

## Women's History Month

Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – 9:30am

Haggin Museum/Victory Park - 1201 N. Pershing Ave.

AAUW will celebrate Women's History Month at our Branch Meeting on Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Come and be inspired as you listen to the finalists in our high school inspiring women essay contest read aloud their winning essays.

Our speaker, Haggin Museum docent Marianne Castillo, will recount the story of Eila Haggin, whose fortune made the construction of the Haggin Museum possible. She was a truly remarkable woman.



*Eila Haggin*

**When:** Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup> - 9:30am

**Where:** Haggin Museum/Victory Park  
1201 N. Pershing Ave., Stockton

**Cost:** \$10

**Reservation Deadline:** Wed., March 12<sup>th</sup>

Call or Text Reservation Chair Betty Parsons  
@ (408) 309-8958

[bjpars\\_95120@yahoo.com](mailto:bjpars_95120@yahoo.com)

**A RESERVATION MADE IS A RESERVATION PAID**



*Eila Haggin with husband Robert McKee*



# President's Message



Boy, do I have questions! Firstly, what exactly is so horrible about DEI? The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion policy has helped to secure chances for advancement for people of color, for women, and for those with disabilities. Common adaptations such as wheelchair ramps, handicap parking places, adaptive communication devices, bathroom accessibility, and Special Olympics have helped even the playing field for those with physical and learning disabilities. Seeing women and people of color in areas such as Congress, the boardrooms of major companies, and other places of merit is also a result of DEI practices. This is hardly subversive.

My second question is how is it that that Elon Musk, who was not elected or confirmed by Congress, ended up running a new government department specifically created for him and the Silicon Valley coders he hired? Where was Congressional oversight? Also, why does this department need access to our banking information, social security numbers, addresses, birthdates, medical information, and other confidential items? For years, we have been warned about sharing this information due to the threat of identity theft. Now these new employees, who will only be in their positions for a short time, will have access to this sensitive material while people with years of experience have been let go and shut out of their workplaces.

Thirdly, apparently, J.D. Vance does not understand about our “checks and balances” system when he implied that the courts don’t have a right to stop what DOGE is doing. The courts, according to Vance, do not have any control over executive orders, either. Is he arrogant, ignorant, or both? He should be familiar with the Constitution, since he and Trump both swore to “uphold, protect, and defend” it. Both Vance and Musk have called for the impeachment of judges who have blocked DOGE’s actions, claiming the judges are corrupt. The actions taken by DOGE have been more like a wrecking ball than a surgical strike. This is where the corruption exists.

What is next, and where is Congress in all of this since they control spending? Have they abdicated their authority? Lots of questions!

Sandra Mazzuola  
President

**2024-2025**

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# Mentor Program

February may be behind us but the few extra pounds from all the sweet treats may stay for a while! The girls in the Mentor Program had a great day on February 8<sup>th</sup> engaging in one of our favorite activities of the year: Valentine cake decorating! Yes, we love our girls to learn a new skill while engaged in a fun activity, but we also love to listen to their talk in a relaxed, informal atmosphere. We are often surprised about what we learn when we are just passively listening!



We are also surprised about how well many of them take to the decorating process and the lovely finished products. Of course, the day is always capped off by actually eating cake before they each take home their masterpieces.



It is only fitting that after that sugar filled activity our March activity will take us to One Body Whole Health Center for a workshop on Fitness, Nutrition, Self-Care, Yoga and Stress Management. We can all use some reminding to nurture and be our best selves.



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# Public Policy Update

As a bit of a follow-up to last month's meeting, there is a webinar that many might be interested in, titled "Navigating the Politicization of Reproductive Health." It is part of the American University's series on the future of health care & takes place 3/4/2025, from 9-10am. Go to our Facebook page for the details & click on the event banner to register.

Locally, Lobby Days is coming up again in April. While registration for the training has passed by the time the Steamer comes out, it might be worthwhile to try anyway if you want to participate. Registration details, again, are on our Facebook page.

You know how you can leave a comment on messages sent to you by using your emojis? For instance, the "angry" emoji 🙄? I have to admit, I'm using 🙄 so often right now! But there's a better, ultimately more worthwhile, way to express ourselves, I think. And that's to make your representatives know how you feel - **Keep their emails full & their phones ringing!**

Schiff.senate.gov (202) 224-3841  
Padilla.senate.gov (202) 224-3553  
Harder.house.gov (209) 579-5458





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



## Pop Up Hoops Supporters

### AAUW supports Delta College Women's Basketball

On January 28<sup>th</sup>, AAUW attended the Delta College Women's Basketball game. We were treated royally and the ladies played an excellent game. Here are a couple photos of the event:



## ✂ Directory update:

Please make the following change to your Directory:

### Change of address:

**Loretta Lee**  
2890 S. Stockton, Apt 231  
Lodi, CA 95240

*E-Mail and phone number remain the same as in  
Directory*



# The Rotary Read-in: A Battle for Hearts and Minds!

It was 9:55am on Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025. A volunteer militia was ready to invade 74 schools in Stockton. Armed with new books to defeat any bit of disinterest in story-sharing, this 850-strong force focused on its mission of winning the hearts and minds of 20,000 K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade youngsters and ultimately glorifying literature. The 34<sup>th</sup> annual Stockton Rotary Read-In was underway!

AAUW Stockton sent its own fervent and seasoned platoon of story-readers to Kennedy Elementary School in North Stockton. Each Amazonian warrior shared her book with an assigned class and presented it to the appreciative students and teacher to add to their classroom or school library.



After reading then presenting their book gifts, most volunteers returned to the Teachers' Lounge to discuss their Read-In experiences while enjoying the treats provided by Mrs. Chin, Kennedy's principal. Pictured from the left are Betty, Cindy, Joan, Rosa, Amy, Sue, and Kennetha. Erica joined the group after the Photo was taken. Here are some of their comments, organized by grade level:



Reporting for duty, nine 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade student leaders, many holding their room assignment sheets, met with the volunteer reader militia members. The students then escorted their assigned readers to their respective classrooms. Starting at the right, pictured displaying their Read-in books, are SUSD School Board President Kennetha Stevens and AAUW members Erica DeiRossi, Rosa Solis, and Pam Mallett Jones. To the left of Pam but with unseen books are Amy Lovett Cooper, Betty Parsons, and Cindy Milford. Virtually hidden within the group are Sue Kenmotsu and Joan Erreca.



After reading to her assigned second grade class, Joan said, "I feel fortunate to have shared such a special time with happy children and their wonderful teacher."

**K:** "The student escorts were delightful." "It was nice to have the school administrators greet us." "The students asked me to reread the story."

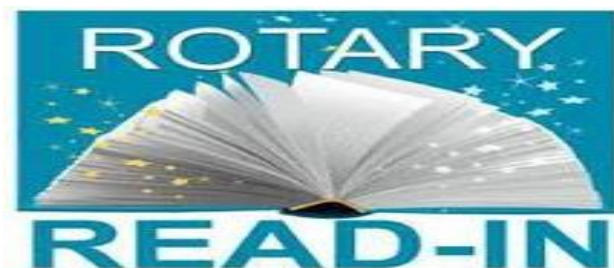
**1<sup>st</sup>:** "Students shared, responded, and listened beautifully. I enjoyed my time." "The teacher and students were very welcoming." "A couple of students asked that I be their substitute when their teacher was absent."

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** "It was the best-behaved class I've ever seen!" (This is high praise from a very experienced educator/volunteer reader). "Reading to children is one of my happy places."

**3<sup>rd</sup>:** "The students were active Participants during the reading period and thought of great words/phrases for the activity afterward." "My student escort introduced me to the teacher who enthusiastically introduced me to her class! Her students were eager to hear the book and were very attentive, although it was long."

The photos and related commentary prove that both sides won: Students and readers alike enjoyed a happy, exciting experience! Thank you, Rotary Read-in "Soldiers!"

Submitted by Cindy Milford



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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.

## *March Calendar*

Day	Date	Time	Event	Location/Contact
Sat	8	9:00am	March Board Retreat	Rio Las Palmas
Wed	12	All Day	Reservation Deadline	Betty Parsons - (408) 309-8958
Thu	13	4:30-6:00pm	DEI Meeting	Online via Zoom
Sat	15	9:30am	AAUW March Program: "Women's History Month"	Haggin Museum
Thu	27	4:30-6:00pm	DEI Meeting	Online via Zoom