

The Montage



Turlock-Modesto Branch

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Save the Date!

Please join us for our 2021

AAUW Funds Fellowship Luncheon via Zoom

Guest Speaker: Maro Youssef-Doctoral candidate is an American Fellow and former diplomat who was stationed in the Middle East and North Africa. She has completed research on women's rights and movements in the Middle East, including how women influence policy in non-democratic countries. Her current research focuses on women's activism during and after the Arab Spring in Tunisia.

Date: Saturday, February 27, 2021

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Please RSVP if you plan to attend so that we can send you the link to the Zoom information a few days before our meeting.

Thank you.

RSVP: Soleslrs@gmail.com

Open Membership?

This spring AAUW members nationally will vote on proposed changes recommended by the AAUW Board of Directors and AAUW Governance Committee that would eliminate the degree requirement for membership.

AAUW Board of Directors Statement on Open Membership

The AAUW National Board of Directors strongly supports elimination of the degree requirement for membership and will put the requirement up for a membership vote this spring. This important change is a critical step in bringing AAUW's bylaws and membership requirement in line with our mission of advancing equity for women and girls. While AAUW is fiercely committed to educational attainment for all women, given our commitment to inclusion, this is simply the right thing to do.

Proposals to eliminate the degree requirement for membership have come before the membership for vote a number of times. The Board feels very strongly that, while the degree requirement made perfect sense at AAUW's inception, this requirement is now counter to our mission and limits our ability to build the capacity needed to increase our impact as an organization.

Members can comment on the proposed amendment [from January 11 through February 5, 2021, 5:00 p.m. ET](#). Voting will open [on April 7](#) and close [May 17, 2021, 5:00 p.m. ET](#).

We encourage respectful debate, which has always been a hallmark of the AAUW community. Please send any [comments](#) to let the Board know of your thoughts on this proposal and exercise your vote this spring.

The member comment period has now expired but, using the link below, you may read the rationale behind this proposed change and actually compare the current *Article IV: Membership and Dues* section of our bylaws with the proposed new wordage.

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/2021-comment-bylaws/>

Please take the time to read and consider how you will vote on this very important issue.

Suffragettes, At Last!



Reader's Theater performers include (left to right) Turlock residents Alice Schultz, Pat Weisel, Sheila Younkin and Rita Morgan.

As you recall, the year 2020 marked the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, granting women's suffrage. It was a big deal and last year our Program Committee planned a unique event, scheduled for March, so we could celebrate properly.

First, we were to sponsor a locally written and performed Reader's Theater performance centering on suffragettes. In addition, our own branch member Wanda Bonnell was to make a special presentation, sharing stories about African American suffragettes. We were looking forward to it. But then along came Covid-19 and our special celebration was postponed.

In last March's *Montage*, we hinted we would reschedule this event. No one could predict the wait would be so long but our program finally arrives via Zoom on **Thursday, March 18 at 7:00 p.m.** An RSVP is necessary so we can send you the Zoom invitation. *Please see the link below for registration.*

We hope you'll join us for a lighthearted Reader's Theater tale assembled by Turlock resident Rita Morgan. Rita will also perform, along with fellow Turlockers Pat Weisel and our own branch members Sheila Younkin and Valerie Doherty (who is substituting for Alice). The program features lesser-known history. For instance, what does an anti-slavery conference in England have to do with Women's Suffrage in the U.S.? And we know Mott, Stanton and Anthony. But who is Emily Bissel?

Our program will continue with Wanda's presentation "Black Women Leaders in the American Women's Suffrage Movement." African American women in the movement were in a difficult position. They were often excluded from the more radical White women's organizations. They had to fight both racial and sexual discrimination, a condition never adequately recognized by leading White suffragists. But these brave and determined women refused to accept their exclusion nor the racist tactics employed by some White suffragists. Wanda will introduce us to several notable African American women who emerged as some of the first leaders in the movement.

Link to Zoom registration: <https://tinyurl.com/Suffragist031821>



Virtual Lobby Day

As we reported in the January *Montage*, AAUW Lobby Day on **Wednesday, March 24**, will be the first of what may be several opportunities for members to meet and help influence our local legislators. This is an opportunity for branch members to get involved by helping the state Public Policy Committee advance our legislative goals for 2021-22.

The national organization has received such a positive response that registration for these events has been extended through February 28. All Lobby Day participants will be given full training in a **Zoom webinar at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 22**. See details and register at: <https://www.aauw-ca.org/2020-2021-webinars/>

To register for Virtual Lobby Day:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/56JT7XF>

Active Branch Committees

Our branch would not be able to operate without committees of dedicated volunteers. Bravo and thank you to our most recent committee members for your service!

Nominating: Mary Allen, Wanda Bonnell, Linda Soles

STEM: Valerie Doherty, Pam Mayne, Beverly Schlegel

Bylaws, Policies and Procedures, and Standing Rules: Susan Baldwin, Valerie Doherty, Beverly Schlegel

Scholarships: Wanda Bonnell, Pat Portwood, Sheila Younkin,



Membership Renewal

It will soon be time to renew your AAUW membership for fiscal year 2022. Though we make only a single payment, our dues are paid at three levels: national, state and branch. Provided by our Branch Finance Officer, Susan Baldwin, here is our Turlock/Modesto branch's dues information for next year:

For fiscal year 2021-2022, the National AAUW dues will rise by \$3.00. This measure is essential for AAUW to continue the mission to achieve gender equity. National has not raised dues since July 2018. California state dues and our local dues will remain the same. Accordingly, our member dues for next year will be:

National:	\$62.00
California:	\$20.00
Branch:	<u>\$16.00</u>
Total:	\$98.00

(\$59.00 of the national dues are deductible.)

Membership renewal payments are due by June 30. Payments will be accepted starting March 16. If you have an email address listed, you will receive an invoice and instructions to renew from memberinfo@aauw.org. This email usually arrives the first week of April with a subject line that says AAUW Membership Renewal. This is a unique-to-you message that already contains your AAUW identification and *a link just for you* to pay your dues. Very little clicking involved! But if you miss the email you can still pay online by going to www.aauw.org and logging in. If you need help with this process please call Susan at (209) 668-2483 or email her at tobald@aol.com

If you do not have access to renew online, you may pay by check to AAUW Turlock/Modesto and mailed to PO Box 2373, Turlock CA, 95381-2373.

Wanda Bonnell Appointed Branch College/University Coordinator

Branch member Wanda Bonnell has recently retired and so, fortunately, she is willing and able to devote some of her energy and time to us. She has recently been appointed our College/University (C/U) Coordinator.



Fortunately, CSU Stanislaus (CSUS) is an official C/U partner member. Because of the school's partner status, CSUS previously appointed two C/U Representatives, our branch members Bjorg Johannsdottir and Gitanjali Kaul, who serve as liaisons between AAUW and the faculty, students and staff. Now Wanda, as the C/U Coordinator, will function as a link between the branch and those representatives. Wanda is the branch officer, who, along with Bjorg and Gitanjali, will be responsible for coordinating C/U outreach and programs. Wanda's familiarity with the campus and experience with students will be a great asset in this work. Based on her experience with CSUS students, Wanda already has plans to help with recruitment!

Wanda, a Turlock/Modesto branch member since 2015, has a BA in Psychology and a master's in Advanced Educational Counseling from CSUS. For 25 years she worked in higher education, with extensive experience in serving educational needs of first generation and former foster youth. She spearheaded the development of the CSUS Promise Scholars Program, which serves unique needs of former foster youth. In 2009 she was named an "Angel of Adoption" by the Congressional Coalitions of Adoption Institute in Washington D.C. In 2005, she was named one of Stanislaus County Commission for Women's Outstanding Women of the Year. In 2007 she received the Soroptimist International's Woman of Distinction Award.

Good Trouble

March 24 Is Equal Pay Date

Equal Pay Day denotes how far into the new year women must work to be paid what men were paid the previous year. Started by the National Committee on Pay Equity (NCPE) in 1996, the goal is to raise awareness about the gender wage gap. *Here is this year's data comparing women's pay rate per dollar paid to white men:*

All Women = \$.82

Mothers = \$.70

Asian-American Women = \$.90

Black Women = \$.79

Native American Women = \$.57

Latina Women = \$.54



For more information about the Gender Pay Gap:

https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2020/12/SimpleTruth_2.1.pdf

Good Trouble

Last month we introduced as much information as we had at the time about the Aileen Rizo Zoom program, sponsored by the Alameda County Inter-Branch Council and described below. In 2013 Aileen sued her employer, the Fresno (CA) County Office of Education, after learning that, despite her superior education and experience, her newly-hired male colleague was being paid more than she. Aileen will discuss her odyssey all the way to the Supreme Court and, finally, to victory. It is not too late to register!

PROGRESS MADE by GOOD TROUBLE

Passionate Voice for EQUITY

What would you do if you won your US Supreme Court Pay Equity case?



Come hear Aileen Rizo's story of her 8-year fight for pay equity, and how she remains a passionate voice for equity, diversity, and inclusiveness.

THURSDAY • FEB 18 • 6:30 PM
Register in Advance
<https://tinyurl.com/AileenRizo>

After registering you will receive an email with instructions about joining the meeting.

Call (510) 435-6150. Admission is free
Event is open to the public.

Aileen was born in Phoenix, Arizona and embraces both her Native American and Mexican heritage. First in her family to finish college, she earned master's degrees in educational technology and Mathematics Education. Aileen spent 23 years working in mathematics education striving to close academic achievement gaps, and promoting groups underrepresented in STEM fields. In 2012, she began a fight, supported in part by AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund, for pay equity and became an advocate for the economic security of women in our state and throughout the country. She is a wife and mother of three girls currently working as the Associate Director of The AIMS Center for Math and Science, plus pursuing a PhD in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) Education.

Hosted by Alameda County Inter-Branch Council,



For information about donating to the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund, see <http://bit.ly/LAFdonateRizo>

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