

AAUW Stockton Spring Social

Thursday, May 16th, 2024
Papapavlo's – Lincoln Center

It's the Merry Month of May, time for the annual AAUW Stockton Branch Spring Social. It's a time to connect with old friends, make new acquaintances, and celebrate the addition of our new members.

This year we gather at Papapavlo's Restaurant for a celebratory dinner. There will be lots of socializing and there's sure to be a few fun and engaging activities. As the Greeks say, "Yamas!" (More than a Cheers, it's a celebration of the people you are with, in the place that you are together).

When: Thursday, May 16th - 5:30pm

Where: Papapavlo's - Lincoln Center

Menu: Greek Salad

Entrees (Choose One):

Papapavlo's Pasta with Chicken

(Vegetarian Option Available)

Shrimp and Avocado Salad

Gyros Entree (Beef and Lamb)

Chicken Marsala

Beef Brochette

Dessert (Baklava)

Water and Soda Included

Cost: \$35 - Pay at the Door

Reservation Deadline: Sunday, May 12th

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



“Persistence”

Persistence is defined as “having determination, a willingness to stick to a task, even when it is challenging, and others are against it.” The word became part of the feminist movement when, in 2017, the Senate was about to vote to confirm Senator Jeff Sessions as U.S. Attorney General under President Trump. Senator Elizabeth Warren criticized Sessions’ record on Civil Rights and wanted to read into the record a letter that Coretta Scott King had written in 1986 to oppose Sessions’ appointment to the court in Alabama.

Senator Warren was not allowed to read the letter into the record when Senate Republicans voted 49-43 along party lines to silence her. Of the vote, Senate President McConnell said, “She was warned, she was given an explanation, nevertheless, she persisted.” The words, “nevertheless, she persisted,” became a rallying cry for women’s rights, a rallying cry that needs to be revived.

Often girls are told to sit down, to be quiet, and to let things go. They are discouraged from having dreams. Malala didn’t give up. Shirley Chisholm wasn’t quiet. Greta Thunberg pursued her dream of making the world more aware of the dangers of climate change. These women should serve as examples to the rest of us.

Currently in this country, there has seemed to be an attempt to wage “war” on women’s rights and equality on everything from medical decisions, such as abortion, to elevating women to higher levels in business and government. There is still a wage gap, even in professional sports. For example, phenom Caitlin Clark will be paid only a fraction of what her male counterpart will earn in pro basketball, even though her popularity will bring in the fans.

These assaults on our rights to equal treatment require women to stand together and to persist against those who would have us be quiet. Noise is necessary to regain the rights some have lost and to attain equity in the work force and elsewhere.

As Shirley Chisholm said, “You don’t make progress by sitting on the sidelines whimpering and complaining. You make progress by implementing ideas.”

Sandra Mazzuola
President



2023-2024

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Editor

John Milford

studio@prodgod.com

(209) 952-0547

KATHLEEN M. SOLARI, CPA

IACOPI, LENZ
& COMPANY

ACCOUNTANCY CORPORATION

(209) 957-3691, Ext. 311

FAX (209) 957-0841

3031 West March Lane
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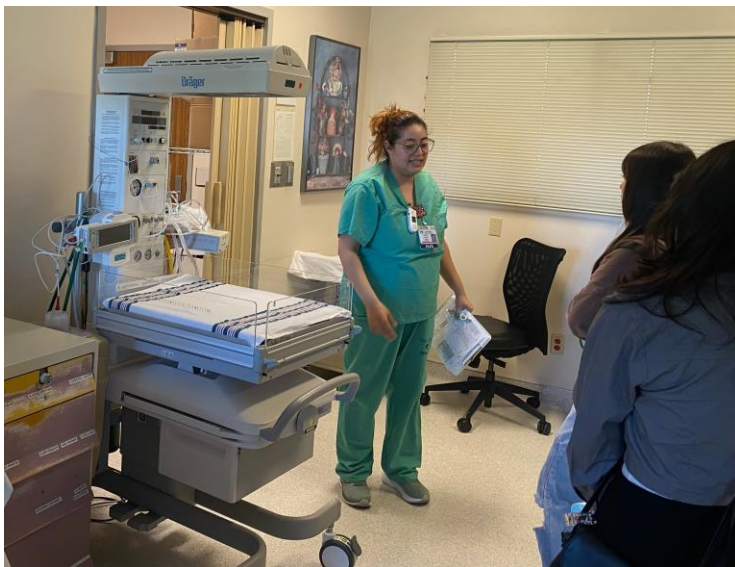
Stockton, California 95219

www.iacopi.com

E-Mail: ksolari@iacopi.com

Mentor Program

Our program is really seeing the “fruits of our labor!” In March former mentee and now mentor, Leslie planned and implemented an activity for our girls titled “Dress for Success” which was well received. In April Jessica, another former mentee-turned-mentor took our girls on a tour of San Joaquin General Hospital Labor and Delivery unit where she is now an R.N. Jessica was able to take us through the process, from admittance to going home with a baby. The general consensus was that as wonderful of an experience as childbirth seems to be, all were in agreement that this is an experience best left to the future. Jessica outlined her educational journey to where she is today and the girls listened raptly.



We find that the girls may give a little more credence to a message delivered by someone closer to their ages. We older mentors are actively training our eventual replacements. Paula

Almaas, one of the founders of the program, is "retiring" this month. She is freeing herself up to perform some of the many other duties she has taken on for the branch. We will miss her, but she leaves us in good hands.

Our next activity again utilizes a former mentee. Maria, who is now a student at UOP, will be leading us on a tour of her campus in early May. After our tour we are headed to Angelina's Spaghetti House to celebrate our three graduates.

Plans are underway for our summer retreat in June. Watch this space and our Facebook page for news of that!



✂ Directory update:

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

Welcome to AAUW:

Samantha Johnson

818 D St., Apt #8

Sacramento, CA 95814

Cell: (209) 888-7692

E-Mail: sj79417@usc.edu

University Southern California

Sponsored by Terri Mercer (Thank you Terri)



Our DEI Interest Group is exploring the major religions of the world. It is our belief that to understand a people, you must also understand their approach to faith and religion. Because there is currently a lot of attention being paid to Muslims and their belief system of Islam, it is important for us to be able to separate out the teachings of Islam and what is the impact of culture on the faith. I am going to briefly give a list of facts on Islam as well as some myths that are often believed. Of course, there is much more that needs to be learned to fully understand Islam but I am hoping that this is a start. You are free to contact me if you disagree with anything I have written or if you want more information about any of the topics.

ISLAM FACTS

- The word Islam means “submission” to the will of God.
- Followers of Islam are called Muslims.
- Muslims are monotheistic and worship one, all-knowing God, who in Arabic is known as Allah.
- Followers of Islam aim to live a life of complete submission to Allah. They believe that nothing can happen without Allah’s permission, but humans have free will. This is why you hear Muslims say en Shallah (God willing) after things that they propose to do.
- Islam teaches that Allah’s word was revealed to the prophet Muhammed through the angel Gabriel.

- Mosques are places where Muslims worship.
- The Quran (Koran) is the major holy text for Muslims.
- A central idea in Islam is “jihad” which means struggle. While the term has been used negatively in mainstream culture, Muslims believe it refers to internal and external efforts to defend their faith. Although rare, this can include military jihad if a “just war” is needed.

ISLAM MYTHS

- Muslims don’t believe in Jesus
 - Muslims believe he was a fully human prophet and not divine himself
- Most Muslims are Arab
 - Only 10% of Muslims are Arab
 - The largest Muslim population is in Indonesia followed by Asia, Africa as well as other parts of the world
- Islam oppresses women
 - Ill treatment of women is based on local cultural norms and not Islam
- Muslims are violent
 - Terrorism cannot be justified under valid interpretation of Islam
 - The Quran emphasizes hope, faith and peace
- Islam is intolerant of other religions
 - Jews, Christians and Muslims all worship the same God, however, they also worship different prophets (Mohammed, Jesus, and Moses)
 - Muslims respect people of the Book

I would like to invite you all to our meetings so that you can continue your journey of learning about the religions of the world and understanding their peoples. Please join us on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month from 4:30-6pm on Zoom. Please contact me at bsuatmjc@aol.com or (209) 603-5365 so I can send you the link.



Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Highlighting the DEI (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion) Interest Group

We have a very active DEI group within the Stockton branch, led by Barbara St. Urbain. Join the DEI interest group to get to know and directly engage with fellow AAUW Stockton members in a variety of DEI topics.

What do current DEI interest group members have to say?

•We have lively and educational discussions covering topics related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, specifically, gender identity, racial, sexual, and ethnic bias, and many other topics relevant to our present day society.

—Sandra Mazzuola

•Differing viewpoints and life experiences, respectful yet lively discussions and a little bit of history and current events make our AAUW DEI group a valuable and worthwhile activity. Barbara has made all the difference!

—Terri Mercer

•The DEI group allows each of us to ask questions and explore other cultures and more. The more we learn about others, the more we understand the importance of diverse perspectives and points of view which contribute immensely to innovation and success in all areas of life.

—Kate Morley

We'd love to have you join us on Zoom on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays from 4:30-6pm. The DKG Tau chapter joins us on Thursday nights. Our Zoom link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8263158495?pwd=cZJQbC8xWWU2a1NNTEhFZUlrZWg5UT09>

Meeting ID: 826 315 8495

Passcode: 177426

For more information, please contact Barbara St. Urbain,
bsuatmjc@aol.com, (209) 603-5365

NEW INTEREST GROUPS

Do you have an interest in an area that is not currently represented? Contact Anita Bautista, Director at Large, for more information,
anitabautista@comcast.net, (209)279-6402.



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contact@stocktonuu.org

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

You should have received your renewal notice if your renewal date is 6/30/2024. Please complete the form and return it, along with your check, to Bette Outlaw as soon as possible.

All of your National dues (\$72) are now tax deductible, as they are included in their 501(c)3 tax designation.

You may bring your dues to the May 16th or June 8th Branch Meetings, if you prefer. Thank you for your promptness.

 **KEMPER**
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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

E-mail: cfranklin@kcpag.com

kempercpa.com

AAUW 2024 Scholarship Update

Unfortunately, your Lobby Days team members weren't able to get a scheduled meeting with our legislative representatives as we had hoped. But you can still keep up-to-date with the bills supported by AAUW-California at:

<https://www.aauw-ca.org/documents/2024/04/public-policy-news-april-2024.pdf/>.

Not just supported by, but written by AAUW-CA, is our signature bill AB 2843 "Health Care Coverage for Rape and Sexual Assault Survivors." So many times rapes may not be reported because of the cost of medical care required. The bill eliminates cost-sharing, including deductibles, from being imposed on any rape survivor seeking medical care following a rape. *Insurers will be required to cover the cost of medical care with no copay.* AB 2843 ensures that those individuals who wish to report a rape and file charges will have the benefit of a rape kit test and forensic exam to provide evidence. In addition, they can receive the care they need following a traumatic sexual attack.

The second "A" priority bill, AB 2326 "Title IX Oversight and Compliance Act" is also sponsored by AAUW-CA. This bill falls under the Public Policy Priorities pillar "Equal Access to Quality Education for All Students" and champions something that AAUW-CA has long supported: Title IX enforcement. AB 2326 requires the Chancellors of the Community Colleges and State Universities and the President of the University of California to provide an annual report of their compliance with Title IX, presented publicly and orally to the Senate and Assembly Budget Subcommittees on Higher Education Finance, a move to hold the systems, and their leaders, more publicly accountable.

Our third "A" priority bill is AB 2099, "Protecting Reproductive Health Clinics." This bill falls under the pillar "Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society." The bill makes it possible for the D.A. to file a felony charge for sharing personal information or images of individuals such as reproductive health care providers or patients, with the intent to cause harm or violence against them, if the posting and any subsequent action results in bodily injury. With violence against abortion providers continuing to rise following the reversal of Roe, the protection of providers and patients is now more important than ever.

The Stockton Branch of AAUW annually awards scholarships to Delta College women. For the past eight years, our branch awarded \$2,000 in scholarships each to three women (total of \$6,000). This year, due to less funds generated to donate, the Board decided to award \$1,500 in scholarships each to two women (total of \$3,000).

Last year, our Scholarship Selection committee developed some minor changes to our scholarship criteria, making it more precise (AAUW Board approved), and requested that Delta College change several application questions which clarified the information we needed to help ensure that our applicants met our AAUW criteria. Those changes resulted in a more manageable number of qualified applicants to consider this year.

The AAUW Scholarship Committee met and narrowed down 17 applications down to top recipients that met our revised scholarship requirements: *Female student completing two years of college, earning a minimum of 60 units by the end of the current spring term with a minimum cumulative 3.50 GPA, transferring to a four-year institution and attending full time starting in the fall term of the current year (upon verification of enrollment), and a resident of San Joaquin County for at least five years.* Serving on the selection committee with me for the second year was Jennifer Balestracci, thank you Jen! Carolyn Wischhusen, who has served on the committee for the past seven years, was unavailable and missed.

Our two scholarship recipients are invited to our June Branch meeting to share their inspiring stories. I hope you will attend to support them. More details about our recipients will be included in the June Delta Steamer.

Beverley Dierking,
AAUW Scholarship Chair


Reading Is Fundamental Update

Last spring, the Steamer article “Where the RIF Books Are” discussed the following:

→How AAUW-Stockton manages the national literacy program Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) for our community at four targeted schools.


→How students at each RIF school actually examine and select their new free books in various settings: an empty classroom, a school library, a multi-purpose room, places where hundreds of inviting books could be displayed for children to handle and examine. Each youngster chooses a free book to take home, read with/to family members, and share with siblings.



 *These 5th graders find that reading books is a cool way to have fun.*


Each month for the rest of school year 2023-24, the Steamer is featuring a RIF book distribution. In April, we visited Lottie Grunsky Elementary School’s multi-purpose room, AKA “the cafeteria.” May’s site is a multi-use classroom at Van Buren Elementary School on 10th St. south of the San Joaquin County Fairgrounds.



 *AAUW/RIF Liaison Jan Vernor-Howard shares these 3rd graders’ happiness at having found a book they love—and they get to select one more!*


AAUW/RIF Liaison for Van Buren Jan Vernor-Howard, with help from AAUW volunteer Cindy Milford, prepared over 800 books on May 2nd. Let’s join them the next day, Distribution Day, as they greet 400 K-6 students, class by class. Each group files into the multi-purpose classroom for their scheduled 10-minute visit and circulates in a line (often led by enthusiastic principal Isabel Arellano) around six tables loaded with brand new colorful fiction and non-fiction paperback (and a few hardback) books, most of which are on their grade level with some easier or more challenging to accommodate all abilities. They choose two books this time because the previous distribution never materialized due to scheduling problems. Some ask, “Do we get to keep them?” They grin with joy when the answer is “YES!”



 *From the back, Principal Isabel Arellano encourages 1st graders to show off their new free books.*

Know that your contributions to RIF have brought the joy of reading to many youngsters—like these!



 *Another 1st grade class sits beneath the hallway READ mural, checks out their RIF books, and becomes a living addition to the mural!*

AAUW Stockton Branch, Inc.
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P.O. Box 690663
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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.

May Calendar

Day	Date	Time	Event	Location/Contact
Sun	12	All Day	Reservation Deadline	Betty Parsons - (408) 309-8958
Mon	13	6:00pm	May Board Meeting	Online via Zoom
Thu	16	5:30pm	AAUW Stockton Spring Social	Papapavlo's – Lincoln Center