

Celebrate the Season

Saturday, December 20th, 2025

Brookside Country Club

AAUW Stockton Branch will gather for a festive holiday brunch at Brookside Country Club on Saturday, December 20th. Join us at 9:30am to celebrate the season. Enjoy the company of AAUW members and friends. Members of the fabulous Stockton Soul group will provide the musical entertainment.

When: Saturday, Dec. 20th, 9:30am

Where: Brookside Country Club

Menu: Seasonal Fruit

Buttermilk Biscuits with Honey and Sweet Butter
Fluffy Scrambled Eggs with Green Onion and Tomato
Herb Roasted Red Potatoes
Sausage and Cherry Wood Bacon
Assorted Juices and Coffee
Hosted Self-Serve Mimosa Station

Cost: \$50 (Includes Room Rental, Food and Beverages,
Centerpieces and Entertainment)

Reservation Deadline: Sunday, Dec. 7th

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



As president of AAUW Stockton, I take this opportunity to thank all who supported our "Thanks for Giving Tea" event, making it, once again, a great success. The purpose of the Tea is, of course, to raise money to support our community outreach programs, specifically, Tech Trek, RIF, Delta College Scholarships, and the Mentor Program, which are designed to improve the lives of women and girls in our community by offering them unique life experiences. All these programs are near and dear to AAUW and our membership.

The holiday season is supposed to be a time for sharing with those in need and a time for giving from the heart. Our members and our community have stepped up to make continuing these programs possible for the near future.

Many thanks to all who participated, especially the members of the Mentor Group who served us and to Pam Mallett-Jones for her leadership. Thanks to those who set tables, prepared the delightful treats, donated to fill the baskets for the silent auction, to those who purchased the baskets, and to those individuals, businesses, and organizations that donated to help fund underwriting for the event. Thanks to the Bear Creek Red Cross Club who helped set up and take down the tables and chairs, to the Cancer Society Discovery Shop for the fashion show items, to Rhonda Nunes for the musical accompaniment, and to anyone else that had a hand in a successful afternoon.

Special thanks to Barbara Bahler and to Claudia Mennuti, who created the menu and supervised the preparation of the menu items. Without their leadership, we would have been serving only tea and store-bought scones.

At a time when there is so much divisiveness in our country and in the world, the success of this fund raiser is proof that there are still many good and caring people.

Sandra Mazzuola, President

HAVE A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON!

Sandra Mazzuola
President

2025-2026 Elected Board of Directors

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Sandra Mazzuola

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Karen Frank

Branch Website:
Sue Kenmotsu
aauwstockton.org

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John Milford
studio@prodgod.com
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Happy Holidays

Mentor Program

We are always proud of our girls in the Mentor Program but never so much as when they step up to serve at our annual Thanks For Giving Tea! The girls truly enjoy the experience and Tea attendees get a glimpse of the girls that our branch supports. While the Tea raises funds for all of our Community Based Projects our Mentor Program simply could not exist without the generosity of branch members.



December 6th will find us at the Delta Reflections Boat Parade to usher in the holidays. We will also take the time to revisit our resolutions for 2025 and make new ones for 2026. The girls will also volunteer to assemble food baskets for the League of United Latin America Citizens during the month.

We are looking forward to the new year and watching our girls develop and gain skills.



A virtual table was set at the Thanks For Giving Tea for those who wanted to make a donation but were unable to attend. We extend thanks to Gladys Finucane, Karen Frank, Jan Vernor-Howard, Marilyn Platt, Beverly Dierking, Renata Bricka, Lorraine McCarthy, Sharon Westafer and Dwane and Sara Milnes. Also generous and in attendance were Donna Hammel and Diane Stauffer.



Casting Call

March is Women's History Month
Be a part of our branch
Women's History Living Timeline!
Sign up to represent a decade on our timeline-
pick a decade, put together a simple period
costume, recite a few lines, represent women's
history, join in the fun!
(No experience necessary!)
March 14th, Haggin Museum
Contact Amy Lovett-Cooper for details
Repoooc3@sbcglobal.net, (209) 373-8606



The AAUW Stockton Branch's Mentor Program: A Model for DEI in Action

How Mentorship Advances Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The Stockton AAUW Branch's mentor program stands out as a powerful example of how organizations can put Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) into practice. Rather than treating DEI as a set of abstract principles, the program actively works to foster an environment where individuals from all backgrounds feel welcomed and supported. By prioritizing mentorship, the Stockton AAUW Branch invests in the personal and professional growth of women—especially those from underrepresented communities—demonstrating a genuine commitment to leveling the playing field.

One of the key strengths of the program lies in its intentional outreach to diverse populations. The mentors not only provide guidance to women from various socioeconomic, racial, and cultural backgrounds but also ensure that mentees have access to resources and opportunities that may have previously been out of reach. This targeted support helps bridge gaps and break down barriers that often prevent

marginalized groups from advancing, embodying the principles of equity and inclusion at every step.

The mentor program also cultivates a culture of belonging and respect within the Stockton AAUW Branch. By matching mentees with mentors who understand their unique challenges and aspirations, the program creates safe spaces for open dialogue and honest reflection. This approach encourages participants to share their perspectives and experiences, enriching the entire organization and reinforcing the value of diversity. Such practices not only help individuals flourish but also strengthen the collective fabric of the community.

Ultimately, the Stockton AAUW Branch's mentor program serves as a blueprint for other organizations seeking to put DEI principles into practice. Through sustained mentorship, intentional outreach, and a commitment to fostering belonging, the program demonstrates that meaningful change is possible when DEI is embedded into the core of organizational culture. By empowering women from all walks of life, the Stockton AAUW Branch shows that diversity, equity, and inclusion are not just ideals—they are actionable strategies that lead to lasting impact.



Branch Development Peer Group meetings are scheduled for the second Tuesday of the month from September through May at 7pm.

The next Branch Development Peer Group will be on Tuesday, December 19th, at 7pm. Click [HERE](#) to register.

Public Policy Update

PROTECT VOTING RIGHTS

STEP 1: Self-Focused: Education Learn more about and follow the Supreme Court case Louisiana v. Callais. This case will decide on a Louisiana-based challenge to key aspects of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, which prevents racial discrimination in voting. Should it be overturned, the consequences will be profound for the entire nation. Learn more about the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act. The United States House of Representatives has passed the SAVE Act (HR 22), which would require every eligible voter to provide documentary proof of citizenship to register to vote. While this may sound potentially harmless, such measures have been shown to lead to voter suppression & disproportionately impact women, particularly married women who have taken their husbands' name, in addition to people with disabilities, people of color, & the elderly. AAUW formally opposes the SAVE Act. Learn more about how Voting Rights have recently been challenged in California, including through AB 25 (2025), which AAUW actively opposed.

STEP 2: Other-Focused: Education & Connection: Tell at least TWO other people what you have learned about Louisiana v. Callais, the SAVE Act, and/or ongoing challenges to election integrity in California. California Assembly member Carl DeMaio (R-San Diego) announced that he plans to launch a campaign to qualify his proposal of AB 25 as a statewide ballot initiative for the 2026 election.

DeMaio described his proposal as a nonpartisan issue when it came before the Assembly Committee on Elections Wednesday morning. The bill failed on a party-line vote of 3 to 2 over concerns from opponents that more requirements would disenfranchise eligible voters and embolden false claims that California's elections are not secure.

STEP 3: Politically-Focused: Reach out to your legislators about the SAVE Act. Click here to access AAUW's Two-Minute Activist page ([AAUW Action Network – AAUW : Empowering](#)

SAVE THE DATE COMING UP

Upcoming Meetings SAVE THE DATES:

Higher Education at Risk - & How You Can Help Protect It, features AAUW Senior Director of Policy Meghan Kissell. Dec 3rd, 2025 4:00-5:00pm Register for the webinar at [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#).

AAUW California School Board Project Half Day Symposium. Sat Jan 31st, 2026 9:00am-12:00 noon via Zoom. Registration link coming soon.

AAUW Silicon Valley Branch will host a virtual event on reproductive rights featuring Leah Litman, host of the popular Strict Scrutiny podcast. Thurs Jan 22nd, 2026 1:00-2:00pm. Registration link coming soon.

[Women Since 1881](#)), then click on “Tell the Senate: Oppose the SAVE Act”. Reach out to your legislators to do something proactive to protect voting rights.

DEPT. OF EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS

The Dept. of Education under the current administration has recently scaled down its list of professional programs to: Medicine, Law, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Veterinary Medicine, Optometry, Podiatry, Theology, Chiropractic, Physical Therapy, & Occupational Therapy. These categories would allow for larger student loans for these areas, while those that traditionally were considered professional such as nursing, social work, & other health-related professions, have now been excluded, raising concerns about access to financial aid. The list of professions also appears to be heavily male-oriented & a way to quietly push women out of the professional workforce. There is concern about how this may reduce the number of nurses across the country if fewer students enter nursing, which is already a group known to be in short supply.

DEPT. OF EDUCATION & ITS “PATRIOTIC EDUCATION”

Every year the Dept of Education awards more than \$4.5 billion in competitive funding for K-12 programs throughout the country. These grants are determined in part by priorities set by the administration. The department is now taking comments on a priority to promote “Patriotic Education”, based on its prescriptive & revisionist definitions. For instance, the proposal defines the American political tradition to include “the influence of Western Civilization including ancient Greece, Rome, Judeo-Christianity”, & “the role of faith,” & it defines “patriotic education” to mean “a presentation of the history of America grounded in an accurate, honest, unifying, inspiring, & ennobling characterization of the American founding & foundational principle” & “the concept that commitment to America’s aspirations is beneficial & justified.”

Given how the administration has approached these subjects previously, this proposal raises

some real concerns for parents, teachers, & advocates who prioritize students learning accurate & complete history:

- Unprecedented federal overreach into the curriculum
- Censorship efforts
- Ideological bias & distortion of history
- A chilling effect on inclusive & accurate instruction

At the same time, the administration has failed to fund higher education programs for language studies, support for individuals with disabilities, programs to expand educational opportunity & access, & childcare access for student parents.

Stay aware of what's happening in your community.

Never underestimate the power we all have

We, the People



First Unitarian Universalist Church Of Stockton
-A Liberal Religious Community-
2737 Pacific Ave. at Bristol St.

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.

Directory updates:

Please Welcome the Following New Member:

Shauna Cantrell
2612 Cypress Ave.
Stockton, 95207
Cell: (209) 598-5982
E-Mail: scuddlefeet@gmail.com
Grad school: Cal Poly Humboldt
Interested in Public Policy, Tea Fundraiser,
Tech Trek, Book Group, Gourmet Group
and Saturday Wisdom Group.

AAUW Stockton Branch, Inc.
DELTA STEAMER
P.O. Box 690663
Stockton, CA 95269-0663

Return Service Requested

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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.

December Calendar

Day	Date	Time	Event	Location/Contact
Sun	7	All Day	Reservation Deadline	Betty Parsons - (408) 309-8958
Mon	15	6:00pm	December Board Meeting	Online via Zoom
Sat	20	9:30am	AAUW Dec. Program: "Winter Holidays Celebration"	Brookside Country Club
Tue	9	7:00pm	Branch Development Peer Group Meeting	Online via Zoom
Thu	25	All Day	Merry Christmas!	