

# The Chico AAUW Grapevine



American Association of University Women - Chico Branch Vol. 34 No. 3 Nov 2021

## Next Event:

### AAUW Funds Day

1112 Bidwell Avenue, Chico (Jana Lawton's home)  
Thursday, November 4, 2021 10 a.m. to 6 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.

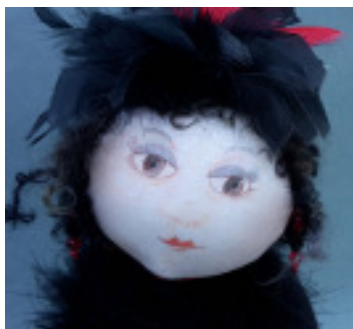


**Judy Petrucelli** has participated in our Art Boutiques in the past and her dolls have been a much treasured item. She is moving to be closer to her family in San Diego. However, she has given us one more chance to have a Petrucelli original. She has donated all her dolls to us because she wants to support AAUW and will have no room for them in her much smaller new home. There are more than 30 different dolls, designed to delight people of all ages. All dolls are finely crafted with beautiful fabrics and lots of detail. Each one is unique and has such personality. Photos give you a sample of what we have in store.

**Jana Lawton** is hosting the AAUW Funds Dollars for Dolls at her home. Stop by any time with your donation to AAUW Funds and select the doll you like best or to find one for someone you love. Another option for your donation dollars is an oil painting donated by Toni Reid (at right) - a lovely landscape by a Northern California artist.



Can't make it on November 4th? Call Jana at (530) 894-1843 to make other arrangements. You don't need to get a doll to make a donation. Contributions are accepted any time. Make a check payable to **AAUW Funds** and send to our branch treasurer, Pam Bodnar at 818 Brookwood Way, Chico, CA 95926. Read the article on AAUW Funds (pg. 5) to learn what an impact our philanthropy has.



# 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

Hmmmm.  
I've been  
vaccinated,  
could I get  
in the  
party?



Dear members,

There will be no general meeting in November. Instead, we are busy planning for a branch holiday gathering on Saturday, December 4 from 3 to 5 p.m.

**About the party:** The party will be held at the spacious hall at St. John's Episcopal Church on Floral Avenue in Chico. Included will be food, beverages, music, and, most of all, fun and fellowship. Our December *Grapevine* will have more details but please save the date and plan to join us.

We want to be as safe as we can be at this meeting in the time of COVID-19. The Board decided that we would ask all attendees to show their vaccination cards and have temperature checks when they arrive.

**Donations to Catalyst (Domestic Violence Services):** Last year we helped two families to have a wonderful Christmas. Getting out of abusive relationships takes both courage and support and we were happy to be a small part of helping those families move forward, so we decided to do it again this year.

Joan Cleveland and Linda MacMichael have volunteered to coordinate this effort for the branch. They will be sending out the information to you about the families and their gift lists via email. Those who plan to attend our holiday party on December 4th can bring the unwrapped gifts there. Otherwise, we will let you know where to drop off the gifts. Don't wait too long to make your purchases after you receive the information on the gifts, especially if you like ordering from catalogs. You may have already noticed that distribution and mail services have been slower than usual.

**The CSU, Chico Scholarship Update:** This is the first year we have offered a \$1,500 scholarship to a graduate student in the teaching credential program. The scholarship recipient will be a future teacher in a single subject in a STEM (science, technology, engineering or math) field. We have already raised \$900. We need to fund the full \$1500 scholarship by December 31, 2021. Donations of any amount will be appreciated.

The last few months of the year seem to be the time when all non-profit organizations reach out for our donations and our branch is no exception. Give from the heart, give what you can afford, and support those who share your values. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving. We truly have so much to be thankful for as Americans. Safe travels to those leaving Chico and for those staying here, have a joyful day.

*Jan Britton*

*President, AAUW Chico Branch*

## Member News and Notes

### NEW MEMBER!

Jeannie Trizzino  
3091 Chico Avenue  
Chico, CA 95928-8229  
(530) 570-2309  
jtrizzino@gmail.com

### Help Wanted

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)

Welcome to our newest member **Jeannie Trizzino**. Her contact information is listed at left so don't forget to add her to your most recent branch directory. **Helen Gesick** recently mailed a copy of the directory to each branch member. Let me know if you failed to receive one.

If you know 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](mailto:lindy_48@yahoo.com)

Member **Jana Lawton** is hosting her 4th annual Art Boutique on the weekend of December 11 /12. Held at the historic Bell ranch home place, it is your very own venue for beautiful hand-made goods created by local artists. An added benefit is the artists all donate a percentage of their proceeds to AAUW and our branch scholarship programs. The Boutique runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and from noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Volunteers are needed to greet guests and to help with the check out and payment. Shifts are 3 hours long. Contact Jana Lawton for more information and to sign up to help at [jdlawton72@gmail.com](mailto:jdlawton72@gmail.com) or (530) 894-1843.



Hi book lovers, Our Friday book group has, unfortunately, lost some long time members, and we would love to have a couple of new AAUW book lovers to fill these empty chairs. We meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month (except Nov & Dec meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday to accommodate holidays) at 10:00 a.m. in the Woodoak clubhouse, 555 Vallombrosa Avenue. Our format is that everyone reads the monthly selection, with rotating members responsible to lead the discussion. We often have differing opinions, and I for one particularly enjoy the varying viewpoints.  
**Severance Dolan**, Coordinator, Friday Book Discussion Group

### Tech Trek Update

As of now, AAUW California is planning for only **in-person camps** in summer 2022! There will likely be additional safety restrictions in place adhering to CDC, FDA, State and UC campus guidelines.

Karen Manelis, who has been named the new Program Director by AAUW California Tech Trek, provided this information in a recent Zoom meeting held for Branch Coordinators. Karen is a former AAUW California President, serving during the time Tech Trek was established. As supporters of Tech Trek, we can all look forward to a strong program for the future and past participants of our STEM camp.  
**Joan Cleveland**, Tech Trek Coordinator for Chico Branch

## Branch News and Notes

### Interest Groups you can join

**Mystery Book Discussion Group** - We have been meeting for at least a decade, and currently have nine members, some for a long time and some who joined recently. We have met on Zoom throughout the pandemic, with a few exceptions recently, and are moving forward currently with a mixture of in-person and Zoom. In reading mysteries from around the world, we have enjoyed murder while mostly eschewing the more unpleasant ones. We often try to read the first of a series, leaving us to follow up individually with those we like the best. We enjoy one another's company as much as discussing the plot and characters. Some of the mysteries we have read in the past year or so include the following authors: Donna Leon, Catriona McPherson, Jodi Picoult, Viktor Ingolfsson, and Dorothy Sayers. We meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 3 p.m. The book for November 17 is Sulari Gentill's "A Few Right Thinking Men."  
*Coordinator: Denise Worth, [dworth@csuchico.edu](mailto:dworth@csuchico.edu) or 343-5711*

**Ethnic Writers Book Discussion Group** - This group selects books written by authors from other countries and cultures, and includes indigenous Americans and foreign-born writers living in the U.S. Our discussions are enlivened by the foreign travel and living experiences of many in the group. Some of the books we have read and thoroughly enjoyed:

*The Morning the Sun Went Down: A Memoir* by Daryl Babe Wilson. Born into the Achumawi and Atsugewi tribes (often called the Pit River Nation) of northeastern California, Wilson spent his early years (1950s) with his family in a life rich in tradition.  
*The Harem Within: Tales of a Moroccan Girlhood* by Fatima Mernissi. Life in a family home in Fez in the 1940s. Explores concepts of "harem", boundaries and women's issues.  
*Consider This, Senora* by Harriet Doerr. Ms. Doerr published her 2nd novel when she was 74, and draws on her time living in Mexico in the 50s and 60s. The magic of this novel is how it slips between cultures, language, memory, and time.  
*Coordinator: Severance Dolan, [severance.dolan@BT-Media.net](mailto:severance.dolan@BT-Media.net) or (530) 433-0258*



A spring 2021 graduate of Pleasant Valley High School, **Shivani Torres-Lal** (at left) was awarded our Jackson-Heron Family Scholarship. She wrote to branch members: "I am beyond grateful to (your organization) for this award. This money will be a great help when paying for my college expenses. Thank you for your confidence in my abilities." Shivani just began her work at UC, Davis studying toward a degree in chemical engineering.

### **AAUW Chico Scholarship Fund Recognized**

Recently, the Chico Community Scholarship Association (CCSA) cited the AAUW Chico Scholarship Fund as a "strong supporter of Chico's high school graduates through its generous scholarship awards each year." For several years, our branch Scholarship Fund has been able to award three or four scholarships of \$2,500 to \$3,000 each in large part due to donations from our members and their families.

Please consider a contribution between now and January 31st to make this possible for 2022 high school graduates. Checks may be written to AAUW Chico, with "high school Scholarship Fund" on the memo line, and should be sent or delivered to Treasurer Pam Bodnar, 818 Brookwood Way, Chico 95926. *The Scholarship Committee is seeking new members. Contact Mary Jensen, Caroline Langen, or Ruth Berger for more information on what committee members do and when they are most active during the year.*



## AAUW Funds

There are so many reasons to support AAUW funds, but most importantly, IT'S THE WOMEN who receive support and encouragement from AAUW! When you know what your dollars support and how AAUW is helping to shape the future for women and girls, you will want to make your contribution to AAUW Funds an annual tradition.

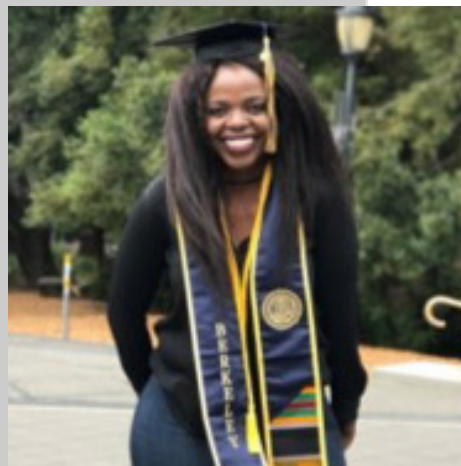


Maria Salgado

You should be proud that AAUW is an organization in the forefront of finding solutions to the many situations where EQUITY is still an issue for women and girls. We conduct research and analysis and then craft strategies that can be implemented on the local, state, and national levels to address each issue.

**Economic Security** - Who isn't aware that many women earn less than men for performing essentially the same work? A classic case is that of Lilly Ledbetter, a production supervisor at Goodyear. She became aware that she was a victim of wage discrimination based on sex because her male counterparts earned more than she did for the same work. However, she received no restitution from Goodyear because the statute of limitations had passed. How can you address an injustice if you are unaware that it is occurring? AAUW and its members helped to pass the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. AAUW also introduced WORK SMART and START SMART - wage negotiation workshops to help women understand the importance of negotiating for a salary and to practice the skills needed to do so.

**Leadership** - Do we want more women to run for office at all levels of government? to reach for leadership positions in both the public and private sectors? Each year AAUW invites hundreds of college women from around the country for two days of leadership training, inspiration, and networking at the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders. Every year, new leaders emerge with confidence and conviction thanks to AAUW. Our Tech Trek program has a similar effect when we introduce young women to careers in the STEM fields. We stoke the pipeline to these important careers (in which women are still seriously under represented) starting in the 8th grade.



Becky Mashaido

**Education and Training** - Fellowships and grants (nearly \$5 million this past year) support women doing important work in our educational system and that will help them attain their graduate degrees. **Amy Irby Shasanmi** received an *American Fellowship* in support of her research on health-care disparities. **Maria Salgado** received a *Career Development Grant* to help her prepare to gain a leadership role in higher education so that she can build equity in college access and success pathways for students from marginalized backgrounds. **The Boys and Girls Club of Oceanside** received a *Community Action Grant* to create a 24-week program for at-risk girls ages 5 to 18 which provides hands-on learning in science, technology, research, engineering, arts, and mathematics. **Becky Mashaido** from Kenya received an *International Fellowship* to study at Northeastern University. Using her background in applied mathematics and computer science, she will study the impact algorithms have on women while also promoting gender inclusion within the development of artificially intelligent technologies. **Jalisa Ferguson** received a *Research Publication Grant* so she can have the time and space to complete and publish her professional research. She has a passion for interdisciplinary approaches to teaching science. Multiply these stories by the hundreds and you will understand what an impact AAUW Funds can have on our future.

## 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](mailto:carol@holzgrafe.com), (530) 874-6906 or Satsie Veith at (530) 570-3550.

### **Wine and Whine, the Fall Version**

Nov 17 - at 5:30 p.m.  
Location to be determined.  
Please contact Carol Holzgrafe, [carol@holzgrafe.com](mailto:carol@holzgrafe.com) if you want to join in. And bring a friend or relative. We are nice people.

### **Out to Lunch**

Mary Huntsinger (530) 521-1323  
Nov 11 - Japanese Blossoms at 11:30 a.m. Located at 2995 Esplanade on the corner of E Shasta and The Esplanade. 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.  
Nov 22 - *BREXIT* presented by Wendy Woods.  
Hosted by Jan Britton at 643 W 11th Ave  
(530) 896-1240



### **Evening Book Discussion Group**

Mary Huntsinger (530) 521-1323  
Group meets at 7:00 p.m. on 2nd Tuesday  
Nov 9 - *His Truth is Marching on* by Jon Meacham  
Hosted by Wendy Woods at 40 Dominion Drive (530) 899-8607

### **Ethnic Writers Book Discussion Group**

Severance Dolan 433-0258 All welcome!  
Group meets at 1:00 p.m. on 4th Wednesday  
**Note: 3rd Wednesday this month**  
Nov 17 - *The Night Diary* by Veera Hiranandani  
Hosted by Jo Ann Palmer at 20 Pebblewood Pines (530)680-3980

### **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  
Nov 17 - *A Few Right Thinking Men* by Sulari Gentill. Call for Zoom invitation to participate.

### **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 **3rd Friday this month**  
Nov 19 - *Half Broke* by Ginger Gaffney. **Seeking new members.** Group reads both fiction and non fiction - coming up: *Love and War in the Apennines* by Eric Newby.

## Items for your calendar



### **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 jesters (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!

**December 4 - 3 to 5 p.m.** at St. John's Episcopal Church 2341 Floral Avenue in Chico. A branch gathering for the holidays. Food, beverages, music, fun, friends. Save the date. This is also the time to drop off gifts for our Catalyst family project.