inclusive and to promote equity in educational and economic opportunity.

As I stated in a previous President's Message, I think that the United States is a “salad bowl,” not a “melting pot,” and I do believe this. We've just experienced another holiday season that proves this, as exemplified by the variety of celebrations that took place, including Kwanzaa, Hanukah, Christmas, and many others from all over the world.

Contrary to the words of a current presidential candidate, the immigrants are not “poisoning the blood of our country.” These people are making us stronger and better, and, safeguarding the uniqueness of each cultural group is what makes America so rich, not necessarily in terms of money but in terms of our very humanity. The many ways we celebrate, remember the past, and imagine the future comprise our national identity. This is something that should be encouraged through diversity, equity, and inclusion in all aspects of American life. This is how the rest of the world must see us and how we should see ourselves.

Sandra Mazzuola
President



Mentor Program

While we always love our girls in the Mentor Program, this group is particularly special. They had a long day on December 16th! It started at 8am at the Commodities warehouse where they joined Rosa Solis and Julie Pichardo to assemble food baskets. Sponsored by the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), it is a morning of hard work and cold temperatures, but they persevered to aid less fortunate families.



They had a few short hours at home to clean up, rest and thaw out before meeting at La Palma Mexican restaurant to share a holiday meal. From there we proceeded to the Stockton Civic Theater to see "Beauty and the Beast." Our front row seats afforded great views of the stage as well as the orchestra pit. The production was very well done and our girls were thrilled! After the show they took photos with the cast and there were smiles all around.



The mentors met via zoom on December 4th to plan our 2024 program activities.

Our next will be held on January 27th when members of the "Cleveland Remembers" association will come to discuss mental health awareness.

Happy New Year to all Stockton Branch members whose generosity has supported our program.

KATHLEEN M. SOLARI, CPA

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Our **AAUW/DKG DEI Discussion Group** has taken a brief hiatus from the end of December to the beginning of January but we are ready to start meeting again. Because there is so much going on that is of special interest to members of our group, everyone is anxious to get back together. Of course, new members are always welcome and encouraged to join us. Our schedule will be the same, the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 4:30pm on Zoom. Although, the Zoom link will always be the same, it will be sent out with the reminder before each of our meetings. The Zoom link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8263158495?pwd=czJQbC8xWWU2alNNTEhFZUIrZWg5UT09>

Meeting ID: 826 315 8495

Passcode: 177426

We hope to see you on Thursday, January 11th, 4:30pm on Zoom.

In addition, **Follow up Fridays** will continue on the Fridays following our Discussion Group Meetings. Please join us on Friday, January 12th at 11:30 at The Well, 1200 N. Center.

For more information, please contact Barbara St. Urbain, sturbainb@mjc.edu or (209) 603-5365.



Get ready for Lobby Days – April 2nd & 3rd. They will be here before you know it! Let me know if you are interested in joining this year so I can make sure appropriate information gets forwarded to you. If you plan to participate, there is also a mandatory training webinar on March 25th, which will probably last 1-2 hours. The details on that will be given at a later date.

Starting in January, AAUW-California Public Policy committee will evaluate new bills introduced in the state legislature which are aligned with our Public Policy Priorities: Economic Security for All Women, Equal Access to Quality Public Education for All Students, Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society, and Increased Representation of Women in Leadership Roles. In early March, the committee will meet to discuss those evaluations and select 30-35 bills for the 2024 Legislative Agenda that best represent AAUW priorities & also choose the top 3 bills to advocate for during Lobby Days.

Lobby Days 2024 is scheduled to take place when the legislature returns to session after the Easter break, and will last two days to provide enough flexibility to secure as many meetings as possible. A hybrid event is being scheduled with some meetings over Zoom as well as some in-person at the Capitol. This is an excellent venue to make sure that our legislators are aware of AAUW & what our mission is. Everyone needs to know that the women in AAUW are a force to be reckoned with!

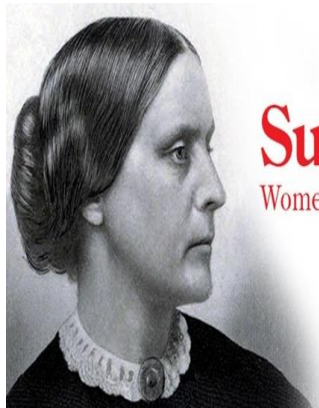
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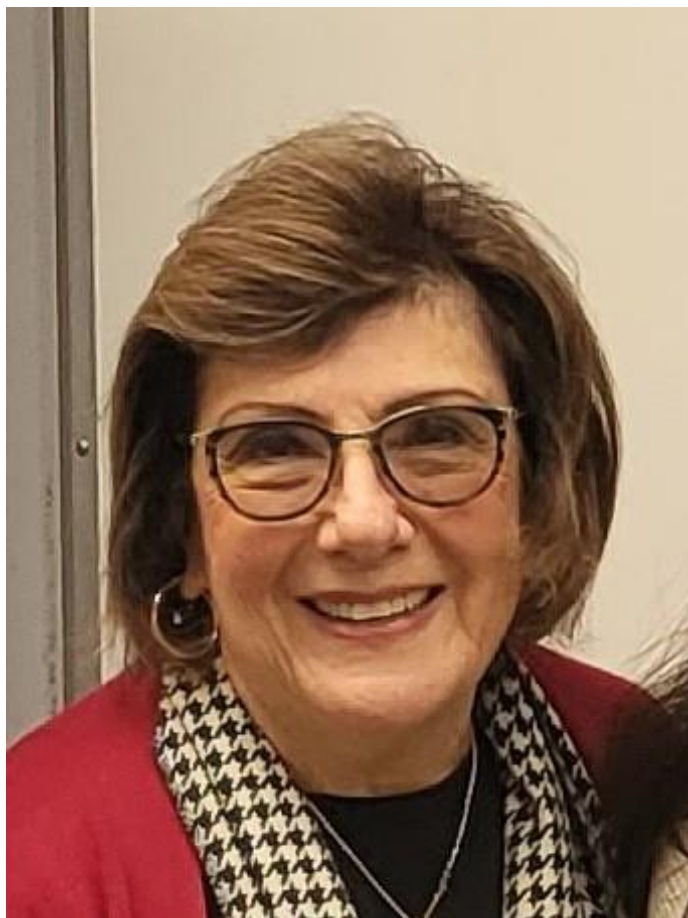
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Susan B. Anthony

Women of Achievement Awards

Congratulations to Diane Oren, who was chosen as our Susan B. Anthony Award winner for her dedication and commitment to the field of education. Diane taught high school in Manteca and at San Joaquin Delta College in the English Department for many years. She now serves as membership chair for AAUW Stockton and is involved in many other services organizations. She is a truly deserving selection.



Diane Oren

✂ Directory updates:

Please welcome New Member:

Loretta Lee

529 W. Willow St.

Stockton, 95203

Cell: (209) 244-6870

E-Mail: lorettalee209@gmail.com

UC Santa Barbara

Please add to your directory under New Members, page 20

Please add late renewal to your Directory:

Sharon Jarvis

1432 S Tuxedo Ave.

Stockton, 95204

Cell: (916) 284-9871

E-Mail: river9rat@gmail.com



First Unitarian Universalist Church Of Stockton

-A Liberal Religious Community-

2737 Pacific Ave. at Bristol St.

(Sunday School; Childcare Provided)

Contact Us: stocktonuu.org (209)466-7743
contact@stocktonuu.org

We affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person and are a welcoming congregation.

Book Club Lite

January 31st, 2024 – 1pm

Sugar Mediterranean Bistro

Hostessed by Amy Lovett-Cooper

Book: The Secret Book of Flora Lea

By Patti Callahan Henry

2023 Fellows and Grant Recipients



Help select an AAUW Fund Scholar for our June Meeting!

WHAT: In past years, several Stockton Branch members would attend the Northern California version of the Fellows Luncheon, pre-Covid in person at a lovely venue but virtually since 2020. Grant recipients would explain how our Fund dollars had enabled them to pursue their post-graduate dreams. Most years we'd invite an inspiring presenter to our June meeting where she'd further describe her project. Last year, we registered to watch 39 presenters in four groups with a different set of scholars speaking at each session.

This year, 34 inspiring California fellow and grant recipients are studying in California and are available to share nuggets of their fascinating studies. Watch the short video introduction by each scholar and see what and who your AAUW Fund dollars support. Learn about such projects as Race and Gender in U.S. Immigration Policy, Architecture + Advocacy, Screenwriting, Art Therapy, and other topics. Please do NOT request a speaker for our June meeting. See **FEEDBACK.**

COST: Free! You will only be invited to donate to the AAUW Fund.

WHERE: In the comfort of your own home, sip a hot beverage and enjoy the inspirational stories of our AAUW scholars.

WHEN: View the presentations anytime at your convenience, without registering for a specific date and time as in the past.

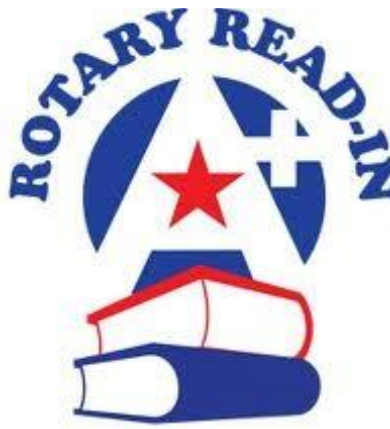
HOW:

- 1) On your device, go to [AAUW-California](#).
- 2) Select AAUW Fund—Internal Archives.
- 3) Scroll to AAUW 2023 Fund Fellows and Grant Recipients. Below the group photos of the scholars, click on Read More.
- 4) You may watch a video for any or all of the scholars in each of three groups of about 11 each.
- 5) After the video section, there are biographies/photos of each scholar with their institution of higher education, degrees, areas of study, and project names.

YOUR FEEDBACK:

We will try to recruit one of the scholars to speak at our June branch meeting. Please note your opinions about the presenters based on such elements as *how well the person held your attention, *the value of her project, *how compelling her life journey is, etc. Choose your favorite three presenters and send to Cindy by text or email by March 1st. Your comments will affect our request for our June meeting speaker.

Cindy Milford: (209) 481-2227 OR askwhynotnow@gmail.com



Rotary Read-In, 2024!

What's the Read-In? With the goal of supporting literacy, local Rotary Club chapters have sponsored the annual Rotary Read-In for 32 years. Volunteer readers as individuals or from groups (churches, businesses, and community organizations including AAUW) are assigned a primary classroom in a public school in Stockton, Lodi, or Manteca. Each reader buys a book to share with their particular kindergarten--third grade class then presents it to the children after it is read. In 2023, 62 schools were visited by readers!

How does our Branch participate? Last February 23 by 9:45am, nine enthusiastic and well-prepared Branch members descended on the office then staff lounge at Kennedy Elementary School in North Stockton. Student leaders escorted readers to their classes. At 10:00am, our nine AAUW volunteers began to share their special books. After their 30 minute book-share, readers returned to the lounge to enjoy refreshments, discuss their experiences, and pose for a photo for the Steamer. All left with the sense that they had supported literacy in a joyful way and had bolstered classroom libraries. We'll do the same this year. Read on!

How might you become a Rotary Read-In Reader? The 33rd Rotary Read-In will happen on Thursday, February 29, at 10:00am. *Join the Read-In Crew!*

>>>Contact Cindy Milford.

"" >By January 21. Assignments will be made in the order of your volunteering date—first come, first served.

>Phone or text: (209) 481-2227

OR

>Email: askwhynotnow@gmail.com

>>>Tell her the following information:

>Your name, phone number (cell preferred), and email address

>Your grade preference from the following (The numbers indicate how many classes are on that grade level.) If you will take any level, say "any level, as needed". I'll respond to your message ASAP.

Transitional K	1
K	2
1 st	2
2 nd	2
3 rd	2
3 rd -5 th —Autistic Special Day	2

Enjoy sharing a story and brightening the day of a group of children! Join the Rotary Read-In Crew!

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.**

Value Promise: 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.

January Calendar

Day	Date	Time	Event	Location/Contact
Thu	11	4:30pm	DEI Meeting	Online via Zoom
Sun	14	All Day	Reservation Deadline	Betty Parsons - (408) 309-8958
Mon	15	6:00pm	January Board Meeting	Online via Zoom
Sat	20	9:30am	AAUW Jan. Meeting – “The Key to DEI”	Central United Methodist Church
Wed	31	1:00pm	Book Club Lite	Sugar Mediterranean Bistro