

Celebrate the End of the Season

Saturday, June 7th, 2025 – 9:30am

O'Connor Woods West Hall - 3400 Wagner Heights Rd.

The last meeting of the 2024 - 2025 Stockton AAUW calendar year will be Saturday, June 7th at O'Connor Woods, West Hall. AAUW members will connect and celebrate another great year of AAUW programs and community outreach projects. We'll hear from our newest Delta College scholarship recipients and this year's Named Gift Award honorees will be revealed.

At a time when membership in organizations is flagging, AAUW's mission of advancing gender equity through education and advocacy attracts new members. Our collaborations with like-minded organizations such as the Stockton Women's Collaborative and the newly formed San Joaquin Coalition for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (SJC4DEI) help to amplify our voice.

If you know someone who might consider AAUW membership, invite them to the June meeting. They will be greeted warmly and they are sure to be inspired.

When: Saturday, June 7th, 9:30am

Where: O'Connor Woods West Hall
3400 Wagner Heights Rd.

Cost: \$10

Reservation Deadline: Wednesday, June 4th

Connect with your caller or contact Betty Parsons
@ (408) 309-8958 bjpars_95120@yahoo.com

A RESERVATION MADE IS A RESERVATION PAID

President's Message



"Who am I to judge? We should build bridges, not walls. We all belong to the same human family."

The above were all expressions of the philosophy and beliefs of Pope Francis, whose death on April 21 at the age of 88, came at a time when we are in dire need of his kindness and compassion. From the time I learned that he had taken the Papal name Francis, I knew that he would be different from most popes, and he was. He accepted people who had been on the fringes of the faith, including members of the LGBTQ+ community. Instead of deporting, he rescued migrants from Syria and other countries and invited them into Vatican City and Rome to care for them. To him there were no strangers, and no one was labeled a criminal because of where they came from or their position in society. I say this to contrast what is happening in the United States at the hands of the present administration.

Well, Pope Francis is gone, but we cannot let his legacy of love and compassion die with him. I pray that the Pope Leo will continue to follow the same path that Pope Francis set for the church and the world. It is also up to all of us to take up the causes he fought for through his life and papacy. How do we do this? Most of us don't have the influence to change policy on our own, so we must work with others to promote change.

In the short term what we can do is to recognize that we are all "members of the same human family." Be kind to each other. Small acts of kindness such as smiling at strangers, volunteering your time to causes you care about, donating to charity, or offering to help a friend or neighbor can make someone's day. At a time when there appears to be an overwhelming amount of cruelty, we can counter this with acts of kindness as Pope Francis did. Let's try to live up to his example.

Have a pleasant summer and be kind to each other.

Sandra Mazzuola
President

2024-2025 Elected Board of Directors

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Mentor Program

This is a bittersweet time of year for the mentors. We take pride in our seniors and often marvel at how they have developed since our first encounter with them as 7th grade Tech Trekkers. But we will surely miss them! We plan to fete them at a swim party on May 31st at the Cape Cottages, and their last activity with us will be our summer retreat in June. Because we have received some generous donations we will be able to spend three days at the Asilomar Conference center in Pacific Grove. While there, we plan to tour UC Monterey, ocean kayak, Ebike, visit the Monterey Bay Aquarium, take a ghost tour, mini golf, hike and journal the heck out of things. Thank you to our generous donors. Watch our Facebook page to experience these activities along with us.



Queen Peng



Marissa Garduno



Edith Mercado Sanchez



Get your Membership renewals in! Dues remain \$114 until the end of June. On July 1st, 2025 dues increase to \$124, following the state increase of \$10. If you have not yet completed your renewal, bring your checkbook or credit card to the June 7th meeting. Renewal forms will be available to complete on the spot. Dues and renewal forms can be mailed to Claudia Mennuti, 9027 Frankford Lane, Stockton, CA 95212. \$74 of the national dues are tax deductible.

You can also support the important branch community programs at renewal time. Please write separate checks for each donation to facilitate more efficient check processing for the branch treasurer. Need a renewal form? It can be found on the branch website (see information below), or contact Claudia at (209) 603-7190.

Membership can be renewed using the interactive PDF membership form on the website. Go to aauwstockton.org to use [PayPal](https://www.paypal.com) to make your payment, then complete the interactive form and sent it electronically to Claudia Mennuti, cmennuti@comcast.net. Both steps need to be completed. You can also make donations to our community programs on that website. There will be a 3% convenience charge for using electronic payment for dues.

All members receive a directory of current members for the new year. Of course, we want all members included, so please help us to go to press on time by renewing your membership before it expires in June.



Why Belong to AAUW?

Diane Oren, Membership Stockton Branch

This is an excerpt from a message sent from the Chief Executive Officer of AAUW about the new Strategic Plan; however, its message reaffirms the reason we belong to Stockton Branch AAUW.

For more than 140 years, AAUW has led the fight for gender equity in higher education and beyond. With a strong record of advocacy and action, AAUW continues to break barriers and defend the rights of women in education and the workplace.

This new strategic plan reaffirms our core belief that education is the foundation of equity. At a time when higher education is threatened, we have chosen to center our work on advancing women in higher education, thus sharpening our focus and strengthening our ability to make a lasting impact.

Our new strategic vision ensures that AAUW is equipped to meet the moment, reaffirming our mission and leveraging our collective strength to protect and expand decades of hard-fought progress toward equal opportunity in higher education.

We are building on our deep legacy with renewed energy, bringing our community together to advocate boldly, fund and support women scholars, and expand access to the opportunities that education makes possible. In practice, this looks like:

- Investing directly in women's access to higher education, advancing their success in academia and research, and fostering women's leadership.
- Championing gender equity by advocating for inclusive policies that remove barriers to success in higher education and the workplace.
- Supporting local state and branch efforts that further AAUW's mission and vision

As AAUW's leadership, we are proud to stand behind this vision and energized by what lies ahead. We believe in the power of advancing equity in higher education and invite you to stay connected, follow our work, and get involved with AAUW as we move forward together.

Gloria L. Blackwell, Chief Executive Officer, AAUW
Cheryl Sorokin Outgoing Chair, AAUW Board of Directors
Dianne Owen Incoming Chair, AAUW Board of Directors



Understanding Equal and Equitable Interventions

Exploring the Difference Between Equality and Equity in Practical Contexts

Introduction

In both social and professional contexts, the terms "equality" and "equity" are often used to describe how resources, opportunities, or assistance are distributed. While these terms are sometimes incorrectly used interchangeably, they represent distinct approaches to addressing individual or group needs. Equality emphasizes providing the same level of intervention to everyone, while equity focuses on tailoring interventions to ensure fairness by addressing specific needs or disparities. Understanding this difference is paramount in creating effective policies and practices that foster inclusion, justice, and success.

Situations with Equal Interventions

Equal interventions involve providing the same resource, opportunity, or support to all individuals, regardless of their unique circumstances or needs. This approach assumes that everyone can benefit equally from the same level or type of assistance. Here are a few examples:

1. Education: Uniform Access to Technology

In a school setting, equal intervention might involve providing every student with a laptop, regardless of their socioeconomic background or prior access to technology. The goal is to ensure that all students have the same tools to participate in learning activities.

2. Healthcare: Standardized Vaccination Programs

A public health campaign to vaccinate against a specific disease would be an example of equal

intervention if the healthcare system offers the same vaccine to every individual in the population, irrespective of location, age, or medical history.

3. Workplace: Identical Training Opportunities

In a corporate environment, equal intervention might involve offering the same training sessions or professional development courses to every employee, regardless of their roles, tenure, or career aspirations.

While this approach promotes uniformity, it doesn't always address the varied needs and challenges faced by individuals, which is where equity becomes critical.

Situations with Equitable Interventions

Equitable interventions, on the other hand, involve understanding and addressing the unique circumstances of individuals or groups to achieve fairness. This may require providing different levels of support to ensure that everyone has an equal opportunity to succeed. Here are examples of equitable interventions:

1. Education: Personalized Support for Learning

In the same school scenario, an equitable approach might involve identifying students who lack prior access to technology or who face additional learning challenges. These students could be provided with extra guidance, internet access, or supplementary tools to bridge the gap and ensure they can fully participate in their education.

2. Healthcare: Targeted Health Outreach

In contrast to a blanket vaccination program, an equitable healthcare intervention might involve offering additional outreach, transportation, or resources to populations in rural or underserved areas to ensure they have equal access to the vaccine.

3. Workplace: Tailored Career Development

Rather than offering the same training to all employees, equitable interventions in the workplace could involve providing customized mentorship or skill-building opportunities to individuals from underrepresented groups to help level the playing field and foster diversity.

The Importance of Context

The distinction between equality and equity becomes evident in how effectively each approach addresses challenges. Equal interventions are effective in situations where everyone starts from the same baseline or faces similar challenges. However, in contexts where disparities exist, equitable interventions are necessary to account for those differences. For example, equitable approaches can help dismantle systemic barriers, provide access to opportunities, and empower individuals to achieve their fullest potential.

Conclusion

Understanding and applying the concepts of equality and equity are essential for creating inclusive and fair systems, whether in education, healthcare, the workplace, or society at large. While equal interventions promote uniformity, equitable interventions strive for justice by addressing disparities and individual needs. By recognizing when to apply each approach, we can ensure that resources, opportunities, and support are distributed in a way that truly benefits all members of a community.

Please think about situations in which you would want to use equal interventions to achieve your goals and others where equitable interventions would be preferred.

Written with the assistance of AI.



SCHOOL BOARD PROJECT

Monitors & Observers Training

If you missed the April 24 training on how to be an effective school board monitor and observer, co-sponsored by AAUW California School Board Project and the Public School Defenders Hub, you can watch the recording at [School Board Project Monitors & Observers Training](#).

Public Education in California: Does it really put our students at risk? **NO!**

AAUW believes:

- Parents & guardians have the right & responsibility to know what their students are taught
- The state has a duty to ensure public schools are safe places where all students feel valued & have the opportunity to thrive
- When it comes to values & beliefs, America isn't & never was "one-size fits all" nor should public schools be

Are public school teachers really pushing a politically-motivated agenda & indoctrinating our children with their own values? **NO!**

Does the California Healthy Youth Act (CHYA) require teaching of a "non-family friendly" Comprehensive Sexuality Education Curriculum (CSE)? **NO!**

The Dept. of Education, drawing from longstanding independent research, has shown that CSE is overwhelmingly positive & promotes things like:

- Safe relationships & behaviors
- Healthy attitudes regarding adolescent development
- Understanding of sexuality as a normal aspect of human development
- Important reproductive health & wellness education
- Accurate & comprehensive sexual health information
- Improved social & emotional learning
- Increased media literacy

If you disagree with CHYA or CSE, you can opt your student out of certain curricula

Stay informed! Learn what is actually required at [California Department of Education](#).

**KEMPER**
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2025-2026 AAUW Scholarship Recipients

Drumroll, please!

The AAUW Scholarship Committee is delighted to introduce our three recipients of the 2025-2026 AAUW Scholarship. These amazing young women impressed us with their academic achievements, community involvement and inspiring visions for the future. We are honored to support them as they continue their educational journeys.

Congratulations to our following 2025-2026 AAUW Scholarship Recipients

- **Mabel Gutierrez** will be attending San Francisco State where she will be majoring in Criminal Justice Studies. Her goals are to enter into the legal profession as a paralegal or as an evidence technician.
- **Bibi Amenah Khaliq** has been accepted and will be attending San Jose State where she will be majoring in Business Administration with focus in Accounting. Her goal is to become a certified public accountant and one day open her own accounting firm.
- **Mehreen Wisal**, a re-entry student, will be attending UC Davis and majoring as a Pre-Med student with a focus in Biology. After receiving her bachelor's degree in Biology, she plans to take the MCAT to attend medical school with the goal of becoming a Doctor of Internal Medicine or Oncologist.

Each of our recipients will be receiving a \$2000 scholarship for their first year at their chosen universities. A huge thank you to the generous donations from our branch members and The

Tolliver Family Revocable Trust. We wouldn't be able to provide these scholarships without you.

I would also like to thank my scholarship selection committee members, Leslie Balestracci and Dana Miller-Tart, for their participation this year in reviewing and selecting our recipients. Your thoughtful perspectives and dedication made this process a joy. From reading applications to discussing each candidate's journey, your hard-work and partnership made all the difference.

Our recipients have been invited to attend our June 7th branch meeting. We hope you will join us in welcoming these incredible young women and hear their inspiring stories.

Jennifer Balestracci
AAUW Scholarship Chairperson

It's Tea Time: Save the Date!

Mark your calendar for the annual Thanks for Giving Tea on Saturday, November 8th. The planning has already begun. Sign-ups will start at the June meeting and continue in the fall. The help of all members is needed to make this a financial success. The proceeds from the tea fund all the Branch's community outreach programs.

How could you help? Volunteer to hostess and set a table for eight. Make a batch, or two, of cookies or savory items (all recipes provided). Help secure financial contributions to underwrite the event. Get donations for raffle baskets, help put together baskets, ask vendors where you shop for a donation (donation letters will be sent via email this summer). A person or team willing to oversee the entire raffle is needed – (get together a team from your interest group to chair the raffle committee). Clean out your closets and donate items you may wish to re-gift, then donate them to the raffle committee. People are needed the day of the event to assist with duties including set up and clean-up.

There is something that every member can do to contribute to the event. Sign up at the June 7th meeting or contact: Claudia Mennuti (food/logistics) (209) 603-7190, Ronda Sanders (program/logistics) (209) 662-3999, or Diane Stauffer (hostesses) (209) 423-6474.

Spotlight on New Members



Kim Bell

We welcome Kim Bell to our branch. After working in the business world nationally for a good many years Kim, like many of us, retired from teaching five years ago. She taught high school English to mostly seniors and says she loved bringing the subject alive for her students. Her business background aided in a no-nonsense classroom management style.

Kim is a newlywed who has been married to "a great guy" for just four years. She single handedly raised her son, of whom she is very proud. He is an electrical engineer who will be moving to the Midwest soon with his wife, who will be doing her Emergency Room residency.

Kim has been recuperating from surgery for the past couple of years but is ready to branch out a bit more. She hopes that she and her hubby will resume their travels soon. She has also been an avid knitter for 60 years and gives most of her creations away. She truly believes that knitting is an art form. In fact, she would like to form a knitting/crocheting interest group (stitch and bitch?) if others are interested.

Although Kim describes herself as being a "chatty introvert," she is glad to be a member of our branch and looks forward to getting to know more members.

Book Club Lite

Book Club Lite is an amiable group of members who meet for lunch monthly to discuss (just a bit) the current book selection. Actually reading the book is not an absolute requirement! Our next "meeting" will be at Thai Me Up restaurant at noon on June 24th. We have chosen Sarah's Key by Tatiana De Rosnay as our selection this month.

Contact Pam Mallett-Jones if you wish to join us!

*Thank
you*

As our wonderful year comes to a close, it's important to acknowledge and thank our callers who provide us with a vital link to Stockton AAUW. A big THANK YOU to all of the callers who have helped me this year as Reservations Chairperson. The monthly volunteer commitment you have made allowed my job go more smoothly. I have enjoyed talking, texting, and our email conversations throughout the year. Your kindness and timely responses are truly appreciated. In addition, I appreciate each member who has sent their responses to their callers so they can do their important work. Our numbers at numerous events have grown due to their outstanding work.

This fall please look for your 2025-2026 Directory and find your caller's name where it is listed. Each month please respond promptly to his/her call, text, or email so he/she will know whether or not you will be attending the meeting.

Thank you,
Betty Parsons
Reservations Chair

Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) Update

[[Note #1](#): AAUW-Stockton has managed the national literacy program Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) for our community since 1978. Currently we serve three targeted Stockton Unified elementary schools: Grunsky, Kennedy, and Van Buren.]

Spring was in full bloom on May 21 at Van Buren Elementary School near the S.J. County Fairgrounds. Excitement filled the air as the class of Transitional Kindergarten children lined up outside the multi-purpose classroom. They were about to experience their very first RIF Book Distribution Day!



Van Buren 1st graders proudly show the books that they can share with their families and keep forever.

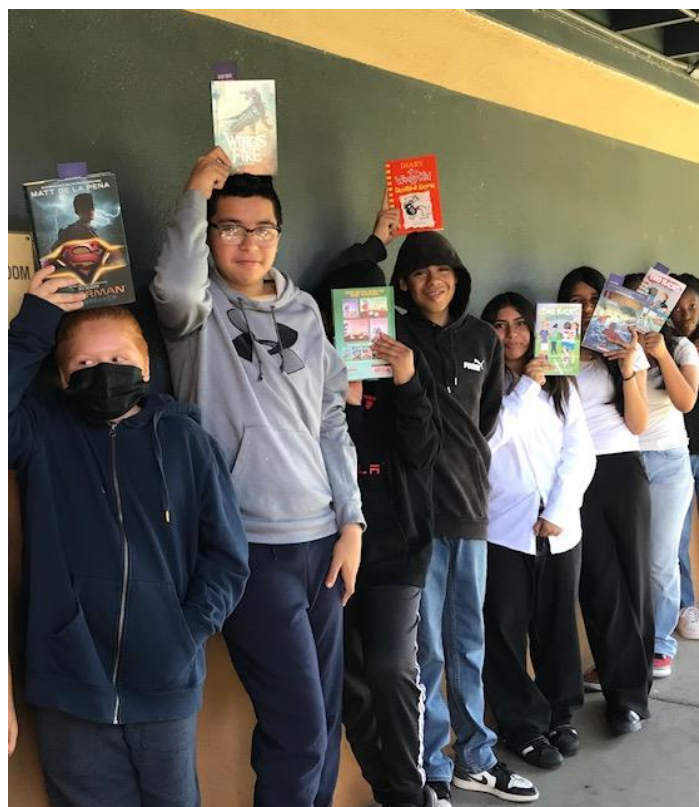
Temporary AAUW/RIF Liaison for Van Buren Cindy Milford and AAUW Volunteer Jan Vernor-Howard had arranged colorful books on five tables. The Transitional Kindergarten youngsters began to “shop”, following Miss Cindy in a line around the tables, passing familiar copies of Clifford the Big Red Dog, Biscuit, and Curious George among scores of other books ordered by Cindy and paid for by AAUW-Stockton’s Community Outreach Fund and by individual members’ donations. After students had taken that initial cursory look at the books, their teacher invited five youngsters who had worked hard all year, who had been especially kind to their classmates, or who had shown great improvement to be the first to choose a book. Soon the rest of the class was also clutching their new books. Jan gave each youngster a bookmark and placed inside the book cover a sticker on which they would write their names when they returned to their classroom. The sticker read: “This new book for _____ is a gift from the American Association of University Women and RIF.” Cindy asked the teacher to choose a book for any absent child. When the entire class had finished selecting books, they lined up to return to their room. Cindy cautioned them, “Hold

your new books close to your hearts as you walk so your book doesn’t slip out of your arms.”



These “almost 3rd graders” can’t wait till they get home to start reading their colorful new books.

This pattern was followed into the afternoon. Van Buren Community Assistant Juan Ayala greeted 16 more classes, a new group every 15 minutes. Most books were on or near that class’s grade level with some easier or more challenging to accommodate all abilities. Various non-fiction and fiction titles tickled the interests of the youngsters. Over 375 books were distributed to appreciative TK-6 students (or to teachers for the absent students).



Even more sophisticated 6th graders appreciate choosing a new volume that is free and reflects their interests.

In this "Era of Screens" where classroom materials usually appear on computers or whole class instruction screens, students of all ages still delight in turning the paper pages of an actual book. Your contributions to RIF have brought the joy of reading to many youngsters—like those pictured here!

[Note #2: People who helped AAUW-Stockton buy RIF books by donating to RIF during the 2024-25 school year (for example, with their recent spring dues renewal or anytime before June 15, 2025) will be listed with gratitude in the September Steamer. You may mail checks payable to AAUW-Stockton with RIF on the Memo Line to Stockton Branch, Inc., P.O. Box 690663, Stockton, CA 95269-0663.]



The Mysterious AAUW Fund Connection to Our Wonder Bees

WHY should we donate to the AAUW Fund?

AAUW's Mission of promoting equity for women and girls is supported by contributions to The AAUW Fund, composed of four "sub funds" described here with their respective ID numbers:

AAUW Greatest Needs Fund (#9110) allows AAUW the flexibility to respond rapidly to new and emerging challenges facing women and girls, and to utilize your gift where it's needed most.

Education and Training Fund (#4450) addresses the barriers and implicit biases that hinder the advancement of women by championing equal access to education and ensuring that education at every level is free from sex discrimination.

Economic Security Fund (#4449) ensures livelihoods for women through achieving pay equity for women, providing training in salary negotiation, and deepening women's retirement security and quality of life.

Leadership Fund (#4452) supports the effort to close the gender gap in leadership opportunities by bolstering the participation of, and increasing the number of, girls and women in leadership roles, particularly in education and nonprofit organizations

HOW may we donate to the AAUW Fund?

To National: If you make an on-line donation with a credit card, supply your member number (get it from Co-Membership Treasurer Claudia Mennuti) so Stockton Branch may be credited with your donation. For a check donation, be sure to write both "Stockton Branch" and the ID# of the fund you're targeting on the Memo Line.

To Stockton Branch:

The Stockton Branch supports the AAUW Fund via budgeted money fortified by proceeds of our November Thanks for Giving Tea and via individual donations sent directly to Claudia. Again, use the Memo Line as described above.

HOW does the money raised relate to the strangely-titled "Named Gift Award?"

For each \$750 in contributions to the various funds listed above in a calendar year (Currently: January 1—December 31 of 2024), 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. We traditionally recognize one to four members, Named Gift Honorees, at the June branch meeting of the following year (2025). Past award recipients are listed in our Branch Directory on pp. 8-9.

WHY do we call our Named Gift Honorees "Wonder Bees"?

A few years 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 indispensable to the welfare of the colony.

WHEN will the 2024-25 honorees be revealed?

In 2024, 23 Branch members contributed a total of \$2,040 to the AAUW Fund, allowing us to nominate TWO (2 x \$750 = \$1,500) Wonder Bees whose identities will be revealed at the June 7 branch meeting.

Remember, the more we donate to the AAUW Fund, the more Wonder Bees we potentially may nominate!

AAUW Stockton Branch, Inc.
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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.

June Calendar

Day	Date	Time	Event	Location/Contact
Mon	2	6:00pm	June Board Meeting	Online via Zoom
Wed	4	All Day	Reservation Deadline	Betty Parsons - (408) 309-8958
Sat	7	9:30am	June Program: "Celebrate the End of the Season"	O'Connor Woods West Hall
Thu	12	4:30-6:00pm	DEI Meeting	Online via Zoom
Thu	26	4:30-6:00pm	DEI Meeting	Online via Zoom