

# The Chico AAUW Grapevine



American Association of University Women - Chico Branch Vol. 33 No. 7 Mar 2021

## Remember When?

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

By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women and girls have a fair chance.

AAUW membership is open to all graduates holding a recognized associate (or equivalent), baccalaureate, or higher degree from a qualified educational institution.

In principle and in 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.



Remember when we used to enjoy small group conversations with interesting AAUW friends?

Remember when our local girls could attend Tech Trek camp at UC, Davis and we could visit them to see what it was like?



Remember when our branch hosted informative meetings about community issues? . . . Our branch has a great track record of being an organization of importance to individual members and to the community. It won't be long before we're back in the good again.

## Message from the President

### Branch Officers

President -

Jan Britton

Membership -

Mary Huntsinger

Betty Lusina

Finance -

Marilyn Myrick

Secretary -

Adele Arnold

Newsletter Editor -

Jana Lawton

Public Policy -

Carol Holzgrafe

Tech Trek Coordinator -

Joan Cleveland

Technology -

Helen Gesick

Historian -

Barbara Paige

It is hard to believe it is March already and all the lovely daffodils and spring flowers are blooming. From now through May, your board will be busy.

It is an exciting time as many of us are getting our COVID shots and this means that normality is a step closer. While this does not mean we can throw away our masks, but maybe we can soon have in-person meetings and even a Wine Time adventure.

To this point, I have been in touch with State President, Diane Owens, to find out when national and state entities (and our insurance) will allow us to meet in person in a safe manner. I expect to have her answer soon. This is all hopeful, positive, and something to look forward to at last.

The Board will be meeting this coming week and making decisions about the annual Strawberry Brunch, and other matters. The hike I suggested will be on hold until we see when we can meet outside. If not now, we can do this bird watching event in the fall.

Our February branch meeting with Deanna Schwab of Safe Space was well attended and resulted in positive comments. So much so, some want to form a committee focusing on homelessness. Such a group opens the possibility of working with other local organizations on this topic, such as the League of Women Voters. This committee will allow us to discuss and explore what our next steps we might be. Let me know if you would like to participate.

At the same time, Kathy Sweet has started a discussion group on increasing diversity in our branch. If you are interested, she will be happy if you call her at 530-893-1812 for more information.

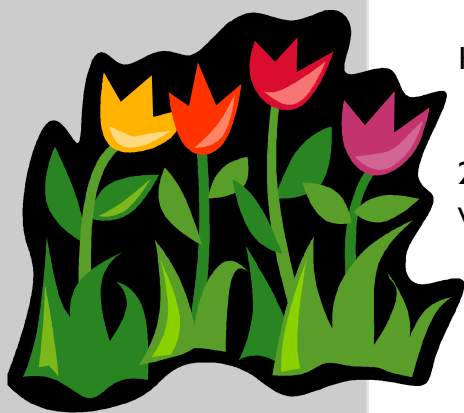
Kathi Harper, who spoke to the Interbranch Council in February about AAUW's Public Policy Committee for California, has organized a Lobby Day for March 24. Initially, this year's volunteers will be in a training class on March 22. Then on the 24<sup>th</sup>, the volunteers will be divided into groups and given two or more bills on which to advocate that the AAUW supports. Then each group will meet with some of our 120 state legislators to explain why this bill is important for people in California. If you are interested, you may want to consider joining Lobby Day for 2021 as it is an informative and enjoyable annual event. Next month we will have a report about the event.

As you can see, this month will be busy. Let us know what you are doing in this time of COVID and tell us any ideas you think we should explore or programs you want us to consider. Feel free to write me at [BrittonADV@comcast.net](mailto:BrittonADV@comcast.net)

You will be getting an email notice about when our general meeting in March will be. I am waiting to hear from someone we invited to make a presentation this month.

Keep in touch with us and stay well.

*Jan Britton*  
*Chico AAUW President*



## Branch News and Notes

### Branch Board Members Needed for 2021-22

The membership committee is seeking people to help with the tasks of orienting and welcoming new members and completing the appropriate paperwork for new members to the branch.

We also need a person who could help coordinate our monthly branch meetings by helping to identify speakers and working on the logistics of the meetings.

We all know people in Chico AAUW who have the skills (basic computer skills are necessary) and can type. If you think they may consider joining our team as secretary, please send their names to Jan Britton so she can invite them. Here is a quick overview of the job from Adele Arnold, our current secretary.

During my tenure I've taken minutes at board meetings & on rare occasions at committee meetings (maybe 4-5 times only). Time to organize and type minutes takes me 1-1.5 hrs. (I'm a slow typist). I send the minutes to all meeting participants in an e-mail & print a copy & place in a binder I started when I accepted the position. This year I helped Jan send thank you notes to members who participated in our Christmas gift purchases for Catalyst. Board meetings about every 2-3 months however, since the pandemic, they've been monthly.

*Adele Arnold*

### League of Women Voters hosts discussion on the role of journalism in democracy

The League of Women Voters of Butte County will host a discussion on Zoom on the role of journalism in preserving democracy. Check their website for details.

<https://my.lwv.org/california/butte-county/event/role-journalism-preserving-democracy>

Confirmed Panelists are Mike Wolcott, Editor, Chico Enterprise Record and Oroville Mercury Register; Jennifer Brundidge, Associate Professor, Communications Department, CSU, Chico; and Forrest Hartman, Owner, Hartman Media and Instructor, Journalism and Public Relations Department, CSU, Chico

Join an educational panel discussion where a League moderator will pose questions to the panelists, and members of the public will also be able to submit questions during the program. Questions will include the role the media in preserving democracy, the unique challenges imposed by social media on journalists and news organizations, the evolving perception of the news media, and the importance of supporting and maintaining local news organizations.

Board to Board March 2021 Message

**Should AAUW change its membership requirements?** To learn more, we invite you all to join a webinar at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 16 where you will hear from a panel of distinguished guests. Register at [aauw-ca.org](http://aauw-ca.org). Questions can be asked too.

**5 Star Program** – There are four months left to earn your stars. You can do it! Get positive feedback for your hard work. Ask us if you need help: [branch@aauw-ca.org](mailto:branch@aauw-ca.org) or [AskUsFirst@aauw-ca.org](mailto:AskUsFirst@aauw-ca.org). And for other questions your branch may have about AAUW, send them our way at either of the above addresses.

*Branch Assistance Directors*

*Carol Holzgrafe and Crystal Stebbins*

The CHICO GRAPE-VINE is published by the Chico Branch of AAUW. Items for inclusion can be mailed to Jana Lawton, newsletter editor, 1112 Bidwell Avenue, Chico, CA 95926 or e-mailed to [jdawton72@gmail.com](mailto:jdawton72@gmail.com) (preferred)



## Membership News - Special Edition

**Chico AAUW  
has a new  
Golden Girl!**

**Jeannemarie  
Bordoli**

A little over fifty years ago, a young mother new to Chico was hoping to meet people and find interesting activities. Someone suggested AAUW ...

Jeannemarie Bordoli commenced her Golden Anniversary year with AAUW Chico Branch on July 1, 2020. Jeannemarie has been a proud member of our branch for over 50 years! She still remembers her first years in Chico and how AAUW helped a young mother new to town to find community and fellowship.



DIRECTORY UPDATE  
ADD MEMBER

DORI MOURA  
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Jeannemarie attended Notre Dame Prep School, an all-girls Catholic school in Baltimore. From there she matriculated to Notre Dame College of Baltimore where she prepared for a career in social work. During her undergrad years, Jeannemarie was a member of the Junior Ladies of Charity. This organization connected with the Maryland Gold Star Moms support program. The Gold Star Moms frequently sponsored a bus to carry young women students to the nearby Perry Point VA Hospital to socialize with the veterans suffering from “shell shock” or, as we know it today, PTSD. The Perry Point VA hospital was a neuropsychiatric facility, and Jeannemarie remembers that her social work studies came into good use while talking and dancing with the young veterans.

After college she worked at the Baltimore Welfare Department in the Psychiatric Ward at John’s Hopkins University. Jeannemarie then attended graduate school at the University of Maryland on a full scholarship working for a Masters in Social Work. She especially remembers one classmate in her Masters program, Barbara Mikulski, who served in both the US House Representatives and the Senate for the state of Maryland. Ms. Mikulski is the longest serving woman in the history of the Senate.

As part of her master thesis work, Jeannemarie found herself back at Perry Point VA Hospital working as a counselor. She worked with people who had suffered extreme mental trauma and those stories have lived deep within her heart all these years. In the middle of grad school, Jeannemarie took a little breather and went out to California at the urging of her supervisor at Perry Point who felt that Jeannemarie needed a little emotional sabbatical from all the stress of working in this field and from the strain of dealing with her ill mother. Her supervisor insisted she go for a bit and “put some color in your cheeks!” So Jeannemarie took off for California!

In Los Angeles, she worked at Catholic Charities, and that summer she met a handsome young man, James Anthony Bordoli, who took a shine to Jeannemarie, deciding

## Membership News - continued

there and then he wanted to marry her. When she went back home, he kept writing her and asking. Finally in the summer of 1967 they wed at Saint Anthony of Padua Church in Baltimore, the same church she attended as a child and young woman. They honeymooned in Las Vegas and settled in Inglewood where she worked as a social worker in adoptions for the Inglewood Division of Social Services .

All that changed when James was offered a job teaching at the newly formed Butte College, and that is how she came to Chico in 1968 with her first child just two weeks old. Jeannemarie worked for a time as a social worker for the State of California, but when baby number two came on the scene she wanted to spend more time with her children. So she made the decision to stay at home with her young son Guy and her new baby daughter Eve Marie. Now grown up, Guy teaches at Butte College, as did his father, and Eva Marie is a speech therapist and mother of Stella, Jeannemarie's beloved granddaughter.

She was lonely in those early years as a young mother new to Chico. She met Betz Ostrander, whose husband also taught at Butte College, and Betz suggested she look into AAUW so she could meet and enjoy the company of interesting women who were active in women's causes. So in July of 1970 she joined our Branch and made wonderful friends like Pat Feldhaus, Joanna Wolff and Cookie Rush. Jeannemarie fondly remembers travelling to Hawaii with several of the members. Sadie Urbanowicz and her husband put together this Hawaii adventure and Jeannemarie remembers riding around seeing the sights in Jana Lawton's parents' car and what a lovely time they all had. Other special treats were the Ashland trips organized by Pat Feldhaus to see the plays and the beautiful Oregon scenery. These were a delight! The Tech Trek Program is near and dear to her heart, and over the years Jeannemarie has greatly enjoyed meeting with the women in Roxanne Ferry's foreign policy study group. It is the stimulating conversation and the pleasure of working together that Jeannemarie cherished most with her newfound friends.

Jeannemarie lost her husband of almost 52 years in 2019. She still is as active as she is able but feels challenged by the world of technology (by which we are meeting during the pandemic) and can't participate as much as she would like. She is looking forward to the time when we can be physically together in camaraderie and companionship again. She faithfully reads her Grapevine and that is her connection to old friends and new in our Branch.

Jeannemarie says she is proud of her 50 years with AAUW and doesn't know where all the time has gone! "I have belonged to AAUW all these years because I value women's education." "I was taught by Franciscan nuns and they instilled in us that we were here to be of service to our fellow man. I remember as a girl at school making little trinkets to sell so that inner city kids could go to camp. I never got to go to camp myself, but I was always glad to be part of that kind of service. I am glad for having had the opportunity to serve through AAUW and meet such lovely women with whom to share conversation and activities."

We are hoping that very soon we can properly honor Jeannemarie with all of our members gathered together. It's a testament to AAUW that women like Jeannemarie have found our organization worthy of such long and devoted membership. As an organization, we are proud to have the loyalty, the friendship and the service of women like Jeannemarie Bordoli. Happy Anniversary!

## Membership News - continued



Our condolences to **Eleanor Calvert** and her family. Eleanor's husband, Carl, died in late February.

FROM YOUR CALIFORNIA STATE AAUW BOARD:  
Living our Mission of Equity for All **The Time is — Now?**

Is this the time, now, after 140 years, to invite everyone with similar goals to join AAUW? The AAUW California board of directors thinks it is and would like you to know why.

We do understand why some members might be reluctant to embrace this idea: it has long been a badge of accomplishment for women to earn a college degree, and we all enjoy socializing with others who enjoy the same things. But shared values do not come with a college degree.

We also work hard for the AAUW mission of equity, education, health issues, and more. But, so do others, many without a college degree. Are we missing out on their energy, ideas, and help? To help you decide how to vote, review the [aauw.org](http://aauw.org) home page and compare what you see there with the idea of a restricted membership.

### **Here is some history that may surprise you:**

Until the late 1940s only women with four-year degrees from a small list of accredited, elite universities were allowed to join AAUW. No state colleges; no religious schools. According to Sharon Schuster, past AAUW National and California president, "Some would like to forget that we used to vote on prospective members — with all of the implications of what that meant." The Second World War years — as World War I did with votes for women — broadened the vision in the United States and for AAUW too. The original rule was relaxed to invite all women with four-year degrees from accredited schools to join; applicants also had to present their degree certificate.

Next to go was accreditation and showing your actual degree. More recently we invited people with 3-year nursing degrees, 2-year degrees, and those who are actively in college. Of course, in the mid 1980s men, too, were welcomed — and that turned out quite well.

So, by 2021, most of the membership requirements are in the distant past and only one remains: that of the two-year degree. Before we get to the benefits of an expanded membership base, you should know that quite a few foundations refuse to grant funds to organizations that DISCRIMINATE. Yes, that is how they view our requirement. And this reduced funding pool restricts our work.

The younger generations view our restriction as, well, quaint, and not in a good way. Other organizations with open membership work for similar goals — so they join them instead. The same can be said for potential members of more diverse backgrounds. We have the same vision for the future of all women and all girls; we should work together and we can do that more effectively if we welcome everyone.

**Is it time to  
change AAUW  
membership  
requirements?**

## Member News and Notes - continued

So, how would AAUW change if everyone could join?

Remember when you had a friend who wanted to join AAUW, play bridge, join book clubs, and help with fund-raising? But she couldn't because she was one year short of a degree? Now she could.

Remember those enthusiastic Tech Trek moms who wanted to join our branch to help more girls attend our splendid STEM camps? But couldn't because – no degree. They can't even work at camp in most positions because they aren't members. Now they could.

Remember how hard it sometimes is to find new people to join the board, help with fund-raising events, plan programs? Now they will.

This would be AAUW's future face: more people of all colors and backgrounds, more hands working on our mission. More members to join book and discussion groups, more to play bridge and – more to join our board and help with our projects.

And, how would it NOT affect AAUW or your branch?

- It will not affect the uniqueness of AAUW. Its uniqueness is its breadth of programming, research, policy, advocacy, fellowships and grants, and grassroots membership.
- It will not change our branch's involvement in local scholarships or interest groups.

It will not change the mission of the branch. Mission is not determined by a degree, but in belief in and dedication to equality for women.

Sharon Schuster also said, "AAUW has survived because of our ability to change and because our membership requirements have changed over the years." So, when April 7 arrives, do remember what has been presented here and cast your vote in the AAUW National election for a positive future for an AAUW that welcomes everyone, one whose membership aligns with its mission and values. As much as we value the way we have been, we can also value the way we will be. It's time we walked the talk.

*Carol Holzgrafe  
Director, AAUW California  
Branch Assistance and Membership*

I'm happy to announce that six girls nominated for 2020 Tech Trek will be attending AAUW California's 2021 Virtual Tech Trek Camp! Of our seven 2020 Tech Trekkers, three have accepted the invitation. In addition, three girls who were named as 2020 Alternates will also participate.

The caring teachers and counselors who nominated last year's candidates were pleased to hear of our plan for this year, and assure us they will be ready to nominate girls for next year. I thanked them, on behalf of our branch, for their dedication to the education of our children during these trying times.

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## Branch News and Notes - continued

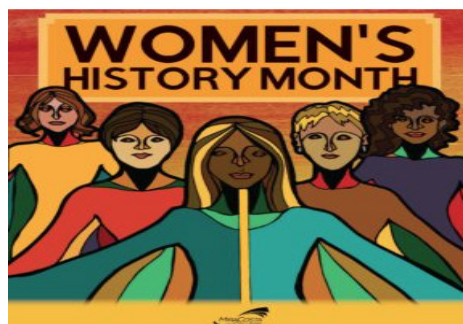
In the interest of equity, AAUW will assure that each camper can fully participate in the Virtual Camp by providing any necessary resources for reliable computer connectivity. With a look to the future, registration for our STEM Camp programs has moved entirely online, providing an efficient, paperless process.

While we look forward to again offering the traditional Tech Trek on-campus experience, we can be proud of this new approach to providing exposure to STEM.

*Joan Cleveland, Tech Trek Branch Coordinator*



Newsletter Editor, Jana Lawton, has been diligently working in her basement going through her mounds of stuff during the pandemic. She came across this treasured photo taken of her AAUW foreign policy study group in 2003. The group is still meeting today with some new members added over the years. Learning about what goes on in the world and having a good discussion keeps us all coming back. Pictured from left to right are Roxanne Ferry, Elsie Cloud (past president, deceased), Jo Ann Palmer, Adaline Christopherson (deceased, hosted our group and participated into her late 90s, lived to age 104), Jana Lawton, Jeannemarie Bordoli, Ruth Smith (past president, deceased), and Wendy Woods





# Interest Sections

## New to AAUW?

Call a group leader for more information about a section you might find of interest. A few have reached capacity but most would welcome new members.

Photos below from a recent walk in Durham. Mary Huntsinger (and dog Maisie) Satsie Veith, and Carol Holzgrafe plus cows. "The ladies" gave Maisie *The Look* so she behaved herself around them. *Les Flaneurs* walks most Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings 9:30 in winter, 8:30 in summer. Our trail leads us through interesting Chico neighborhoods, lower and middle Bidwell Park (from 5 Mile), and to other nearby towns. Contact Satsie Veith (530) 570-3550 if you want to join us.



Les Flaneurs



## Foreign Policy Discussion Group

Roxanne Ferry - 891-1722 All welcome. Group meets 4th Monday at 1 p.m. during pandemic Mar 22 - *The World Health Organization's response to COVID-19* - discussion led by Jana and hosted outdoors at 12555 Meridian Road (894-1843)



## Evening Book Discussion Group

Sue Blizman (530) 891-3489  
Group meets at 7:00 p.m. on 2nd Tuesday  
Mar 9 - *Ines of my Soul* by Isabel Allende  
Jan Britton- (530) 520-2102 for Zoom info

## Ethnic Writers Book Discussion Group

Severance Dolan 433-0258 All welcome!  
Group meets at 1:00 p.m. on 4th Wednesday  
Mar 24 - *Black Boy: A Record of Childhood and Youth* by Richard Wright Call Denise for Zoom info (530)343-5711

## Non-fiction Book Discussion Group

Group meets on 2nd Friday at 10 a.m.  
Contact Susan Critchfield for Zoom info at (530) 519-3460

## Mystery Book Discussion Group

Denise Worth 343-5711  
Group meets at 3 p.m. on 3rd Wednesday  
All welcome.  
Mar 17 - *Dead Beat* by Val McDermid.  
Contact Denise for Zoom info

## Computer and iPad Group

Helen Gesick (530) 570-5185  
Meets 4th Thursday at 2:00.  
Call Helen for Zoom information



## March Trivia on Sunday the 28th

Trivia has gotten to be quite the thing. A time honored way of exercising your brain cells and enjoying a little competition with friends. Those who have participated the past few months keep wanting to continue. Marilyn Myrick has arranged with our host, Jeff, to have a game on Sunday, March 28 at 3:00. p.m. As in the past, we have to pay to play so a \$10 bill keeps you in the game each month. We need to have a minimum of 12 players so, if you want to participate in March Trivia, contact Marilyn soon at (530) 520-1543 and let her know of your interest. Then, make sure to pay her by check, cash, or Venmo. Spouses or friends in the same household may play without additional cost (an easy to expand your team's brain power). Teams are assigned randomly so you never know what the match ups will be. New players are always welcome. If you have a passion for books, music, movies, politics, world history, or if you're just in the know about popular culture, you would be a welcome addition to any team. Few of us know it all so it's fun to be able to partner with people having different interests to create the winning team.

