

Spring Social

Celebration of New Members

Wednesday, May 14th, 2025 – 5:30pm
Club Brookside - 3536 Brookview Drive, Stockton

It's the merry month of May and time to make merry at AAUW's annual Spring Social. Join us on Thursday, May 15th at Club Brookside. We'll enjoy hearty hors d'oeuvres, yummy desserts and festive drinks, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic. Surprise fun and games and a celebration of our new members will make for a very merry evening. Bring a friend!

When: Thursday, May 15th, 5:30pm

Where: Clubhouse Brookside
3536 Brookview Drive, Stockton

Cost: \$30
(Covers Room Rental, Food, Beverages and Gifts
for New Members)

Reservation Deadline: Sunday, May 11th

Connect with Your Caller or Contact Joan Erreca,
(Substituting for Betty Parsons) @ (209) 471-7909
or recaj2@comcast.net

A RESERVATION MADE IS A RESERVATION PAID

President's Message



The butterfly effect describes how a small change in a complex system can lead to significantly different outcomes in time. An example suggests that a butterfly flapping its wings in Brazil could lead to a tornado in Texas. It is used to illustrate how small things can have a big impact.

I have spent the better part of this year watching with increasing horror what has been happening to our country since January 20th. I have watched and hoped that things would change for the better. I have sent letters and made phone calls to Congress, but nothing seemed to change. When I learned that Alexandria Ocasio Cortez and Bernie Sanders had begun their anti-oligarchy road trip to speak to people around the country about the threat this poses to our democracy, I began to sense a glimmer of hope.

Next, Senator Cory Booker took the floor in the Senate and spoke for a heroic 25 plus hours about the eroding of democracy and the dismantling of programs that offer life-saving support to both Americans and to people around the world. His speech commanded and held attention. He made his audience stop, listen, and, I hope, act.

On Saturday, April 5th, more than 1200 demonstrations took place around this country and the world. From north to south, from sea to sea, Americans marched to the shouts of "Hands Off!" Hands off our rights! Hands off our institutions! Hands off our Constitution! We were joined in solidarity by thousands in Canada, Mexico, and the European Union because of the impact that Trump's policies were having in terms of humanitarian and economic concerns.

It seems that the butterfly has begun to flap its wings. There is no tornado yet, but I believe there is a storm brewing. As Senator Booker repeatedly stated, people need to ask, "What can I do?" Members of Congress who really do care about our democracy need to develop spines. The rest of us need to keep flapping our wings. Keep making noise. Keep writing letters and post cards. Keep making phone calls. Keep making "Good Trouble." We do have them outnumbered!

"The power of the people is greater than the people in power."
Cory Booker

Sandra Mazzuola
President

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Mentor Program

We took advantage of the beautiful spring weather to take our annual college tour. This year took us to CSU, Sonoma, more often referred to as "Sonoma State University". The lovely and verdant campus of approximately 6,000 students on more than 268 acres was breathtaking. We had two wonderful and enthusiastic student tour directors to answer all of our questions. We were also lucky enough to have Rosa Martinez, former girl in our program and SSU graduate, along with us to provide the "color" on our tour. A tasty lunch in the student union further enhanced our experience. We capped off the day by having a presentation about the Educational Opportunity Program offered by most CSUs and UCs, which offers generous scholarships for students who are the first to attend college in their families - which is all of our girls!



Next month we are celebrating the three girls who are graduating from their respective high schools and sadly, our program. Like mama birds we encourage them to fly free, but come back to visit the nest now and then.



It seems that while we were on our campus tour those of you who attended the branch meeting wrote inspiring postcards to our girls. Many have contacted me to tell me how thrilled they were to receive them! Thank you from all of the mentors!



**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.



Launch of San Joaquin Coalition 4 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (SJC4DEI)

Building a Brighter and More Inclusive Future for San Joaquin County and Beyond

The San Joaquin Coalition 4 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (**SJC4DEI**) is proud to announce its official launch. Dedicated to promoting and fostering a community where diversity, equity, and inclusion are at the forefront, **SJC4DEI** aims to create meaningful change within San Joaquin County and beyond.

Our Vision

SJC4DEI envisions a community where every individual, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, ability, or socioeconomic status, feels valued and respected. By advocating for inclusive practices, equitable opportunities, and diverse representation, we strive to build a more just and compassionate society.

Our Mission

Our mission is to:

- Educate the public on the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion through workshops, seminars, and public forums.
- Collaborate with local organizations, businesses, and government entities to implement policies and practices that support DEI goals.
- Provide resources and support to underserved communities within San Joaquin County.
- Support organizations as they celebrate and promote the rich cultural diversity of our region through events and initiatives.

- Fight against the actions of the current administration as they strive to eliminate DEI initiatives in all government, educational, and community organizations.
- Support likeminded local and national candidates who advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Actions Against Trump Administration Policies

SJC4DEI recognizes the harmful impact of several policies enacted by the Trump administration. In response, we are committed to:

- Advocating for immigration reform that protects the rights and dignity of all individuals, regardless of their origin.
- Opposing discriminatory laws and policies that undermine the principles of equity and inclusion.
- Providing assistance and support to those affected by the rollback of civil rights protections.
- Promoting environmental justice initiatives that address the disproportionate impact of climate change on marginalized communities.
- Speaking for those with no voice.

Join Us

SJC4DEI invites you to join us in our efforts. Together, we can create a community where everyone feels seen, heard, and valued. To learn more about our initiatives and how you can get involved, contact us at bsuatmjc@aol.com.

About SJC4DEI

The San Joaquin Coalition 4 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is a community organization dedicated to promoting the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion within San Joaquin County. Through education, advocacy, and community engagement, **SJC4DEI** works to ensure that all residents have the opportunity to thrive in a fair and inclusive environment.

If you agree with the message from **SJC4DEI**, contact Barbara St. Urbain, Chair, bsuatmjc@aol.com.

Together, we can make San Joaquin County a beacon of diversity, equity, and inclusion.



There's a lot to say about Public Policy priorities:

1) The School Board Project is now entering a new phase in which members are monitoring local school boards to ensure they are complying with California law. To this end, AAUW California has entered a collaboration with the Public School Defenders Hub, an organization that provides resources to parents, organizers, activists, and school board members to combat anti-public school extremists. Training is provided on current California laws that address book banning, curriculum censorship, and discrimination against protected groups such as LGBTQ+ students; what to look for in determining compliance; and how to file a complaint when non-compliance is observed. The Stockton branch of AAUW provides coverage of 3 school districts – Lodi, Stockton, & Lincoln. A brochure will be made available to those interested in the School Board project with more specific actions.

We also want to take action to make sure that children feel safe in their schools. Every day we hear about illegal deportations, including of children, even those who are citizens! Intrusions on school grounds are having a significant impact, especially keeping parents away from school events fearing agents might be there & students who don't want to come to school, fearing their parents will be taken while they're gone. Children are being consumed by fear of agents coming on campus to take them away. Current law (*Plyler v Doe* 1982) holds that all children, even the undocumented, have a constitutional right to free public education. In 2011, DHS issued the "Sensitive Locations" policy, which prohibited raids from certain places including schools. Although the President has attempted to revoke the order, Executive Orders and Actions cannot change statutes or regulations. There are currently 4 lawsuits challenging the attempted revocation; 3 from

churches have been successful so far, 1 from a school in Denver has resulted in a denial of a request for a temporary injunction. Current law also prohibits ICE entry on campuses without a warrant. Even with a warrant to enter, they are not entitled to access to private/protected student records.

Actions: Urge your school boards/districts to issue a "Safe Zone" Resolution – a template can be provided. If desired, please let me know!

2) Take Action: Protect Voting Rights
Self-Focused: Learn more about the SAVE Act that is moving through Congress & learn more about California Assembly Bill (AB) 25. Learn more about how voting rights challenge small or non-existent populations and issues, like SAVE and AB 25, serve to disenfranchise many others in the process

Other-Focused: Tell a few people (2-10) something about the potential impacts of passage of the SAVE Act and/or AB 25; tell a few people (2-10) something that THEY can do to oppose the SAVE Act, CA AB 25, and/or voting rights challenges more broadly

Politically-Focused: Use AAUW National's 2-minute activist platform to voice your opposition to the SAVE Act; Watch the progress of California's AB 25 and reach out to representatives in CA if/when the bill is being heard to make sure it is actively opposed.

3) Why AAUW Will Be Standing Up for the Transgender Community
As you look at the legislative agenda for 2025, you will notice that there are many bills that focus on protecting the rights of transgender people, including our priority legislation. Popular campaigns, executive orders, and federal and state legislation have increasingly targeted transgender and nonbinary people, who make up a very small portion of the US population (estimates range from 0.5% to 1.6%). These campaigns, orders, and pieces of legislation have been intensive, politically strategic, and largely motivated by *animus*, or hostility. Anti-trans popular campaigns, executive orders, and legislation are not, then, based on neutral laws. Laws sometimes legally discriminate against historically marginalized groups. They can only do this if and when discrimination benefits the

public interest—for instance, you cannot fire someone for having an accent you do not like; however, you *can* fire someone for having an accent if they are a 911 operator and their accent makes them non comprehensible to most of the public callers.

Much of the currently proposed legislation discriminates against trans and nonbinary people, but does not show a clear benefit to the public. As a matter of fact, many of these attacks draw on longstanding dominant sex and gender norms to create fear and moral panic. This is not surprising, as the regulation of transgender and nonbinary bodies is frequently focused on trans women and on regulating femininity—not on the regulation of trans men—as we see in the reasoning provided for attempts to keep trans and nonbinary women and girls out of certain bathrooms, locker rooms, and sports. AAUW’s mission is to advance gender equity for ALL girls and women as girls and women have historically been marginalized on the basis of gender. For trans women and girls—they deal with the same kinds of misogyny that many cis women face on a daily basis &, at the same time, deal with the kinds of hatred and erasure that comes along with being trans and nonbinary in the U.S. in this political moment.

AAUW supports ALL girls and women. The infringement on trans and nonbinary rights is inseparable from broader attempts to restrict women based on gender stereotyping—regulating your ability to access certain spaces (e.g. bars) or get a business loan without someone else’s (a man’s) signature or minimizing the likelihood that you will be promoted—all based on assumptions about your (women’s) emotions and abilities or judgments about whether or not you/they/we are “feminine” enough (or “too feminine”).




We are introducing some new members to our branch here in the Steamer. Be sure to introduce yourselves to them at our next branch or interest group meeting.



Clare Hanley

We welcome Clare Hanley to our branch. Clare is a retired SUSD teacher who taught at Marshall. San Joaquin and School for Adults. She admits to having an unusual fondness for middle school students!

Though Clare lives with her 93-year-old mother, she still manages to indulge her love for travel. She particularly enjoys visiting our national parks and other sites in the U.S. She



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has a trip planned to Portugal and Spain next year and plans to join a tour to Ireland led by a musician she first encountered at the Stockton Symphony some time back.

Clare joined our branch because the programs sounded interesting and there are some great interest groups.



Dana Miller-Tart

Dana is a new member who is, as many of us are, a retired educator. Prior to 2020 she held a number of education positions including as a classroom teacher and Vice Principal at both Lodi and Lincoln school districts. While she loved it all she particularly enjoyed teaching art, leading a gardening project and trips with her students. She was San Joaquin County Teacher of the Year in 1995.

Dana and her husband have three adult children and 3 fabulous grandchildren. She enjoys gardening and is looking forward to new experiences as a member of the Stockton Branch. We welcome her!

Welcome to AAUW!

Thank You Letter from Delta College

Thanks to the generosity of our branch members and a generous donation from The Tolliver Family Revocable Trust we are fortunate enough again to be giving three \$2,000 scholarships to very well qualified recipients this year. We recently received a letter from San Joaquin Delta College thanking our branch for our donation to the Scholarship Program. The recipients will be invited to attend our June branch meeting. Thank you all for supporting this great program!

Jennifer Balestracci
Scholarship Committee Chair

An Appropriate Gift Idea

Do you know someone who is graduating from college? Retiring? Changing careers? Moving to the area? Has everything and needs nothing more?

There is a good gift that not only has lasting benefits for the community and the individual, and that gift is membership in Stockton Branch AAUW.

Being an AAUW member:

- Supports over \$115 million in fellowships and grants to women;
- Supports scientists and scholars;
- supports research to promote equality;
- Advocates for women and girls in legislation;
- Promotes local opportunities for women and girls.

But most importantly, a member is part of a large diverse group of interesting and involved people in our local branch.

You can gift a membership or you can give the information about our branch to someone who wants to make a difference while being a part of a fun group of people.

The application is attached.



The American Association of University Women, Stockton Branch

Membership Application

2025-26

Please complete and return this form with your check (made out to AAUW)
to Diane Oren, 1800 Mettler Road, Lodi, CA 95242

Dues \$112 (\$20 local, \$20 state, \$72 national)

(Shape the Future dues \$76: National \$36, state \$20, and Branch \$20)

Name _____ Home phone _____ Cell _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Occupation _____

College _____ Major _____

Degree(s) _____ Year(s) Earned _____

Our branch membership directory includes a professional section where you can be listed by your occupation. Would you like to be listed in this section? Yes _____ No _____

Have you been a member of AAUW before? Where and for how long? _____

Are you interested in participating in any of these activities?

Program Committees

_____ International Affairs

_____ Public Policy

Community Involvement

_____ Essay Competition

_____ Thanks for Giving Tea

_____ Reading is Fundamental

_____ Tech Trek Math and Science Camp

_____ STEM Trek Mentoring Program

Interest Groups

_____ Book Group

_____ Bunco Group

_____ Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI)

_____ Gourmet Groups

_____ Pop Up Group

_____ Saturday Wisdom Group

_____ Writing Group

Other

_____ Communication/Publicity

_____ Newsletter

_____ Underwriting/Fundraising

_____ Branch meeting hospitality

Who referred you to AAUW? _____ Date _____

In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.

Thank you for joining the American Association of University Women

American Association of University Women-Stockton Branch, Inc. P.O. Box 690663, Stockton,, CA 95269-0663

Programs: These are functions of state and national AAUW efforts to achieve goals of the organizations. There are two important ones that require awareness of issues brought to our local AAUW by state and national. A member of the branch will report to the general membership about issues for awareness and action as necessary.

International Affairs Committee: This group apprises members of international issues.

Public Policy

Working to advance gender equity through advocacy, we support economic security for all women, equal access to quality public education for all students, social & racial justice for all members of society, and increased representation of women in leadership roles. This group studies and informs the general membership of these important issues.

Community Involvement: Being an organization of university graduates that promotes equity, education and intellectual growth, individual worth, and development of opportunities for women and girls, we serve our community in a variety of ways.

Tech Trek is a weeklong sleep-away STEM camp held in June for graduating 7th-grade girls. This committee works to involve teachers in SUSD to nominate girls, and then facilitates the application process. Ultimately, Tech Trek Committee interviews the applicants and selects which girls Stockton AAUW will send to camp.

The Mentor Program has been in existence for approximately 16 years. We invite 8th grade girls who have completed Tech Trek Camp to join our program to last through high school graduation. The girls are generally from low socioeconomic backgrounds and need the assistance of college educated women to help them negotiate life in all areas. Our ultimate goal is for them to gain a college education. To that end we strive to instill social skills as well as educational guidance through monthly activities designed to give them opportunities for experiences they would not otherwise be able to have.

Mentors must be able to relate well to teenagers of all ethnicities and be reasonably physically fit in order to keep up with them.

Essay Competition: Each year Stockton branch AAUW sponsors an essay contest for area high school students. AAUW members promote this activity within area high schools and also judge the essays. Students who are awarded receive a monetary prize as well as a plaque.

Reading is Fundamental: This oldest and largest non-profit literacy program in the U.S. is managed locally by AAUW-Stockton. We distribute a variety of beautiful free books at three targeted schools, bringing the joy of reading to over 1,200 TK-6 students twice a year. Volunteers from AAUW help with the distribution.

Thanks for Giving Tea: This successful November fundraiser for AAUW needs many hands to help with food, table setting, baskets, set up and clean up, entertainment, and all the work involved in a formal tea for over two hundred people. It is a great way to meet members.

Interest Groups: Along with building friendships, personal development and continuing intellectual growth are also functions of AAUW. To that end there are interest groups.

Write On!

Are you interested in documenting personal and family history? Join us for monthly meetings that include meaningful writing activities and compelling conversation to get your creative juices flowing so that you can Write On!

Bunco If you play, you may want to join an AAUW group or start a new group.

Gourmet

The Gourmet interest group is for members who enjoy eating and socializing. Don't let the title fool you as it could be a simple singles or couple group that dines out, does pot lucks, or creates menus with interesting recipes. New groups can be started depending on the interests and appetites.

DEI Interest Group

This group will discuss the challenges of our society and organizations to better reflect diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). Come join us for both lively and challenging meetings. It is an opportunity for each of us to teach a little while learning a little from others. All are welcome.

Saturday Wisdom Group is an interest group where members meet monthly and discuss a myriad of topics, in a small, friendly group. Topics may range from current events or trends, to light-hearted, random conversation starters.

Pop Up Group When you have an activity idea in which you'd like to engage other AAUW members, it's a "Pop Up" activity. It may be attending a sporting event or theater production on a specific day with AAUW members, you'd contact people via email or The Steamer. Pop Up groups have scheduled morning walks or gone to a film or just had dinner together. It is a once or twice time get together that may turn into something more or not!

Book Group: If you are a reader and want to know what is a good book, join a book group or create a new group. AAUW has some established book groups but new ones are always welcome. If you are interested in creating a unique group such as Fantasy Book Group or Thriller Book Group, you will find like-minded readers in AAUW.

Book Group Lite: This group replaced a defunct book group. The focus of Book Group Lite is to read "lighter novels" although not limited to just those. Members take turns hosting the meetings: selecting the book; choosing the date and time and restaurant, making the restaurant reservation; and leading the discussion.

Service to the Organization:

Communication/Publicity: Being a cohesive group requires knowing who we are and what we are doing. This means informing media sources of branch activities. It is public relations. It is a good way to learn the community of AAUW and San Joaquin County.

Newsletter: The newsletter requires articles and items to share with members. We get to know who we are and what we do.

Fundraising/Underwriting: Stockton Branch AAUW has many projects that benefit the community and these need funds to continue the effectiveness and to grow and reach more in our community. Individual donations and fund raisers keep programs afloat; however, to make programs and community involvement grow, the branch needs fundraisers and grants.

Branch Meeting Hospitality: The best part of meetings is the community we share before meetings; getting to know and communicate with members over coffee and pastry starts our excellent programs each meeting. Hospitality members prepare coffee and goodies before the meeting and clean up after.

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

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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
Thu	8	4:30-6:00pm	DEI Meeting	Online via Zoom
Sun	11	All Day	Reservation Deadline	Betty Parsons - (408) 309-8958
Mon	12	6:00pm	May Board Meeting	Online via Zoom
Thu	15	5:30pm	"Spring Social, Celebration of New Members"	Club Brookside
Thu	22	4:30-6:00pm	DEI Meeting	Online via Zoom