

Celebrate a Year of “Firsts” for Stockton AAUW

Saturday, June 8th, 2024

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

The final meeting of the 2023-2024 Stockton AAUW calendar year is Saturday, June 8th at O’Connor Woods West Hall. We will install a new slate of officers and this year’s Named Gift Honorees will be revealed.

This has been a remarkable, even inspirational year for Stockton AAUW programs. In October we heard from two local Native American activists. In November we held our first fundraising tea, which was a sellout. For the first time our December holiday social was held at a member’s home. Thank you, Diane Stauffer, for your hospitality. Our March meeting speaker was new member Chibwe Chungu, who is originally from Zambia.

For the first time we had two meetings that featured interactive activities led by our own members. In January Erica Dei Rossi led us in a writing activity, and in April Ronda Sanders led us in an art activity. Thanks to Sue Kenmotsu who produced our first digital booklets that allowed all of our members to view the results of both projects.

Thanks to all who made these remarkable “firsts” possible.

When: Saturday, June 8th, 9:30am

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

Cost: \$10

Reservation Deadline: Wednesday, June 5th

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



Think Positively

Are you a “Swiftie?” I really wasn’t before, but I am now. Having watched the movie of Taylor Swift’s “Eras” tour, I am now a fan. Firstly, the woman can sing, dance, and perform with the best of them, and she writes her own songs. Her latest concert tour has consisted of 152 shows across five continents, so far. It is the first tour to surpass \$1 billion in revenue, the highest of all time. The film version of the concert tour was also the highest grossing concert film ever. Originally released only in theaters, it is now available on many streaming services. If you want to know what the fuss is all about, watch it. You won’t be disappointed.

I’m sure you’re wondering “HUH?” She’s writing about Taylor Swift? Nearly all my President’s Messages have been about the political nonsense and bad behavior happening all too often these days. I’ve mentioned wars, homelessness, crime, women’s issues, and other concerns. Why now Taylor Swift? Well, since this is my last President’s Message for this term, and, since our June program is usually uplifting and positive, I decided to accentuate the positive. At this moment, I don’t believe that there is a force on earth more positive than Taylor Swift. Heck, her boyfriend played on the team that won the Super Bowl, and millions of younger viewers watched the game just to catch a glance of Swift with him! So, let’s move forward into summer with some positivity.

Maybe by September, things will be better. There might be peace in Gaza and an end to the humanitarian crisis there. Members of Congress could finally learn to work together for the good of the country and not experience so much turmoil. It’s possible that Marjorie Taylor Green will learn how to behave and to be polite, but probably not. Meaningful legislation to help with the climate crisis might pass. The turmoil on college campuses could have ended by then. We might even learn to treat each person with respect, regardless of differences in culture, religion, race, immigration status, etc.

So, let’s think positively. Relax. Have a great summer. Think about how you might like to get more involved in AAUW and come to our September Branch Meeting raring to go!

Sandra Mazzuola
President

2023-2024

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Sandra Mazzuola

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Karen Frank

Branch Website:

Sue Kenmotsu

aauwstockton.org

Delta Steamer

Published monthly (Sept-June)

Editor

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empowering women since 1881

Mentor Program

It is with bittersweet pride that we bid our graduating seniors goodbye this month. All three are hard workers and destined for greatness. Valerie, the middle child in a family of 10 is on her way to UC Merced where she will be a part of the San Joaquin Valley (SJV) program as a pre-med student! Sarai will attend CSU, San Jose in the fall and will be a part of their Engineering program. Ariathna will be attending Delta College before transferring to a 4 year university program and hopes to be an Ultrasound specialist. All are hard workers and will be the first in their families to attend college! We could not be prouder!



Our seniors' final activity with our group will be our summer retreat in Blue Lake Springs in June. The theme this year is "One Word." We believe that one can choose a word and live it throughout the year in order to be more successful in specific areas. Several activities have been planned around this theme. Watch our branch Facebook page to follow along with our adventure.



Helen Mar is always so supportive of the Mentor Program! Not only does she donate to our program, she also sees that each girl gets a book to take on our retreat each year!



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A reminder of the priorities of AAUW Public Policy:



**2023-2025
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
- Increased Representation of Women in Leadership Roles

As you learned in last month's Steamer, the AAUW/DKG DEI Interest Group is alive and well. We finished up the 2023-24 year by discussing six world religions: Islam, Hinduism, Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (the Mormons), Sikhism, Buddhism and Catholicism. Individual members researched and shared with us what they had learned about each religion. We all were enriched by how much we learned from our fellow group members. We are all better prepared to understand others in our community who are religiously different from ourselves.

The DEI Group has decided to continue meeting throughout the summer with members of OLLI's DEI Special Interest Group. We will be meeting on Barbara St. Urbain's Zoom link from 4:30-6pm the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of June, July and August. Everyone is welcome.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8263158495>

Meeting ID: 826 315 8495

Contact Barbara St. Urbain for more information.

This month, you are reminded that you can sign up to get action alerts sent directly to your inbox. This year's legislation is moving along smoothly, however, you are invited to test out one portion of AAUW's alert system: Resistbot. Click on THIS LINK:

<https://resist.bot/petitions/PMWZAZ>) & "sign" the petition in support of SB 554. When you "sign," Resistbot will prompt you, through your preferred text message system, to send a letter with the petition text to your California State Senator. Make sure it all works for you now, before you need it!



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Church Of Stockton**
-A Liberal Religious Community-
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(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.

KATHLEEN M. SOLARI, CPA

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Reading Is
Fundamental

Reading Is Fundamental Update

Each month in the spring of school year 2023-24, the Steamer has focused on a RIF book distribution. In April, we visited the multi-purpose room, AKA “the cafeteria,” of East Stockton’s Grunsky Elementary School. May’s site was a multi-use classroom in South Stockton’s Van Buren Elementary School. This month, we are journeying to **Kennedy Elementary School** in North Stockton.



A 2nd grader shows his possible book choice to AAUW/RIF Liaison for Kennedy Cindy Milford.

AAUW/RIF Liaison for Kennedy Cindy Milford readied over 1,000 books in early May, integrating newly-arrived titles into the on-hand inventory, then boxing them by reading level and type. Many books would be needed because this year, AAUW/RIF at Kennedy, like Van Buren, will offer two books to each of the over 400 TK-6 students since this would be the year’s only distribution. Previous RIF book distributions had been in the cozy and familiar school library, but the new venue is a large, well-lit meeting room on the edge of campus. Office scheduling required visits from 3rd-6th grade and Special Day youngsters on May 9th and TK-2nd grade pupils on May 16th.



A Kennedy graduate, AAUW RIF Volunteer Erica DeiRossi shares her love of reading with these exuberant 1st graders.



AAUW RIF Volunteers Diane Stauffer and Barbara Nash assist Kennedy 6th graders in selecting their free books from the scores available on various topics and reading levels.

Let’s observe 5th graders as they take seats around the room, some eyeing the coveted Dog Man and Baby-Sitters’ Club books as they await instructions from Cindy, who wants them to be

acquainted with various genres of literature. “If you want a fantastic fiction book, you must first select at least one non-fiction or realistic fiction book.” The terms are defined. The teacher names five students who have worked hard during the past few weeks or all year to be first to select their books from the many colorful, interesting volumes on various topics and ability levels. Then another group of children is called to the tables until the whole class has had a chance to select books. AAUW volunteers (see photos) assist youngsters in finding the perfect book. Too soon, the class’s 15 minute RIF Time has concluded and another class arrives. Happy children line up clutching books ranging from Puppy Place and Wonder Woman to National Geographic’s Wolves and The Biography of Helen Keller. As always happens at these distributions, somebody asks, “Do we have to return the books?” Quiet cheers and grins respond to Cindy’s “No! They’re your books to keep forever and to share with your family.” As they head back to class, she tells the students to hug their books close to their hearts so the slick paperbacks won’t slip through their fingers.



3rd grade teacher Judi Tekerlek watches her students examine imaginative stories from the Fantastic Fiction table.

Know that your donations to RIF have brought the joy of reading to hundreds of other local youngsters like these!



✂ Directory update:

Please add the following **New Member** to your Directory:

Welcome to AAUW:

Carolyn T. Martin

6219 Embarcadero Dr.

Stockton, CA 95219

Ph: (209) 474-8143

E-Mail: cmartin2@csustan.edu

UC San Francisco (PhD)

Carolyn was referred by Becky Sanders. Carolyn is a previous member of 33 years and President 1991-93. She is returning after a 7 year hiatus. Welcome Carolyn; Hope to see you at meetings/events.

Highlighting the Gourmet Group



We are excited to highlight the Gourmet Group this month. It is a unique group as it has:

- a successful, long-standing history as an AAUW Branch Interest group;
- developed lasting friendships,
- shared delicious meals together, AND
- has become a family!

Beverly Dierking, AAUW Branch interest group coordinator for Gourmet, says that the group began as a couples group with six couples and is still going strong many years later. Recently, the structure of Gourmet has changed to accommodate the needs of our group. Originally, we met in each other's home for a monthly dinner. Now we dine out more often and the dinners can be as easy as a potluck. Gourmet has become family....not so much about gourmet cooking and more about eating and enjoying our friendship over a meal.

What do Gourmet group members have to say?

>Our first get together was the start of many years of cooking and experimenting with different themes of food at each other's homes. My husband and I are so glad that we had those times together with those special friends that we would never have met otherwise. There are still several recipes I use from our get-togethers many many years ago.

—Leslie Balestracci

>For more than 43 years, Gourmet has celebrated life together once a month, year round. Our group is a microcosm of life; together we have experienced celebrations and challenges, relying on each other for friendship and support. Together we have eaten delicious and interesting meals, traveled, started a book club online so we can include two members who moved away, all this done with lots of love and laughter. We have binders full of recipes, and hearts full of memories. Whatever the future brings, we are confident it will be even more rewarding and fulfilling.

—Jane Cook

>As one of the newer members of our Gourmet Group, I have grown very fond of the other members of the group. In fact, I consider them my Gourmet sisters and brothers. We meet monthly to share a meal and catch up on each other's lives.

—Cheryl Meeker-Mau

>NEW GROUP: Are you interested in being a part of a new, similar type of group? Since the current group is full, we would like to know if there are any members who are interested in helping to form a new group. This could take on many forms including:

>Getting together as a group to share meals at various restaurants;

>Meeting at each other's homes to cook a meal together or for potlucks, etc.

This new group will provide an opportunity for members to get to know one another and share some delicious food together. Great news—Beverly Dierking and Leslie Balestracci have offered to help a new group get started.

If you are interested in finding out more about a new group, please contact: Anita Bautista anitabautista@comcast.net or (209) 279-6402, preferably by June 15th, 2024.

AAUW Fund News!

2023-24 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. For each \$750 contributed to the various funds listed above in a calendar year such as January-December of 2023, 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 typically allow several honorees, we traditionally recognize one to four members at the June Branch meeting of the year following the "donation year." Past award recipients are listed on pp. 8-9 in our Branch Directory.

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 hive.

How will the 2023-24 honorees be revealed? In 2023, 26 Branch members contributed a total of \$1,769 to the AAUW Fund. Consequently, the AAUW Fund donations of 2023 will allow us to nominate two Wonder Bees (2 X \$750) whose ***identities will be announced at our June 8th meeting!***

Thank You, 2023-24 Supporters of the AAUW Fund!

These generous women donated \$1,769 in 2023 to promote equity for women and girls!

Linda Christensen, Heidi Cortelyou, Margaret Dewar, Ann Filson, Gladys Finucane, Jennifer Gray-Rieber, Donna Hammel, Kathy Hart, Mary Hickman, Nancy Holleman, Mary Indelicato, Sue Kenmotsu, Alice Malde, Pat Meredith, Cindy Milford, Pat Miller, Cecilia Montgomery, Bette Outlaw, Diane Stauffer, Martha Tipton, Van Ha To-Cowell, Therese Tutupalli, Jan Vernor-Howard, Patricia Voss, Bobbie Wallinger, and Carolyn Wischhusen.

2024 AAUW Scholarship Recipients

The AAUW Scholarship Committee is proud to present our two scholarship recipients for this year. Both extraordinary and well-rounded women have excelled academically at Delta College, been involved on campus, and volunteered in our community. They will be awarded a total of \$1,500 each as they continue their higher education as full time students in the fall.

The following are our 2024 AAUW Scholarship Recipients:

- Hajra Ahmad will attend UC Berkeley in the fall and major in Cell and Molecular Biology. She plans to specialize in Pediatric Oncology.
- Jennifer Camacho will attend San Jose State University in the fall and in major in

Chemical Engineering. She intends to work towards producing advanced pharmaceuticals.

Our recipients are invited to our June branch meeting. We hope you will attend to hear their inspiring stories.

Beverley Dierking
AAUW Scholarship Chair

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 2024-2025 Directory and find your callers 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

Celebrating Multiple Generations of Women

For three decades, our association has heard the stories of local female heroes and met some of our area's finest youth through the "Inspirational Woman Writing Contest."

In March, we heard from first-place winner Amulya Nakka and third-place winner Jasmine Kaur at our general meeting.

Amulya is a junior at Lincoln High and ranked #1 on her school's golf team. Yet she is also a member of the school marching band, a member of the psychology club, the ping pong club, and the link crew. She participates in an Indian dance group as well, and plays the veena, an Indian instrument. Amulya wrote about her mother Bhagya Nakka, who overcame many obstacles to become an obstetrician, in her essay, "The Woman in Blue."



First-place winner Amulya Nakka with Lincoln teacher Karen Meredith and third-place winner Jasmine Kaur.

Jasmine, also a junior at Lincoln, is part of her high school science Olympiad team, a coach for the Brookside Elementary Science Olympiad Team, and a volunteer at the University of the Pacific's chemistry lab. She is also writing a research paper that discusses the progression of dementia *and* participating in track (specifically

shot put and discus). Jasmine wrote about her mother, Amardeep Kaur, a teacher, in her essay, "Live and Learn."

Our second-place winner, Syrell Louise M. Gatan, could not attend the March meeting due to a death in the family. She was recently awarded her plaque and award money at home.

Syrell is a sophomore at Stagg and a member of her school's varsity swimming and water polo teams. She is also the Vice President of her school's Key Club and a photographer and writer for Stagg's yearbook. Syrell wrote about her grandmother, Perlita Marquez Mahor, a political activist under Ferdinand Marcos in the Philippines, in her essay, "Revolutionary Grandmother."



Second-place winner Syrell Louise Gatan outside her home

With their appreciation for family and history and their strong academic and athletic participation, all three winners are proving to be inspirational young women.

Many thanks to everyone who supports our writing contest with their time, talents and donations. We look forward to hearing from exceptional students again next year.

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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	3	6:00pm	June Board Meeting	Online via Zoom
Wed	5	All Day	Reservation Deadline	Betty Parsons - (408) 309-8958
Sat	8	9:30am	AAUW June Program: Celebrating a Year of "Firsts"	O'Connor Woods West Hall