

Celebrating Women's History Month!

(... or, How 100,000 Women Fell Victim to an Idealist)

Saturday, March 18th

Central United Methodist Church – Fireside Room

The March meeting offers a peek into *Entranced by Illusion: E.G. Lewis and the American Woman's Republic*, facilitated by reprints of 24 rare photographs to take home.

A great national movement of more than 100,000 women seeking personal improvements for themselves and their families – and also a chance at obtaining the right to vote – will be the topic of this month's AAUW branch meeting.

The presentation, marking Women's History Month, covers how an idealistic publisher, Edward G. Lewis, founded two cities and the American Woman's Republic, formed to operate in a parallel fashion with the United States Government.

We gather at 9:30am on Saturday, March 18th, in the Fireside Room at Central United Methodist Church for the presentation by Mary Jo Gohlke, a member who has researched and written about the little-known organization and its enigmatic leader.

The group called the American Woman's League was started first in 1907, then morphed into the Republic four years later. Lewis's flamboyant schemes resulted in disaster for the organizations, though he raised millions as "the champion borrower of them all."



Regents of the American Woman's League

Schedule:

9:30am	Check-in
10:30am	Meeting Begins
10:15am	Guest Speaker

Cost: \$10 to Cover Room Rental.
 Coffee and Snacks Included.

Reservation Deadline: Sunday, March

Contact Betty Parsons, Reservation Chair, at
 (408) 309-8958 or bjpars_95120@yahoo.com

A RESERVATION MADE IS A RESERVATION PAID

President's Message



Gender Apartheid

Apartheid was the court-mandated segregation that was the rule of law in South Africa. This obvious human rights violation ended in 1994. However, the ideology that spawned apartheid, that some people are less important or have less value than others, has not gone away. Instead, there has been a change of focus from race to gender. Certainly, racial bias has not ended, but attitudes towards women's rights in some countries have morphed into something akin to "gender apartheid."

Cases in point would be the actions of the Taliban in Afghanistan and the morality police in Iran. Extreme gender apartheid led to the death of a Kurdish Iranian woman, Mahsa Amini, while she was in detention for not wearing her hijab according to the rules. Many protests followed her death, not only in Iran but around the world. In Iran, many protestors were killed, and over 19,000 were arrested, with many of them sentenced to death.

In Afghanistan under the Taliban, women are denied voting rights, girls as young as nine can be forced to marry, women are not allowed to dance, travel, or go shopping without their husband or father's permissions. They often have to have a chaperone accompany them when going anywhere outside of the home. Their hair must be covered because it is believed that men cannot control themselves. Therefore, if a woman is raped while unveiled, it is considered her fault.

In both countries the government took away everything except hope. One can imagine the day when women and girls currently enslaved under these laws will defiantly burn their scarves and be granted equal rights.

Women in the United States enjoy measures of freedom unknown in some countries. However, especially during this Women's History Month, we must consider the women victimized and denied basic rights solely because of their gender.

"Our lives begin to end the day we remain silent about things that matter." Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Sandra Mazzuola
President



2022-2023

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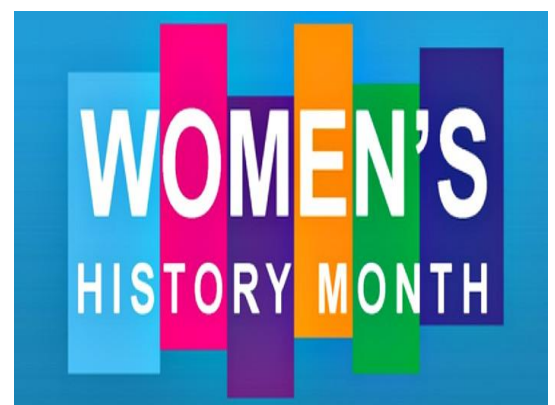
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Editor

John Milford

studio@prodgod.com

(209) 952-0547

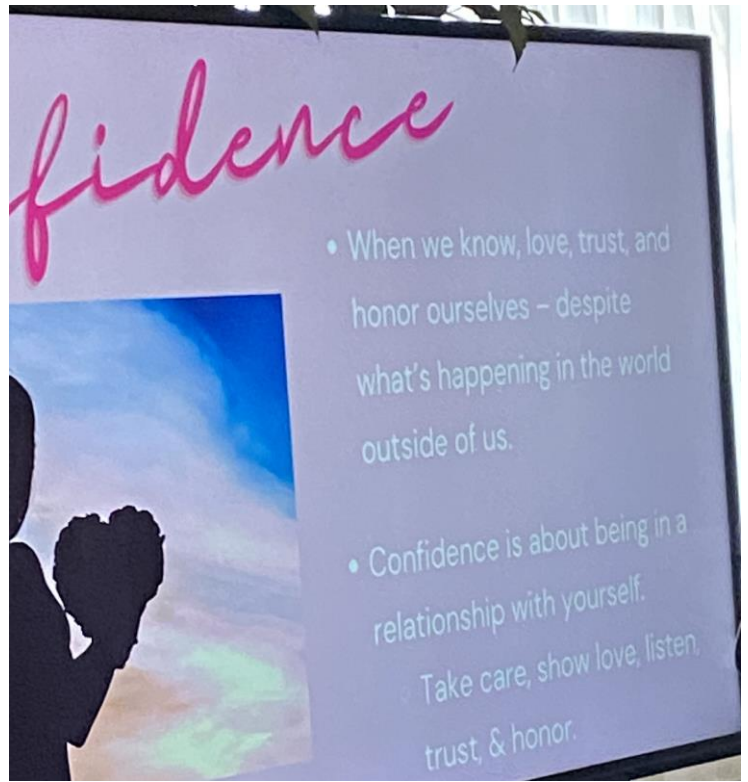



Mentor Program

How many of us wish we had found out, as young women, that we already had the courage within us to do the things we wanted to do? How would our lives have been different had we learned that confidence is not a skill, but a relationship with ourselves that we cultivate? These are some of the values that our girls in the mentor program learned of at our workshop on February 25th. Held at the home of Rosa Solis, Robin Angela Baglietto who is a Life Coach and Motivational Speaker, addressed our girls. The goal of this workshop was to help our girls re-define a "good girl" as a woman who knows, loves, trusts and honors herself despite what is happening in the world around her. Robin communicated tips to equip our girls with tools and strategies for making things possible. We hope that this experience left them feeling more confident and empowered and with an understanding that their voice can change the world. We all came away with materials that we intend to revisit at mentor group activities in the future.



Our next activity will be a tour of U.C. Merced on March 25th.



 **KEMPER**
CPA GROUP LLP
Certified Public Accountants and Consultants

Christine Franklin, CPA
Partner

3031 W. March Lane
Suite 133 South
Stockton, CA 95219

Phone: (209) 473-2001

Fax: (209) 473-1761

kempercpa.com

E-mail: cfranklin@kcpag.com

Hear ye! Hear Ye! Please read:

National membership dues are being raised to **\$72** effective **April 1st, 2023**. State and Branch dues will continue to be \$20 each. **Total dues \$112 for new or renewing members.**

One-half National dues or \$36 will still be in effect for new members joining at a meeting or event. This is the Shape the Future program. Total dues paid would be \$76.

Most new members joining in the past year will have an anniversary renewal date of one year. You will be notified by the Stockton Branch if this new system affects you.

Other changes in the system will be reviewed by the Branch Board and you, our members, will be informed of any other system changes. Thank you for being the best AAUW members.

AAUW California Speech Trek

Those who chose to attend the annual Speech Trek competition held this year at O'Connor Woods on February 16th were treated to a glimpse of what our youth are thinking.

Area high school students were tasked with delivering a 5-6 minute speech on the topic "How can communities, organizations, and citizens of all ages help to protect and expand voting rights?"

This is a community outreach project of the Stockton Branch of AAUW and is endowed by the late Ginger DeBow, past president and accomplished educator. The first place winner, Samantha Williams from Bear Creek High School earned \$300 for her efforts and will now go on to the regional, and hopefully the state level for the chance to win \$1,500.

[You can view her speech on You Tube.](#)

This project could not happen without the assistance of members. Thanks go to the judges, Tom Jones, Hugh Lily and Cheryl Meeker. Jeanne Gaia was again the official timer and Ronda Sanders was the videographer.



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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.



On March 28th, 6:30-8pm, the DEI Discussion Group will meet to discuss Ageism. In an age when youth seems to be revered and aging is seen as something to be feared, it may be just the right time to explore this complicated topic. The DEI Committee would like to invite you all to bring your ideas, anecdotes and personal insights to our meeting so we can have an open and frank discussion of a topic that should concern us all. As we get closer to the 28th, we will send out a Zoom link that will connect you to the meeting. If you have any questions about the meeting, please contact Barbara St. Urbain, DEI Coordinator, (209) 603-5365.

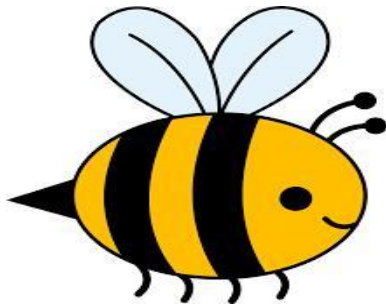
We hope to see you on the 28th.

KATHLEEN M. SOLARI, CPA

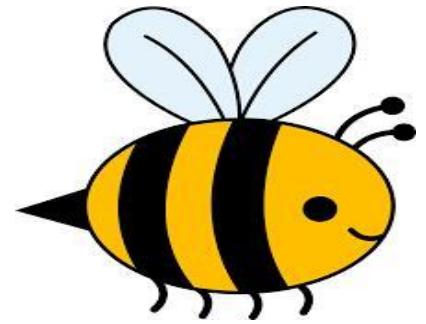
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(209) 957-3691, Ext. 311
FAX (209) 957-0841

3031 West March Lane
Suite 300-E
Stockton, California 95219
www.iacopi.com
E-Mail: ksolari@iacopi.com



AAUW Fund News!



2022 Named Gift Honorees: The Wonder Bees!

Why do we have "Named Gift Awards"? AAUW's Mission of promoting equity for women and girls is supported by contributions to The AAUW Fund, composed of four "sub funds": ♦AAUW Greatest Needs, ♦Education and Training, ♦Economic Security, and ♦Leadership. The Stockton Branch raises money annually via our Home Tour and individual contributions; however, this year we didn't have a tour and relied solely on our individual gifts. For each \$750 in contributions to the various funds listed above in a calendar year (January-December), the Branch may honor one member for extraordinary service to the Branch by making the contribution in that member's name. This honor is known as the Named Gift Award. Although Branch contributions usually could allow many honorees, we traditionally recognize one to four members at the June branch meeting of the following year. Past award recipients are listed in our Branch Directory.

Why do we call our Named Gift Honorees "Wonder Bees"? About a decade ago, Stockton Branch's Trivia Bee logo was a Wonder Bee, modeled after Wonder Woman. We adopted "Wonder Bee" as the title for each hard-working Named Gift Honoree. In our Stockton AAUW colony, these exceptional individuals work for the good of the group, becoming essential to the welfare of the hive.

How will the 2022 honorees be revealed? Despite the fact that we didn't hold a home tour this year, 28 Branch members, listed below, contributed a total of \$3,991 to the AAUW Fund! Some members made multiple donations. Attend our in-person general meeting on the morning of June 10th to celebrate our fundraising success and to learn the Wonder Bees' identities!

👍 Thank you, 2022 Supporters of the AAUW Fund! 👍

Together these generous women raised \$3,991 to promote equity for women and girls!

Cortelyou, Heidi
Filson, Ann
Foster, Colleen
Gray-Rieber, Jennifer
Guttieri, Peggy
Hammel,. Donna
Hart, Kathy
Holleman, Nancy
Indelicato, Mary
Kenmotsu,Sue

Lagier, Marilyn
Lopez, Jessica
Mazzuola, Sandy
Milford, Cindy
Miller, Pat
Morgali, Diane
Outlaw, Bette
Peebles, Kathleen
Ray, Joan
Smith, Constance

St. John, Irma
Stauffer, Diane
Thiele, Erin
To-Cowell, Van Ha
Tolliver, Alice
Voss, Patricia
Wallinger, Bobbie
Wischhusen, Carolyn



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.

March Calendar

Day	Date	Time	Event	Location/Contact
Sun	12	All Day	Reservation Deadline	Betty Parsons - (408) 309-8958
Mon	13	6:00pm	AAUW Board Meeting	Online via Zoom
Sat	18	9:30am	Program: Celebrating Women's History Month!	Central United Methodist Church
Tue	28	6:30-8pm	DEI Discussion Group Meeting - Ageism	Online via Zoom
Fri	31	10-11:30am	Cultural Awareness and Diversity: LBGQT 101	Pride Center