

Thanks for Giving Tea Sold Out!

Saturday, November 9th, 2024 – 1:30pm
Central United Methodist Church

This year's AAUW Stockton Branch "Thanks for Giving" Tea on Saturday, November 9th is sold out even though we added three tables! It is gratifying that so many want to support the projects of our Community Outreach Fund, which include RIF (Reading is Fundamental), Tech Trek camp on a college campus for girls entering eighth grade, our high school mentoring program, and scholarships for Delta College students.

This year we will have an abundance of opportunity baskets and silent auction items. Opportunity basket tickets will be \$5 for five or \$20 for 25. Our centerpieces will feature beautiful tea cups which have been planted with succulents. They will be for sale at \$20 each. We will accept cash, checks and Paypal, so come prepared. You will need your smart phone for PayPal. All proceeds support the very worthwhile AAUW community outreach programs.

If you are unable to attend, please consider making a donation. For the \$50 price of a reservation, you will be recognized at our virtual table. Make out checks to Stockton AAUW, Inc. and send to Stockton AAUW P.O. Box 690663, Stockton, CA 95269.

To make an online donation, go to aauwstockton.org and click on Thanks for Giving Tea.



President's Message



2023-2024

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Karen Frank

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Sue Kenmotsu

aauwstockton.org

Delta Steamer

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Editor

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"If I have to create stories so that the American media actually pays attention to the suffering of the American people, then that's what I'll do." J. D. Vance

In other words, it's okay to lie if you have a reason, even if the lie unjustly vilifies a group of people. As an example, Haitian immigrants in Springfield, Ohio were accused of eating neighborhood pets and of being here illegally. Facts proved otherwise. According to the CDC there was no evidence that these people were eating pets, and they had been invited to come to Springfield and had "temporary protected status" from both the Obama and Trump administrations.

A tactic used by many in politics is to pick up on the existing scapegoat and to figure out how you can use it for your own purposes. This method has been used effectively by white supremacist groups for ages.

To better understand this tactic, let's look at some of Donald Trump's own words regarding immigration:

"The ones we're getting now are drug lords, we're getting the gang members, and we're getting some people that are fine, but we're not getting the finest from South America, believe me. They're rough people, in many cases from prisons, from mental institutions, insane asylums. You know, insane asylum, that's 'Silence of the Lambs' stuff." (3/4/24)

"They're coming from China—31,32,000, over the last months and they're all military age and they're mostly all men. And it sounds to me like they are trying to build a little army in our country." 4/13/24

"They're taking Black jobs now and it could be 18, it could be 19 and even 20 million people. They're taking Black jobs and they're taking Hispanic jobs, but you're going to see something that is the worst in our history." (6/28/24)

These are examples of the fear tactics used by weak people to frighten others into believing the worst about others, especially strangers. In contrast, former President Jimmy Carter eloquently spoke these words: "A strong nation, like a strong person, can afford to be gentle, firm, thoughtful, and restrained. It can afford to extend a helping hand to others."

What kind of country do you want the United States to be?
This is why voting matters!

Sandra Mazzuola
President



Mentor Program

This article for this issue of the Steamer was due slightly before our October activity. On October 30th our girls had the opportunity to attend the Dinner With a STEM Professional event. Readers will have to wait until the December issue to hear about that experience. Those attending the Thanks For Giving Tea on November 9th will also have the opportunity to meet the girls, as they will be serving on that day. Make sure you ask them all about themselves and how they are benefitting from the Mentoring Program.

Our Mentor Program began approximately 17 years ago by founding mothers Gladys Finucane, Maxine Jacobsen, Paula Almaas and Katie Walter. These smart women very soon recruited me, Pam Mallett-Jones, and then immediately put me in charge of it!

The program was originally called STEM Trek because one of our goals was to encourage our girls to consider the STEM areas in which women were, and are, under-represented. Although we still encourage interest in the STEM areas, we have had to admit that our ultimate goal is just for our girls to go on to higher education. We are proud to say that we have been 100% successful in that endeavor.

Our program has evolved in many ways, but we continue to serve our girls from the time they complete Tech Trek Camp after 7th grade until they have finished high school and beyond.

Mentoring is certainly not for everyone. Most of our girls come from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds and are often challenging in many ways. Keeping up with them, both socially, academically, and physically is not for the faint of heart! Our current mentor roster includes Terri Mercer, Julie Pichardo, Rosa Solis, Jennifer Gray-Reiber, Leslie Cazares, Jessica Lopez and Samantha Johnson. Leslie and Jessica were once girls in the program! Each mentor brings a unique set of skills that all mesh to create a very effective group.

We will continue to report on our activities in the next issue of the Delta Steamer!



Pop Up Hoops Supporters

Stockton Branch AAUW Supporters of San Joaquin Delta College Women's Basketball will attend their first game on January 28th on the Delta College campus. The Tuesday game will begin at 5:30, but our hoop supporters will meet in the Budd Parking lot at 5pm and enter through the special accommodation access. The Delta ladies will play American River College, whose teams are always challenging and adept; however, Delta College's coach, Gina Johnson, always provides excellent competition for any team in the state.

If you are interested in attending, you are welcome to join us. Contact Diane Oren orendiane@gmail.com. The Delta College mascot is the Mustang. The college colors are black and gold. The gym is on Burke Bradley Drive which parallels Pershing Avenue. Parking is free. Admission is free. There is no snack bar or food for purchase, so prepare in advance. If you have your turquoise Title IX shirt, wear it so we are identified as Supporters of Women's Activities.

✂ Directory update:

Please add the following **New Member** to your Directory:

Kim F. Bell

10104 Blue Anchor Lane

Stockton, CA 95219

Ph: (209) 479-3938

E-Mail: kimfbell@gmail.com

Univ: Teachers College of San Joaquin.

Referred by Marilyn Lagier



**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.



As we prepare to enter the months of November and December, we enter a time of many celebrations around the world. It is especially important this year to remember to celebrate, because it has been a difficult year for many, if not all, of us. In the United States, we have traditionally celebrated Halloween, Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas and many more holidays, but now as we are recognizing **the diversity** that is the United States, we are celebrating even more holidays. So today, I would like to highlight a holiday that is very important to our Mexican families, friends and neighbors. That holiday is Day of the Dead, Dia de Los Muertos.

Dia de Los Muertos is a Mexican holiday where families welcome back the souls of their deceased relatives for a brief reunion that includes food, drink and celebration. Dia de Los Muertos is not, as is commonly thought, a Mexican version of Halloween, although they have in common both costumes and parades.

The most prominent symbols related to the holiday are calacas (skeletons) and calaveras (skulls). During the contemporary Day of the Dead festivities, people commonly wear skull masks and eat sugar candy molded into the shape of skulls. Small ceramic skeleton dolls, dressed in a variety of popular outfits, are also available at many shops throughout Mexican neighborhoods. Other commonly eaten foods are sweet breads, spicy dark chocolate and the corn-based drink called atole. You can wish someone a happy Day of the Dead by saying, "Feliz Dia de Los Muertos."

This material, as well as more comprehensive information can be found of History.com.

It is now November & voting should be over. Hopefully we can now take a deep breath & move on.

I want to share some thoughts about another effort that is supported by AAUW Public Policy -- the School Board Project. I have primarily presented this previously in regards to banned books, but there is more to consider, & if you go to California's Health Education Initiatives' webpage

(<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/he/cf/cahealthfaq.asp>) you can become more informed about what is actually required by the your local school districts.

The California Healthy Youth Act, which took effect in January 2016, requires school districts throughout the state to provide students with comprehensive sexual health education, along with information about HIV prevention, at least once in high school and once in middle school. The law also allows districts to offer age-appropriate sexual health education in earlier grades if they choose to do so. Local districts also choose the curriculum & instructional resources, such as textbooks & worksheets, used to teach comprehensive sexual education. Whether you as a parent support what & how your school teaches sexual education, it is up to you to be informed about the materials & to decide if your child should participate. What AAUW policy does not support is making that choice for other families.

Parents **can** opt out of comprehensive sexual health education if they choose. The law recognizes that while parents and guardians overwhelmingly support medically accurate, comprehensive sex education, parents and guardians have the ultimate responsibility for imparting values regarding human sexuality to their children. However, the opt-out provision of the California Healthy Youth Act does not apply to instruction or materials outside the context of comprehensive sexual health education, including those that may reference gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, discrimination, bullying, relationships, or family. For example, the opt-out rule would not apply to a social studies lesson on the U.S. Supreme Court's 2015 ruling in favor of same-sex marriage.

Ultimately, be educated about the law & what is taught in your district!

KATHLEEN M. SOLARI, CPA

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All AAUW Members please read the following Branch Strategic Plan. The plan focuses on the goals and objectives we hope to accomplish within the next two years.

It takes a village, or in this case, full membership to achieve these goals, but they are reachable. Thank you for all the work you do to help the Stockton branch live up to its mission.

Stockton Branch Board Members

STRATEGIC PLAN

AAUW Stockton Branch, Inc.

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2026

AAUW MISSION STATEMENT

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

AAUW VISION STATEMENT

AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in the community promoting education and equity for women and girls.

GOALS

1. Promote and mentor a diverse group of women and girls to be community leaders and graduates of higher education.
2. Support AAUW's national and state public policy priorities.
3. Collaborate with groups in the community to achieve our mission and vision as we increase visibility and knowledge of AAUW.
4. Attract and retain a diverse membership.
5. Sustain the fiscal integrity of AAUW Stockton Branch, Inc.

OBJECTIVES

- 1a. Mentor girls and guide them into careers in the STEM fields, through opportunities and experiences.
- 1b. Increase the number of girls who receive scholarships to Tech Trek Camp, with a subsequent invitation to join the mentor group, to four per year.

- 1c. Continue to encourage a higher education by providing 3 annual scholarships to San Joaquin Delta College Students.
- 2a. Contact state and national legislators when requested by AAUW state and national offices on issues such as Title IX and Equal Pay.
- 2b. Engage in activities such as attending female sporting events, legislative hearings, Lobby Day and letter writing that support state and national priorities.
- 3a. Continue and expand partnerships with community groups to enhance public recognition and visibility of AAUW and its accomplishments. Attend additional community events to have an AAUW presence.
- 3b. Expand the marketing and media strategy to further promote interest in AAUW's mission.
- 4a. Promote the benefits and value of membership to potential members and encourage involvement of new and current members through interactive programs. Two-thirds of the monthly programs will be mission based.
- 4b. Continue bi weekly discussion group on diversity, equity and inclusion issues to attract more participation.
- 4c. Advertise all meetings as welcoming all members of our diverse community.
- 5a. Create budgets with oversight review of financial reports annually.
- 5b. Ensure that our mission is reflected in our budget priorities.



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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.

November Calendar

Day	Date	Time	Event	Location/Contact
Mon	4	6:00pm	November Board Meeting	Online via Zoom
Sat	9	1:30pm	AAUW Nov. Program: "Thanks for Giving" Tea	Central United Methodist Church