

October Branch Meeting

Saturday, October 14th, 2023

Central United Methodist Church Fireside Room

The second Monday in October has been designated "Indigenous People's Day" in the United States. Following this special day of recognition, our October 14th branch meeting will feature remarks by two outstanding California Native American Indian women.

Destiny Rivas is the coordinator of Stockton Unified School District's Native American Indian Center. Destiny sits on various boards in San Joaquin County representing Native American interests.

Rita Seeman is a volunteer for the American Indian Graduate Center/Native Forward. Rita is a lecturer for California State University Stanislaus and University of the Pacific.

Please join us at the meeting to greet these local leaders. Invite a friend!



Destiny Rivas



Rita Seeman

Place: Central United Methodist Church Fireside Room

Schedule:

9:30am Check In - Meet & Greet

10:00am Meeting Starts

Cost: \$10

Reservation Deadline: Sunday, Oct. 8th

Call or Text Reservation Chair Betty Parsons

@ (408) 309-8958 to Make a Reservation

A RESERVATION MADE IS A RESERVATION PAID

President's Message



2023-2024 Elected Board of Directors

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Delta Steamer

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GERRY WHAT?

In his farewell address to Congress, George Washington warned the country about the possible abuses by a two-party system of politics. Unfortunately, people did not heed his advice, and the two-party system became the norm.

We are now experiencing the results of rampant party politics in the constant in-fighting in Congress, in the media, and on the campaign trail. In many states, party politics has caused there to be an erosion of voting rights due to gerrymandering and other tactics to give one party an unfair advantage.

Every ten years, the U.S. government conducts a census, the results of which are used to determine representation in the House of Representatives. 17 states use a redistricting commission, comprised of voters residing in the states. 33 states assign redistricting to the state legislature, which makes it possible for political bias to determine how boundaries are drawn. This may be done to benefit one political party over another or to, in effect, disenfranchise a block of voters based on race, age, or other considerations.

Regardless of which party is responsible for gerrymandering, it is the public who loses out. Rigged maps make elections less competitive, in turn making even more Americans feel like their votes don't count.

The Freedom to Vote Act, which has NOT passed Congress, would strengthen protections and ban partisan gerrymandering in redistricting. This bill would ensure that Americans can have access to mail-in ballots, drop boxes, two weeks of early voting, and the ability to register on Election Day.

Regardless of your party affiliation, you should want to be sure that everyone who has the right to vote and wants to do so has the opportunity.

Sandra Mazzuola
President



empowering women since 1881

Mentor Program

In September, our AAUW Mentor Girls met in the Stewart Hazelton Room at Chavez Central Library in downtown Stockton for a stretching and flexibility session with certified yoga instructor Sokcon Carroll. The girls spent an hour connecting with their bodies to instrumental music and learned the basics of yoga styles including Vinyasa and Bikram.



After that calming session, the group was given a complete tour of Chavez Central by Librarian Christina Conejo, who showed the girls all that the library had to offer including the Maker's Space with a Crikut machine, sewing classes, button making, and a 3-D printer- who knew?! The girls also were able to visit the "backstage" historical documents room and were introduced to microfiche readers. Several of the girls chose to check out books at the end of the tour.



The final portion of the activity involved a short walk to Tio Pepe's II for a delicious lunch. The girls regaled chaperones with stories from our summer retreat and shared how school was going thus far. All wanted to return to the library soon to spend time in the Maker's Space and spend more time browsing the shelves.



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The newly formed combined **AAUW/DKG DEI Discussion Group** is off to a great start. Both groups were well represented at our first Zoom meeting. We do believe that others will join us for future meetings, making for an even better discussion.

The group is a combined interest group bringing together members of both AAUW and DKG who have a special interest in learning more about Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and how topics within these areas affect the world around us. Meetings will include a discussion of what has been in the news that is related to DEI, and we will generally dive deeper into the DEI topic of the day. The beauty of the group is that each of us has a chance to learn as well as to teach.

Meetings are the second and fourth Thursdays of each month on Zoom where we gather from 4:30 to 6pm. Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday,

October 12th. I hope you'll join us.

Because many of our members, as well as members of DKG, have mentioned that they like meeting in person, we have started "**Follow-up Fridays**" the Fridays following our meetings. We have found a wonderful spot at The Well, 1200 N. Center Street in Stockton to meet. Since we meet starting at 11:30, we have a choice of breakfast or lunch. We've met once and it was delightful. We talk about items of interest that may be personal or in the news. The conversation is up to those in attendance. This is fun. Come join us on October 13th.

If you have any questions about the Discussion Group, Follow-up Fridays, or the Zoom link please feel free to contact me by email (bsuatmjc@aol.com) or phone (209) 603-5365. I hope to see you soon on Zoom or at The Well. Be well and enjoy.

KATHLEEN M. SOLARI, CPA

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AAUW Scholarship Recipients from Delta College with the Scholarship Committee at the AAUW Stockton Branch Meeting on June 10th, 2023



From left to right: Scholarship Committee Member Carolyn Wischhusen, Scholarship Recipients Angelina Frediani, Milia Allen, Hannah Salas, Scholarship Committee Member Jennifer Balestracci, and Scholarship Chair Beverley Dierking.



First Unitarian Universalist
Church Of Stockton

-A Liberal Religious Community-

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Contact Us: stocktonuu.org (209)466-7743
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We affirm and promote the inherent
worth and dignity of every person and
are a welcoming congregation.

Let Freedom “Read”

One of the pillars of AAUW is the promotion of equality through quality public EDUCATION. One of the ways to do this is through access to diverse educational staff and a curriculum that represents historically accurate information. Earlier this month AAUW-California presented a webinar about the current state of book-banning in California schools and what members can do about it. We hear about this in states such as Florida, Texas, & others. Is this even an issue in California? Perhaps we want to be diligent & be aware of what is happening throughout our state. One recent example is the Temecula Valley school board meeting that reportedly erupted in chaos because of the previous removal of a social studies book that discussed gay rights activist Harvey Milk. According to AAUW-CA, approximately 41% of banned works feature LGBTQ themes, main characters, or significant supporting characters. Characters of color make up 40% of the main or significant secondary characters, while 21% of the titles deal with racial and racist topics.

The webinar presented the responsibilities of the State Department of Education (DOE) vs. those of the local boards. The 2016 Framework for History/Social Sciences was completely rewritten to incorporate mandates such as the FAIR (Fair, Accurate, Inclusive, & Respectful) Act. This act reflects the contributions of many diverse groups; strongly emphasizes student inquiry, calls on students to conduct research (guided & independent), evaluate primary & secondary sources, develop arguments, & make presentations; places a strong emphasis on democratic values in the relations between the citizen and the state; & encourages teachers to help their students practice the skills of engaged citizenship.

The webinar also presented what AAUW branches can do to support & promote the election of members, depending on whether they have been organized as 501©3 or 501©4. AAUW (State) is encouraging members to monitor their own local school boards & to speak up when they are making decisions that may or may not reflect your individual values or AAUW policies. A good portion of the webinar included a suggested script & tips on how to make presentations to a school board (or any group for that matter!).

If you want to view the webinar recording, go to <https://www.aauw-ca.org/documents/2023/09/book-banning-webinar-presentation.pdf/> or if you want to become more involved with this issue, contact me (Karen Frank).

National Banned Book Week is October 1st- 7th, with the theme of “Let Freedom Read.”

Read at least 1 banned book this month!

Directory updates

Please add the following **New Members** to your Directory when you receive it:

Welcome to AAUW:

Leslie Cazares

33 W. Pine St.
Stockton, 95204

Cell: (209) 990-6685

E-Mail: cazaresleslie@gmail.com

Grad school: UOP

Esther Thompson

911 S. Tuxedo Ave.
Stockton, 95204

Cell: (209) 406-3889

E-Mail: estherthompson@aol.com

Grad school: UOP

Renewal:

Jo Wagner

7424 Larkspur Lane
Stockton, 95207

Home: (209) 478-4171 Cell: (209) 482-3096

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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.

October Calendar

Day	Date	Time	Event	Location/Contact
Sun	8	All Day	Reservation Deadline	Betty Parsons – (408) 309-8958
Mon	9	6:00pm	AAUW Board Meeting	Online via Zoom
Thu	12	4:30-6:00pm	AAUW/DKG DEI Interest Group Meeting	Online via Zoom
Sat	14	9:30am	October Branch Meeting	Central United Methodist Church
Thu	26	4:30-6:00pm	AAUW/DKG DEI Interest Group Meeting	Online via Zoom