

Be an Informed Citizen

Saturday, October 5th, 2024

Chavez Library Community Room Downstairs

AAUW Stockton Branch and League of Women Voters San Joaquin County will hold a joint meeting at 10am Saturday, October 5th at the Chavez Library. League members will present the Pros and Cons of the ten propositions that will be on the statewide ballot for the General Election, November 5th, 2024.

State ballot measures present voters with many significant legislative decisions this November, including bond measures for education facilities and state and local parks: major changes to Proposition 47: possible increase in the minimum wage, and lowering the threshold for local measures for housing from two-thirds to 55%.

Learn before you vote. Join us for this informative session. Bring a friend.

When: Saturday, Oct. 5th, 10:00am

Where: Chavez Library Community Room Downstairs
605 N. El Dorado St., Stockton

Cost: Free

Reservation Deadline: Wednesday, Oct. 2nd

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

(The following is an op-ed, which doesn't necessarily reflect any opinion but my own).

What is at stake in the November election? It's more than just the presidency. The coming election may determine the direction our country takes on many fronts. From climate change to reproductive rights, this election will have far-reaching repercussions.

In our election history we have had many instances in which our choices appear to have been between the "lesser of two evils." In other words, there wasn't that much difference between the candidates of the two major parties. Not so this time. There are substantial differences between not only the candidates but also the party policies.

In fact, this time we have the choice between doom and gloom, the attitude that the United States is a failing nation, which is overrun by criminal illegal immigrants, and upon which the world looks with pity. Or we can choose hopeful joy, the belief that our country still inspires people around the world as an example of a successful democracy to which immigrants come seeking a share of the American dream.

Therefore, we have a real choice. We can choose kindness, courtesy, optimism, and joy or mean-spiritedness, rudeness, pessimism, and despair. One party is led by two men who make themselves feel big by belittling others. I want these men to know that as a childless woman who taught for forty years, I impacted countless children. I mattered to them, and they mattered to me. Their futures matter to me, too. They are my children!

In this election, let's vote to choose the future over the past, unity over division, hope over fear, truth over lies, love over hate, democracy over dictatorship, and, yes, the "Joyful Warrior and the Coach" over the prophets of doom. In any case, please vote like your life depends on it, because it does.

Sandra Mazzuola
President



2023-2024 Elected Board of Directors

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Mentor Program

Many thanks to Rosa Solis for arranging and hosting the Mentor Group's September activity on Saturday the 21st!

The mentor girls were fortunate enough to participate in a casual presentation and discussion with the inspiring Christina Bastida-Lopez, an Epidemiologist and Public Health professional based here in Stockton. Christina was raised in South Stockton and attended Montezuma Elementary and Franklin High School. She received her undergraduate degree from Johns Hopkins University and her Masters in Public Health from Yale University. She has impressive and wide-ranging experience in her fields, working with both national and international organizations, such as the Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization.



Today, Christina runs a consultancy business as well as being a wife and mother here in Stockton. Our mentees enjoyed hearing about her personal journey through her undergraduate

and graduate challenges as well as her fascinating professional experience. For our girls especially, Christina explained the importance of connections, mentorship and community support to her achievements along the way. In the casual setting, the girls had ample opportunity to ask questions and discuss a variety of topics.

Christina also offered specific tips and encouragement to our girls as they commence their educational and life journeys. Importantly, the girls also learned about the field of epidemiology and public health from a first-hand view. Because so many have an interest in the health fields, the girls were highly focused and inspired.

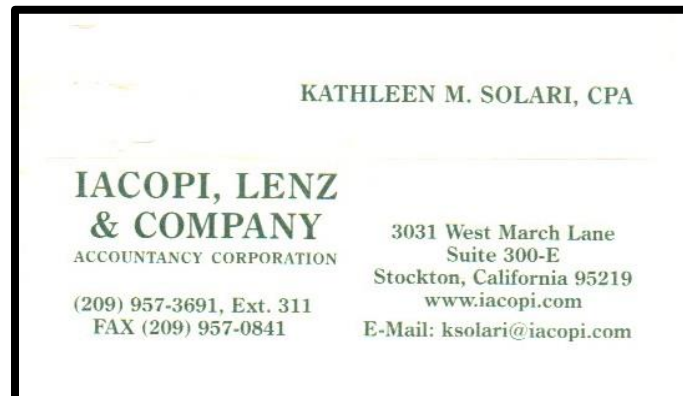


Afterward, everyone crafted their own personal pizzas with fresh dough donated by Mountain Mike's and ample fresh toppings with salad, lemonade and variety of tasty dessert morsels. We enjoyed the delicious lunch and even more discussion and fun in Rosa's beautiful home. We hope to see Christina again in the future!





second and fourth Thursdays of each month. Let me know and I'll send you the link. Please feel free to contact me for more information, (209) 603-5365 or bsuatmjc@aol.com. I would love to see you at a meeting, Barbara



The DEI Interest Group has started up for this year. We are again joining with women from DKG to share our thoughts on DEI and the many topics that includes. For many, when they think of DEI, they think there are just a few topics and how could the group continue over one year let alone going into its third year. For that reason, I thought it would be good to list the topics we have discussed or are still waiting to have the time to discuss. My hope is that a few of the topics will appeal to each of you and you will decide to join us. All positions/ideas are welcome. It's exciting when people with opposing positions talk together and find their common ground and learn that they can better understand the thinking of others after having conversations with them.

So here are our topics: Ageism, Women's History Month, Women's Issues, White Privilege/Privilege, Racism, Cultural Competence, Children's books on diversity, Book Bans, Gender Identity, Sexual Orientations, LBGQTIA+, Foster Youth, The Indigenous Peoples, Micro-Aggression, Intersectionality, Diversity, Equity, Sexism, Misogyny, Inclusion, Dog Whistle Politics, Braver Angels, CRT, Religious Intolerance, Affirmative Action, Black Lives Matter, Abortion Ban, Truth in Journalism, Woke, The Generations, Anti-Semitism, The War in the Middle East, The Autism Spectrum, Human Trafficking, Whitelash, The 2024 Election, Religions, Christian Nationalism, White Supremacy, Socio-Economic Status, and Immigration. Even with this long list, I know I have missed some things.

I am hoping this list of topics has sparked your interest and you would like to join us. Our meetings are on Zoom from 4:30-6:00 the

Bakers Needed

People are needed to help bake for the AAUW Tea on Saturday, November 9th.

Anyone willing to bake a batch or two of the following would be greatly appreciated. All recipes will be provided.

Our current needs include:

Banana or Pumpkin bread (4 batches)
Holiday Layer Bars (3 batches)
Chili Relleno Torta (3 batches)
Spinach and Cheese Squares (3 batches)

If you can help with baking, contact Claudia Mennuti cmennuti@comcast.net or (209) 603-7190.

In Search Of Raffle Prizes

Raffle Prizes, Gift Baskets and other goods are needed for the Raffle/Silent Auction at the tea. The raffle will help increase the profits from the tea, which is our branch's major fundraiser. The revenue from the tea will support our branch Community Outreach Fund.

If you would like to help secure donations from local stores, donate or re-gift an unused item that you think someone might enjoy, please contact Anita Bautista AnitaBautista@comcast.net or (209) 279-6402.

Public Policy Update

By the time this is out to you the GOTV (Get Out The Vote) training will have already occurred. It will cover subjects such as voter registration, early voting, locating polling places, voter education, and community collaboration projects. Our October meeting will be held jointly with the League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan discussion of the issues.

AAUW has published a voter guide in both English & Spanish that can help evaluate the candidates' stand on women's issues. To read & download the guide, go to:

<https://www.aauwaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Its-My-Vote-2024-Voter-Issue-Guide-English.pdf>.

The link to the Spanish version is on the same page.

Women are affected by items other than reproductive rights, though we hear so much about that. Think about sex & gender-based discrimination at schools that keep girls, especially those of color, tracked away from STEM fields. Women of color take on greater student debt than other groups. Pay equity is still an issue, with women overall making 84 cents to the dollar for men. This gap continues throughout a woman's lifetime, including inequities for retirement.

There are routine decisions made about issues that directly impact all of us. Our lives are on the line — and our vote is our voice! Make sure those who can vote have a voting plan & do vote!

IT'S MY VOTE!



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Directory update:

Please add the following **New Members** to your Directory, *which will be arriving soon:*

Welcome to AAUW:

Kristen Bahler

3738 Hatchers Circle
Stockton, CA 95219
Cell: (209) 298-7315

E-Mail: kebahler35@gmail.com

Univ: Emporia State University

Sponsored by Sue Kenmotsu

Andree Sue Guest

3627 Fourteen Mile Drive
Stockton, CA 95219
Cell: (209) 915-3180

E-Mail : andreeguest@icloud.com

Univ: Texas Woman's University

Referred by Karen Frank

Josephine Sambado

3909 Glen Abby Circle
Stockton, CA 95219
Cell: (209) 609-6149

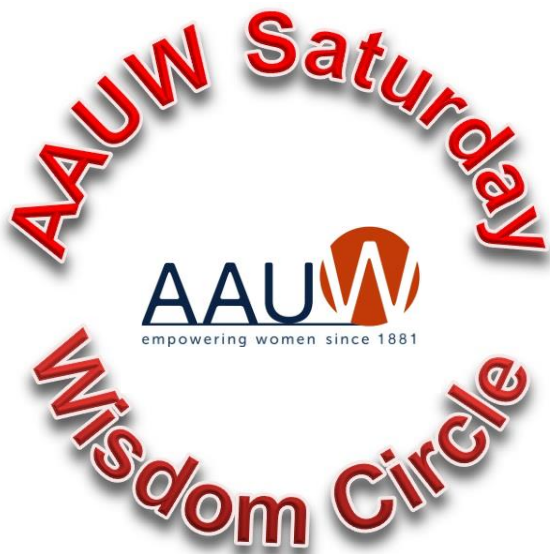
E-Mail: jllsam@comcast.net

Univ: University of Pacific (Santa Clara)

Referred by Anita Bautista

Save the Date!

Our 2nd annual Thanks for Giving Tea is Saturday, November 9th, 2024. For reservations send \$50 to Pam Mallett-Jones 2665 Kensington Way, Stockton, CA 95204 Make Check payable to AAUW. Paypal also accepted. Check the [AAUW branch website](#) or [Facebook](#) for more information.



Highlighting the “Saturday Wisdom Circle” Interest Group

You’ve probably heard of our “Saturday Wisdom Circle” branch interest group and maybe asked the following questions:

- Do they always meet on Saturdays?
- Do you have to be “wise” to be a part of it?
- Do they always sit in a circle?

Well, we have the answers to these questions. According to the group leader, Gladys Finucane, “The “Saturday Wisdom Circle” is a group of AAUW members who:

- Meet at O’Connor Woods on the first or second Saturday each month from 9:30-11am.
- There are lively discussions of current events along with interactive opportunities to get to know one another better.
- Members take turns providing refreshments.

Members have a great time as shown by the following quotes:

“It is such fun and so freeing to be able to discuss current event topics with other like-minded people without feeling a need to censor or hold back my opinions!”

-Gladys Finucane, Group Leader

“Each meeting brings a totally different conversation. Meetings usually start with a brief “catch up” on daily life. Conversation often turns to current events and sharing our perspectives-

fears, hopes, predictions about what’s happening and what’s to come. There is something reassuring about talking and listening within a group of wise people. Other days, a random conversation starter is thrown out to the group and you just never would expect the stories and sharing and laughter that comes out of those same wise people. I learn something new every time!”

-Amy Lovett-Cooper, Group member

“Come and share your thoughts on a variety of subjects, with a group of members who are non-judgmental, not intimidating but are welcoming.”

-Bette Outlaw, Group member

If you’re interested in being a part of the Saturday Wisdom Circle, you don’t necessarily have to be wise or even sit in a circle.

To find out more information, please contact:

Amy Lovett-Cooper ([\(209\)373-8606](tel:2093738606))

Email: repooc3@sbcglobal.net



Saturday Wisdom Circle members Jeanne Gaia, Peggy Dewar, Ronda Sanders, Gladys Finucane, Bette Outlaw and Sandy Mazzuola



**First Unitarian Universalist
Church Of Stockton**

-A Liberal Religious Community-

2737 Pacific Ave. at Bristol St.

(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.

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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
Mon	9/30	6:00pm	October Board Meeting	Online via Zoom
Wed	2	All Day	Reservation Deadline	Betty Parsons - (408) 309-8958
Sat	5	10:00am	AAUW Oct. Program: Be an Informed Citizen	Chavez Library Community Room