

The Chico AAUW Grapevine



American Association of University Women - Chico Branch Vol. 34 No. 1 Sep 2021

Next Meeting:

**Zoom Presentation on Computer
Tapping the Master for Healthy Plants
Saturday, September 11, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.**

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.



Meet Jeff Oster, Master Gardener. At our Saturday Zoom meeting, we will be hosting Jeff Oster, a local Master Gardener. Oster will focus on recognizing and solving problems with local plants. With his expertise, he helps gardeners understand what they can do about sun and heat damaged plants and which types of vegetation grow best in our area.

Since childhood, Oster was drawn to plants and gradually came to focus on the science of gardens. He sought to understand plant pathology and became knowledgeable about disease resistance in plants, bacteria in soils, and the physics of rice growing in our area. He has spent over thirty years working with California rice growers, the agricultural school at University of California, Davis, and is now working with our local Master Gardener Program. He has also spent time teaching science to Citrus Elementary School students.

The Master Gardener Program has a training cycle every other year that runs for seventeen-weeks for up to 35 applicants. Classes cover the study of soils, plant pathology, pesticides, drought tolerant planting and a host of other subjects. Oster teaches classes on plant pathology in this program.

Jeff Oster is eager to meet with us and share his knowledge and hopes that our members will bring some questions about their gardens and plants to the meeting. **An email message with the Zoom link to participate will be sent a few days before the meeting.**



A timely quip from cheeky Maxine

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

Hi Everyone,

I wanted to keep all our AAUW members informed about what is coming up this fall, and about some of the decisions the Board has made for our September and October meetings.

September 11 Meeting - Calling all AAUW gardeners and plant lovers

This month, our general meeting will host Jeff Oster, a local, knowledgeable, and experienced Master Gardener. The meeting will be held on Zoom on Saturday, September 11 at 10:30 a.m. so, get ready to learn about setting up our gardens for fall and winter, what seasonal plantings might work best for you, and how to prepare your gardens for spring.

Zoom Once Again - As you can tell, we are once again apprehensive about our current unhealthy air quality due to the smoke and concerned about the COVID-19 Delta variant. The Board responded to these problems by canceling our August in-person meeting. We decided that the September and October meetings will be on Zoom as will our Board meetings. Because these concerns will be with us for a while, anyone who is not acquainted with Zoom should contact me and we will help you learn how to use this program. Email me at brittonadv@comcast.net and indicate in the subject line that you need help with Zoom.

New Newsletter Section - A new section is being added to our newsletter. To help you find new AAUW friends and activities, we will include a short article on one or two of our interest groups. This month we feature the Foreign Policy Discussion Group and Les Flaneurs. We intended to do this at our in-person meetings but must revert to the newsletter for the time being. Each month we also provide brief listings about which groups are meeting that month, the day and time, and the name and email of each group leader. The phone number of each group leader is there as well. If you want to attend any meeting, contact the appropriate leader for more details.

October's General Meeting - We will be meeting again in October and are planning a presentation about California AAUW and diversity. We will not have the Souper Supper, but will schedule it later in the year when COVID is less of a concern. Keep reading our *Grapevine* newsletter and you will be staying informed about where and when meetings will be held and groups you can join.

I appreciate all of you and your commitment to the AAUW. Have a safe and enjoyable September. Don't forget to let me know if you need some help with Zoom. We would be pleased if every member could participate.

Jan Britton

President, AAUW Chico Branch

PS Don't forget to vote in the recall election on Tuesday, September 14 or mail or drop off your ballot well ahead of time.



Branch News and Notes

Recap of May Branch Meeting - We had a wonderful turnout of members at our May meeting but we also recognize that many of you were unable to participate. What follows is a recap of the highlights.

The election of members to serve on our branch board was conducted and the following women are your leaders for our 2021-22 year: Jan Britton - President for 2nd year, Sue Blizman - Vice President, Pam Bodnar - Finance, Maria Elena Ramirez - Secretary, and Lyn Smith - Membership. Volunteers agreed to serve in appointed positions as follows: Kathy Sweet - publicity, Jana Lawton - newsletter editor, Carol Holzgrafe - public policy, Joan Cleveland - Tech Trek, and Helen Gesick - directory and web page. Representatives on our scholarship teams are Ruth Berger and Mary Jensen for the Chico Community Scholarship Association, and Jan Britton, Sue Blizman, and Jackie McClain for Chico State.



We had the opportunity to recognize some members who reached important milestone anniversaries. **Betty Lusina** and **Patricia Garton** have been members of the branch for 25 years. **Donna Kemp** has been an AAUW member for 30 years and **Carol Holzgrafe** has been a member for 40 years and belongs to numerous California branches. Our special honoree was **Jeannemarie Bordoli** who has been a member for 50 years and has earned the distinction of Life Member (photo at left with Kathy Sweet).

President Jan Britton chose to acknowledge with her President's Awards several members who have gone above and beyond to serve the branch: **Kim Cross**

as past president, dorm mom at Tech Trek camp, fund raiser extraordinaire, and faithful Science Fair volunteer. **Jackie McClain** (photo below) for facilitating salary negotiation workshops and spearheading our effort to form a student AAUW branch on the CSU, Chico campus. **Barbara Paige** as past president, for her efforts in putting on our branch's 100th anniversary celebration, and for her dedication in keeping our branch history documents up to date. **Kathy Sweet** as past president, for taking photos (thanks to her husband, John, too) and for keeping the branch activities in the news as publicity chair, (continued next page)



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 (preferred)

Member News and Notes

and for her enthusiasm for keeping our AAUW mission and goals on the front burner.

Every year the AAUW California Fund Committee honors AAUW California members who have done outstanding work in supporting the programs and goals of the AAUW Fund and/or AAUW California. A Named Gift is a special way to pay tribute to an individual giving extraordinary service to AAUW. For each \$750 contributed by the branch or branch members we can honor one individual. This year we were privileged to be able to honor four members who were all exemplary in their service to the branch and to the greater community through our programs and projects. Congratulations and sincere thank you to **Adele Arnold, Ruth Berger, Joan Cleveland, and Marilyn Myrick**. Their names will be permanently recorded in our branch and AAUW-CA archives as Named Gift Honorees.



Carol Holzgrafe (pictured at left) was relected to serve a two-year term on the AAUW-CA Board of Directors. She is putting her energy and enthusiasm for AAUW to work as the person in charge of branch and membership assistance. This means she is our go-to person when we have questions about how things work, who to contact, or with any kind of problem, We are fortunate to have her as our advocate.

A message from Pam Bodnar, our new branch finance person.

It is with pleasure that I recently accepted the position as Finance Officer for our Chico branch. My thanks to our former officer, Marilyn Myrick, for her patient support as I transition into this position. (Pam, on left, and Marilyn, on right, are pictured below.) If you need to contact me regarding finance questions or wish to send me anything I can be reached through the following options:

Pam Bodnar
AAUW Chico Finance Officer
818 Brookwood Way
Chico, CA 95926
email: pbinuganda@yahoo.com
Cell: 530-521-7321

I hope to successfully fulfill my duties with the support of our board and local members.



Member News and Notes

**NEW
MEMBERS!**

We want to extend a warm welcome to our new members **Connie Carter, Janet Rechtman, and Donna Van Wert**. Carol Krok has been visiting with them and will soon have brief biographies to share in the newsletter so we can become better acquainted with them. **Lyn Smith** is our new membership chair this year. If you know of people who might want to become a member of the branch, pass on the contact information to Lyn and she will follow up. Call Lyn at (530) 636-4984 or email her at lindy_48@yahoo.com.

2020-2021 Scholarship Awardees

It is exciting to announce that all four of AAUW Chico's outstanding awardees will be attending institutions in California and will be majoring in either a science or engineering area! We can look back at both Career Trek and Tech Trek as likely influences on these students. Your continued support of deserving students like these makes our generous scholarships possible. This year each student received \$3,000. Currently, AAUW Chico is one of the top contributors to CCSA scholars.

One of the 2020-2021 awardees attended Tech Trek Camp at UC Davis as a junior high student. Arika Cunningham, a Pleasant Valley High School graduate, was this year's Sydney Stewart Memorial Scholarship recipient. In a lengthy thank-you note she explained that her experience at Tech Trek "led to my choice of major." Arika is embarking on a career path in Aerospace Engineering at Cal Poly Pomona this fall. She also expressed her gratitude for the "generous support toward my education." Please help us continue this important assistance to young people's continuing education with a donation this fall.

Ruth Berger - AAUW Chico Scholarship Committee

News About Our CSUC Scholarship

This past spring, our board and members voted to set up a \$1,500 scholarship for a California State University, Chico (CSUC) graduate student in the Credential Program. This student will go on to teach subjects in one of three areas: math, science or technology.

So far we have never directly supported scholarships at Chico State. We will continue to award scholarships to local high school students but this will be the first year to fund a talented graduate student who will focus on areas that support our Tech Trek mission. In order to donate to this fund, your check **MUST** be made out as follows:

MAKE checks payable to: **University Foundation - CSU, Chico**

AND be sure to put in the memo line **AAUW Scholarship**

THEN send your check to our new Treasurer:

Pam Bodnar, 818 Brookwood Way, Chico, CA 95926

Please follow these instructions so that the checks will go to the correct account. Any questions, please contact Pam Bodnar at (530) 521-7321 or by email at pbinuganda@yahoo.com. Note that we are still working on establishing an AAUW student affiliate branch at CSUC to facilitate closer ties between Chico State and our branch.

Interest groups you can join

Foreign Policy Discussion Group - Roxanne Ferry, Group Leader

Our branch Foreign Policy Discussion Group has met on the fourth Monday at 7 p.m. since before 2000 when I joined the group. We use the Foreign Policy Association's (FPA) briefing book called *Great Decisions* and there are 8 topics each year. Each interesting article is about 10 pages long and they are apropos to what is going on in our world today. This is a great way to become informed about vital topics. Annually, when the briefing books become available, each member of the group picks one article to present, in her own way and in a little more depth, to our group.

The FPA was formed almost 100 years ago to encourage an educated electorate to become informed in order to advise our elected officials and policy makers. The topics this year included the Arctic, the Two Koreas, Brexit and the EU, China in Africa, Globalization, and the Global Supply Chains. All topics have a direct impact on us, our purchases, and our government. It's exciting to find out what is going on behind the scenes in the world around us. To join us, contact Roxanne Ferry at 891-1722 or roxchico@aol.com.

Les Flaneurs – Carol Holzgrafe, Group Leader

This group was started during the pandemic by those who still wanted to exercise even though the gyms were closed. Besides, it was more fun to walk and talk with friends. The word flaneur is French for someone who is a stroller or who saunters along the sidewalks.



This group of Chico and Paradise members wanders through local parks and neighborhoods and sometimes farther afield. We enjoy seeing and commenting on the landscapes, architecture, and people we encounter on our wanderings. The group meets Tuesdays, Thursdays, and/or Saturdays. We usually start off at 9:30 a.m. during cooler times and 8:30 a.m. during the summer. However, when it's too hot or too smoky, we often do not walk due to health concerns. Come join us and get an up-close, in-person look at neighborhoods and houses you might miss when you only drive around town. It is fun and exciting to see lovely old houses that have been lovingly cared for and the many varied and imaginative more recently built homes. To join us, contact Carol Holzgrafe, carol@holzgrafe.com, 873-6906 or 774-4009 or Satsie Veith, 570-3550

The Fourth Friday AAUW book group is looking for a few new members. Book selections are an eclectic mix of fiction and non-fiction. In May we discussed *In Search of the Canary Tree: the story of a scientist, a cypress and a changing world* and the 2019-20 local Book in Common. Our summer books were *Wuthering Heights*, *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe, and *Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles.

We meet on the 4th Friday of every month at 10 a.m. And now that we're all vaccinated, we're back to meeting in the (air conditioned!) clubhouse at Woodoak Condominiums (across from the main Post Office). If you are interested in joining us, please send an email to severance.dolan@bt-media.net, or give me a call me at 433-0256. *Severance Dolan, Group Coordinator*

Interest Sections

New to AAUW?

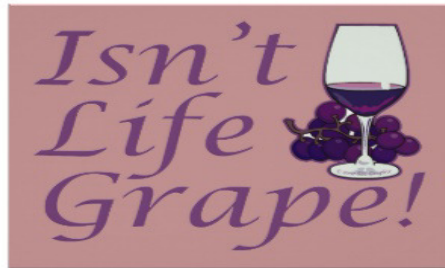
Call a group leader for more information about a section you might find of interest. A few have reached capacity but most would welcome new members.

Les Flaneurs

Carol Holzgrafe - (530) 774-4009
The group usually meets Tuesdays, Thursdays, and/or Saturdays at 8:30 or 9:30 a.m. depending on the season. A walking/talking group of Chico and Paradise members who wander through local parks and neighborhoods - and sometimes farther afield - commenting on landscaping, architecture, and life, and getting exercise. Email or call for schedule if you might be interested. Carol Holzgrafe, carol@holzgrafe.com, (530) 874-6906 or Satsie Veith at (530) 570-3550.

Wine and Whine Returns

. . . but we haven't decided where we want to meet in September as yet. If you are interested, contact Carol Holzgrafe to be added to the notification list, carol@holzgrafe.com, (530) 874-6906 or (530)774-4009.



Out to Lunch

Mary Huntsinger (530) 521-1323
Call Mary for more information on date, time, and location this month. Both Paradise and Chico branch members welcome.

Computer and iPad Group

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



Foreign Policy Discussion Group

Roxanne Ferry - 891-1722 All welcome.
Group meets 4th Monday at 7 p.m.
Sep 27 - *Global supply chains and US national security*. Hosted by Linda MacMichael at 900 Laburnam Ave. **Note meeting time is subject to change this month.**



Evening Book Discussion Group

Mary Huntsinger (530) 521-1323
Group meets at 7:00 p.m. on 2nd Tuesday
Sep 14 - *Cold Millions* by Jess Walter. Hosted by Vicky Breeden at 723 Hastings Street.

Ethnic Writers Book Discussion Group

Severance Dolan 433-0258 All welcome!
Group meets at 1:00 p.m. on 4th Wednesday
Sep 22 - *A Long Way Home* by Peter Carey.
Hosted by Nancy Wirtz at 1191 Bonair Rd.

Non-fiction Book Discussion Group

Group meets on 1st Friday at 10 a.m.
Contact Susan Critchfield for Zoom info at (530) 519-3460. Group will continue to have Zoom sessions through the end of 2021.

Mystery Book Discussion Group

Denise Worth 343-5711
Group meets at 3 p.m. on 3rd Wednesday
Sep 15 - *Plain Truth* by Jodi Picoult. Hosted by Carol Holzgrafe at 15024 Jack Pine Way in Magalia.

How to enjoy your membership in AAUW



To make your membership in the branch personally satisfying, **GET INVOLVED**. Joining an interest group allows you to connect with other members having similar interests. If you have time, you might volunteer to work on special branch projects like scholarship committees, Tech Trek, salary negotiation workshops, a new college student affiliate branch, fund raising events and more. We're glad you're a member and we want you to be happy that you're a member too.