

The Chico AAUW Grapevine



American Association of University Women - Chico Branch Vol. 34 No. 2 Oct 2021

Next Meeting:

**Zoom Presentation on Computer
Is America at a Crossroads in Terms of Diversity?
Saturday, October 23, 2021 at 3:30 p.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.

On TV, in the newspapers, in magazines, and among friends we encounter discussions, arguments, and different ideas about diversity, critical race theory, equity, or equality. These topics are important in today's world. But how does the AAUW fit into these important discussions? Can we individually, and as a branch, help to develop a more inclusive society?

You will receive an email invitation with a link to our monthly branch meeting on Zoom (look for it in your e-mailbox around October 20th). Charmen Goehring-Fox, who serves on California AAUW's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee is our guest speaker. She is passionate about her work with this group and willingly shares her expertise with all California branches. Charmen will address what AAUW California is doing on diversity as it works with national and our local branches.



Since 2018, the National and State AAUW organizations have been working on a bold new strategy. This plan seeks to move us towards achieving our mission of embracing and expanding inclusion and equity within our ranks. As such, we now have the DEI Committee that has launched a road map and tool kit to help each branch achieve its diversity goals. Charmen will explain the worthwhile and exciting plans our state AAUW has in store for us.

Charmen comes to us from Maine where she served on the state AAUW Board, as well as 4 years on the national Board. She currently serves on the California Board where she acts as a liaison between branch members and the state board.



Message from the President

Branch Officers

President -

Jan Britton

Vice President -

Sue Blizman

Membership -

Lyn Smith

Finance -

Pam Bodnar

Secretary -

Maria Elena Ramirez

Newsletter Editor -

Jana Lawton

Public Policy -

Carol Holzgrafe

Tech Trek Coordinator -

Joan Cleveland

Technology -

Helen Gesick

Historian -

historian needed

The progress of COVID-19 in our community has once again left us casting about for the most appropriate response to holding some of the meetings and projects we had planned this year. The official policy from our Association is printed on the following page. In short, we seem to be able to do what members are comfortable doing, with safety precautions in place. The Chico AAUW Board wants to hear from you regarding your interest in some social engagement opportunities! If enough members respond positively, we will proceed with our planning. If not, they will be cancelled and we'll try again next year.

Please take the time to consider the following two options and then respond to me if you're interested. No need to respond if you don't want to participate. You can elect to respond to one or both of the two options.

Question 1 - Are you interested in attending a holiday party if everyone in attendance has been vaccinated?

After two years of not having an indoor face-to-face gathering, we wanted to offer members a chance to celebrate the season with their AAUW friends on Saturday, December 4, from 2 to 5 p.m. Held in the spacious social hall at St John's Episcopal Church at 2341 Floral Avenue in Chico, there is plenty of room for social distancing, entertainment, and serving finger foods and drinks. We need a response no later than October 18 in order to reserve the social hall.

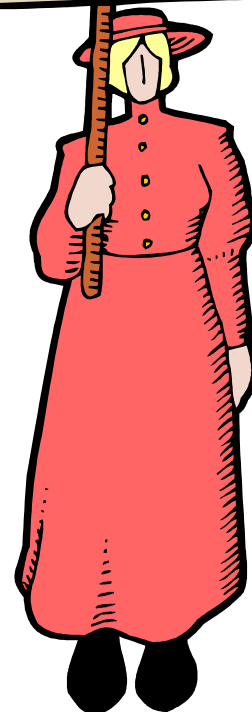
Question 2 - Would you like to participate in a Secret Sisters exchange with other AAUW members?

Everyone who signs up will be given the name of another AAUW member. Over the course of six weeks, ending in early December, you can gift your secret sister with any kind of weekly surprises you can come up with: sharing books, poetry, cards, flowers, music, etc. Last year's participants were very creative with their surprises and very crafty with their modes of delivery to avoid revealing their identities ahead of time. We hope you'll join in the fun this year.

Please email your answers to Jan Britton: brittonadv@comcast.net Or send your answers to: Jan Britton, P.O. Box 1498, Chico, CA 95927. Make sure you name is included in your response.

*Jan Britton
President
Chico AAUW*

Sounds like fun. Could a cat get a Secret Sister?



Branch News and Notes

AAUW Policy on In-Person Meetings

To Meet or Not to Meet – that is the question

If you are planning your interest group or branch meetings, what follows is the policy from AAUW National. They would prefer virtual meetings but realize that we really – really – want to be together. So, we may have in-person meetings IF

1. everyone attending is vaccinated, (It is perfectly legal to ask; it is not legal to ask “why not”, so don’t.)
2. possible, we offer a hybrid (Zoom) option for those who may have exemptions, and
3. we follow our state and local guidelines. Masking is, apparently, up to us and our state guidelines. What would make your attending members comfortable?

*Carol Holzgrafe
Director, AAUW CA
Branch/Member Assistance*

Recap of Tech Trek Virtual Camp

A 2021 recap and a look to the future ...

Here are just a few outstanding statistics from our 2021 Virtual Camp:

- * *Over 600 girls participated*
- * *258 different schools represented*
- * *229 total volunteers, representing 10,000 volunteer hours*
- * *70% of volunteers were Tech Trek alumnae!*
- * *40 hours of STEM curriculum, most of which was hands-on learning*
- * *Over 20 inspirational female STEM presenters and role models*

NOTE: You can watch recordings of the speaker presentations: go directly to [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search for 2021 Tech Trek Inspiration Hour Speakers.

Participants learned valuable skills in coding and engineering design and earned a Certificate of Achievement. Additional workshops and speakers provided a well-rounded view of the vast opportunities in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math. Each girl prepared and shared a video to showcase her own tech invention!

In 2021, digital processes for nomination, application, and registration were introduced as part of a continuous improvement strategy to reduce paper records, and to simplify sharing information with those who need to know. 2022 will see their continued use, along with our personal interviews of each candidate.

The future of Tech Trek is in good hands. Both longtime and recent Tech Trek alumnae, branch members, and statewide leadership are stepping forward. A recent meeting of Branch Coordinators discussed the success of this year’s Virtual Camp and the challenges that lie ahead. We are still awaiting word from university campus leadership as to whether Tech Trek will be allowed to hold in-person camps in 2022. Stay tuned!

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 jdlawton72@gmail.com (preferred)

Member News and Notes

**NEW
MEMBERS!**

We want to, again, extend a warm welcome to our newest members **Janet Rechtman**, and **Donna Van Wert** and to thank **Carol Krok** for visiting with them and sharing these brief biographies with us. If you know of people who might want to become a member of the branch, pass on the contact information to me and I will follow up.

Lyn Smith, Membership Chair

(530) 636-4984 or email to lindy_48@yahoo.com

Janet Rechtman was born and raised in the Deep South (Alabama and Georgia). Janet retired from the University of Georgia after 40 years' experience as a volunteer leader and consultant to nonprofit organizations. She taught nonprofit and community leadership. Moving here in late 2018 to be close to family, she is already involved teaching classes for Osher Life Learning Institute (OLLI). She is also the Social Policy Chair for the League of Women Voters. Janet was once the recipient of an AAUW scholarship and shows her appreciation by supporting AAUW activities.

Janet enjoys walking with friends, crossword puzzles, growing herbs in her raised beds, traveling, and cooking. She is also involved with family and her grandchildren who live nearby. Like many of us, she too wonders how she became so involved after retirement!

A google search reveals articles Janet has written for the Chico News & Review. Her TOUCH THE SKY is a beautiful descriptive article on the connections we share.

You will all be delighted to meet and greet her when we resume normal contact. Carol looks forward to learning about the similarities and differences Janet is finding between living in the Deep South versus Northern California.

Our newest member, **Donna Van Wert**, hails from Concord, California where she spent most of her life. She has a varied background having worked in career technical education and moved on to become Executive Director of the Workforce Development Board of Contra Costa County. When you first chat with Donna, ask questions and you will learn the complexity and depth of her knowledge working for her former county. Calling herself a late bloomer, while working and raising a family, Donna went back to college at age 32, finishing her masters degree at 50.

Like many transplants to Chico, she and her husband moved here for family. Interestingly, her 3 children, raised in Concord, all gravitated to Chico over the years and are raising families in our lovely town. They are pursuing a wide range of careers from construction contractor to nursing, working for PBM and Build.com, and teaching. Happily, they are a very close-knit family and enjoy spending much of their time together.

Donna is an avid reader of historical fiction as well as enjoying books by Alice Walker and Rachel Maddow, to name a few. She looks forward to becoming involved in the community. Donna joined Newcomers, has an interest in politics, and in supporting people to find jobs they love.

Welcome to Chico AAUW. We're glad you joined us; you will both find much to love.

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, the Fall Version

Oct 20 - Join us at 5:30 p.m. at Grana's outdoor patio - corner of Wall Street and East Second St. The patio is shaded, comfortable and reasonably quiet. Nice wine list, shareable starters, good company.

Please contact Carol Holzgrafe, carol@holzgrafe.com if you plan to come. And bring a friend or relative. We are nice people.

Out to Lunch

Mary Huntsinger (530) 521-1323
Oct 14 - Pour House at 11:30 a.m.
Located at 855 East Ave on the corner of East Avenue and Cohasset.
Call Mary to make a reservation. Both Paradise and Chico branch members welcome.



Computer and iPad Group

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

Foreign Policy Discussion Group

Roxanne Ferry - 891-1722 All welcome.
Group meets 4th Monday at 7 p.m.
Oct 25 - *The end of globalization?* presented by Beth Tice. Hosted by Wendy Woods and Linda MacMichael at 900 Laburnam Ave. **Note: We will be meeting outdoors on Linda's patio at 3 p.m. this month. New members are welcome.**



Evening Book Discussion Group

Mary Huntsinger (530) 521-1323
Group meets at 7:00 p.m. on 2nd Tuesday
Oct 12 - Call Mary or Jan Britton (530) 896-1240 for location and book selection this month.

Ethnic Writers Book Discussion Group

Severance Dolan 433-0258 All welcome!
Group meets at 1:00 p.m. on 4th Wednesday
Oct 27 - *The Henna Artist* by Alka Joshi. Hosted by Mary Huntsinger at 1366 Manzanita

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
Oct 20 - *The Ritual Bath* by Faye Kellerman. Hosted by Denise Worth at 798 Sierra View Wy

Friday Book Discussion Group

Severance Dolan (530) 433-0258
Group meets at 10 a.m. on 4th Friday at Woodoak condominium club house located at 555 Vallombrosa
Oct 22 - *For Whom the Bell Tolls* by Ernest Hemingway. **Seeking new members.** Group reads both fiction and non fiction - coming up: *The Secret History* by Donna Tartt, *Half Broke* by Ginger Gaffney, *Love and War in the Apennines* by Eric Newby.

Member News and Notes (continued)

October 16/17 and 23/24 Open Studios Art Tour from 10 a.m to 5 p.m. Member **Jana Lawton** is one of the many artists opening her studio to the public on these dates. Visit Jana to see where and how she makes the bowls for our Souper Supper events. Guidebooks available at the Chico Art Center.

October 23 at 10 a.m. - AAUW California Funds event Attend this virtual live event showcasing the personal stories and fascinating studies of our current group of AAUW grant recipients. Cost is free but you must register to attend the webinar. Visit www.aauw-ca.org to sign up.



November 4 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. AAUW Funds Donation Day

We can't have our Souper Supper event to raise money for AAUW Funds this year but we have a fantastic new fundraiser in its place. We know you want to support AAUW Funds and this is the day to do it. Judy Petrucelli has donated a huge basket of her unique dolls - everything from chickens (see photo at left) to pixies and lots of dolls for adults with attitude and sass. All who make a donation to AAUW Funds can select a doll. Jot down the date on your calendar and plan to visit Jana Lawton at her home with checkbook in hand and pick out your free doll. Judy's dolls are all one of a kind and beautifully hand sewn using gorgeous fabrics and trims. Perch one a bookshelf, give one to a child in your family or to a favorite friend. Everyone will love them!

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