

# The Chico AAUW Grapevine



American Association of University Women - Chico Branch Vol. 35 No. 1 Sep 2022

## Next Event:

**Welcome Back Brunch**  
**Saturday, September 17 at 10 a.m.**  
**12555 Meridian Road in Chico (Jana Lawton's farm)**

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.



Our first general meeting kicks off a new year by giving us the opportunity to meet new members, reconnect with old friends, and learn about what has happened over the summer while most of us were on hiatus from AAUW activities. As special guests, we have invited the young women (8th grade students) who attended the Tech Trek camp at UC, Davis this summer and we will also meet the first recipient of our new scholarship for a CSU, Chico student in the teaching credential program.

As is our tradition, the brunch will be a potluck. To get a variety of selections, use the following guideline in determining what to contribute: members with last names starting with A-M can bring main dishes (e.g. quiche, salad, egg dishes,) and those with last names starting with O-Z can bring fruit or baked goods. If you like to cook, make it yourself but store-bought fare is just fine. All beverages will be provided. Guests are always welcome at AAUW meetings.

Driving directions: Meridian Road is on the north edge of Chico. Turn right off Hwy 32 (the road to Orland) and the farm is immediately on your left with big barn and grain bins. If you cross the railroad tracks, you have gone too far. Park anywhere you like and wear shoes that work well on a gravel surface.

## HIGH TEA FUNDRAISER SEPTEMBER 25

Mark Sunday, September 25 on your calendar for some fun with friends and high tea fare while helping the AAUW Chico High School Scholarship Fund grow! Reservations can be made through Friday, Sept. 2nd. During the 2 - 4: p.m. event we will vote for the "Best Hat" and more. The program will also feature "snapshots" of recent scholarship awardees. **For reservations or information contact Ruth Berger (krberger71@comcast.net) or (530) 895-3959**



Festivities will be held on the patio of The Allies Pub, 436 Broadway St., Chico. Its entrance is on Fifth Street by the Bank of America parking lot, and across from the Stansbury Home. Look for AAUW signs and park in the lot or on the street. The no-host bar will stay open until 5 p.m. Please invite your friends and family to join us from 4 until 5.

Silent auction donations are due to Linda MacMichael by Mon., Sept. 19. Pick-up is available. Cash and checks are welcome for silent auction items and contributions. No credit cards, please.

# Message from the President

## Branch Leaders

President -

Sue Blizman

Membership -

Dori Moura

Finance -

Lyn Smith

Secretary -

Maria Elena Ramirez

Program -

Jan Britton

Newsletter Editor -

Jana Lawton

Public Policy -

Carol Holzgrafe

Tech Trek Team -

Pam Bodnar

Sylvia Hedlind

Carol Holzgrafe

Diversity Team -

Margaret Swick

Jan Britton

CCSA Scholarship Team -

Ruth Berger

Mary Jensen

Caroline Langen

CSUC Scholarship Team -

Sue Blizman

Jan Britton

Toni Reid

Technology -

Helen Gesick

Toni Reid

Historian -

historian needed

Welcome everyone to the 102nd year of the Chico Branch of AAUW! I look forward to a successful and healthy year. It's important that we continue to be a relevant organization working for equity and education for all women and girls. Much has been accomplished over the past century and yet there is still work to do. Goals achieved don't always mean lasting gains so we must continue to strive. Our branch programs and projects help us focus our efforts in positive directions.

We have some wonderful events to celebrate. We sent 6 girls to Tech Trek camp and one girl did the virtual camp. High school students and two college students were presented with the scholarships we funded to further their education.

National AAUW developed a program to advance gender equity for women and girls called the Five Star Recognition Program. There are five areas with 2-4 events in each category to accomplish. With hundreds of branches nationwide, 14 branches, mostly from California, achieved all five stars. **Chico earned four stars!** A great accomplishment and our goal is to earn all five stars this year.

I would like to thank our Board members for their diligent work on membership and working with the new Community Hub computer app. As with anything new, things don't always go smoothly at first. Our Board will usually be meeting on the first Thursday of the month at 4 p.m. at my house. Everyone is welcome to attend but let me know so I will have enough chairs

Programs for the year are being planned and should be both interesting and enjoyable. More later. And here's to a great 2022-2023 year!

*Sue Blizman*  
Chico AAUW President



Congratulations to branch members Joan Cleveland, Pam Bodnar and Lyn Smith (above) on being selected for a special President's Award at our branch meeting in May. All three have given extraordinary service to the branch. Nancy Wirtz, at right, was selected as the AAUW Funds Named Gift honoree in 2022 for service to AAUW and Chico's homeless population.



## Membership News

We have much to celebrate in the membership category with four people joining our branch over the summer. I am pleased to welcome **Anne Russell, Sue Warwick, Victoria Bernhardt,** and **Jennie Blevins** to our group. Thanks to **Carol Krok** who interviews our new members and writes short biographies so we can become familiar with them. **Tami Ritter** joined last year and Carol was just recently able to grab a bit of time with this community powerhouse to finish off her introduction. We will publish more biographies in the coming months. Contact information for them will be in your new directories, coming out soon.

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.

*Dori Moura, Membership Chair  
(530) 321-6508 or dorimck@aol.com*

**Tami Ritter** joined our AAUW branch last year. Her name should be familiar to all of us as she is the Butte County supervisor for District 3.

She hails from Philadelphia, PA where she lived for her first 17 years. She moved to Eugene, OR to study medicinal herbs at the Oregon School of Herbal Studies. In 1997, she moved to Chico when the Oregon school moved to California. While working as Director of the Torres Shelter, she became the foster parent of a teenage girl who lived with her as a 13-year-old until just before her 18th birthday. She was a troubled child at school and with other kids and, eventually, there was judicial involvement. This spurred Tami's interest in restorative practices, leading to a second masters at the International Institute of Restorative Practices/Youth Counseling.

Tami loves crafty stuff, though she rarely has time to pursue it. She hopes to one day learn pottery. Tami loves hanging out with her 10-year-old child, and the many foster babies they have had over the past 2 years. She loves gardening and plants but, again, her hectic schedule has resulted in a wild and overgrown garden this year. They have 2 rescue dogs and a guinea pig. Most of us can probably relate to Tami's eternal quest to have a clean and organized home, but she feels it never is. Tami looks forward to meeting all the wonderful AAUW members and expanding her circle of friends.

**Sue Warwick** was born in San Francisco, attended Cal Poly and then moved to Chico in 1969 where her husband attended college.

Sue taught first grade at Chapman Elementary School for 36 years. She taught some children whose GRANDMOTHERS she had also taught! That speaks a lot for her teaching abilities. She is proud of the fact that she and two other retired teachers worked with Chapman students to create the mosaic on the front of the school. It was designed and constructed by the students. It took four years working with small groups on Fridays. The result is beautiful. It would be worth your time to drive by the school at 1071 16th Street in Chico to admire this work of art.

Among Sue's many hobbies are – surprise – mosaics! She also enjoys embroidery, reading, bird watching, and tai chi. Sue volunteers with the Alzheimer's Association. Sue is looking forward to meeting new people and experiencing new adventures. We trust she will do both as a member of our AAUW branch.

Our membership directory editor, **Helen Gesick**, has requested that you let her know if you have had any changes to your contact information in the past year. New address? Change in email address? New cell phone number or dropped your land line? Call her at (530) 570-5185 or email her (gesick@comcast.net) with any updates. We need accurate information to stay in touch with our branch members.

## Tech Trek Returned!

After a long three-year hiatus, the Tech Trek STEM camp for girls returned in July to the delight of the six Chico eighth graders who attended: Greta Nikolai, Phuong Le, Caitlin Edwards, Aislin Rhonek, Raoisle McDonald, and Jasmine Ponce are from most of the Chico middle schools. The girls spent a week living in a dorm at UC Davis – with a roommate — dining in the Commons, and spending all morning in their chosen core classes: Anatomy/Physiology, Genetics, Environmental Engineering, and two new core classes: Nutrition/Food Science and Media Arts/Computer Science.

Each afternoon offered different workshops from “Behind the Scenes at Mondavi Center for the Arts (lights, sound – physics), a visit to the Bohart Entomology Museum (live and not live insects), experimenting along with chemistry graduate students, forensics (always popular), Lives of Paramedics/EMTs, Girls with Confidence, and much more. The high point of the week is our tour of the world-famous School of Veterinary Medicine. Evenings presented “Bite of Reality” where they learned about budgeting and keeping safe financially (they love this – really!), Professional Women’s Evening where they talk to women with truly interesting careers in STEM, how to get to college – and more.



This is the first of the thank you notes the girls sent to you, Chico branch members, because you provided the scholarships that sent them to Tech Trek. Others will appear in subsequent Grapevine editions.

“Thank you for giving me this wonderful opportunity. You take money and give us this experience, the once of a lifetime. I had the best time with the exercise class; the instructor was so great! The next day’s tour of the Mondavi Center was just as exciting. Who knew that comput-

ers used green, red, and blue to generate colors? I was introduced to the concept of liquid nitrogen, ostrich skeletons, and preserved elephant hearts! Without you, I would not have experienced any of that. Thank you so much.”

*Greta Nikolai, 2022 Tech Trekker*

Chico member **Katy Azevedo** was a dorm mom (adult counselor) at Tech Trek Davis this summer. I know she had a wonderful time watching over her 12 campers and experiencing camp. And you, too, might consider volunteering for next year’s camp. Tech Trek Davis is important to the young girls in Chico and we must take part in keeping it going. If you are interested, contact me about the possibilities – organizing before and at camp. The Chico branch wants to thank member **Joan Cleveland** for her years acting as Tech Trek Branch Coordinator, committed to showing our girls possibilities beyond their dreams. Next year’s team will be **Pam Bodnar** and me.  
*Carol Holzgrafe, Tech Trek Team member*

## Public Policy

Well, as you can imagine, getting out the vote this fall will be a major emphasis for AAUW and other groups, in particular a “Get Out the Vote and Voter Education” campaign. Stay tuned for opportunities to sign up new and lapsed voters – or just become aware of your choices. We may likely be working with the League of Women Voters since so many of our members belong to both organizations. Most elections matter; this one may matter more than most. AAUW California’s Public Policy team is always quite active. You can read about past efforts for Title IX, equal pay, gender equity, child care, and women’s reproductive rights at [aauw-ca.org/category/public-policy/](http://aauw-ca.org/category/public-policy/) The page also has links to the efforts of our legislative advocate.

*Carol Holzgrafe, Public Policy Chair*



**Be someone who changes the conversation.**

**Be someone who encourages others to change the conversation.**

Participate in our social media campaign to mobilize all of our members to collectively Get Out The Vote!

**Here’s how it works:**

Each Monday beginning September 5th you will receive a message from the Public Policy voter education team on a selected topic. You will then post that message on your branch and individual member social media platforms on the Wednesday of that week, and invite all your friends and followers to do the same.

Let’s activate the collective power of our AAUW California members to raise awareness about GOTV issues! Your posts will not only be seen and shared within your personal networks, but those topics and hashtags will trend across social media platforms.

**When will this start?**

There’s no time to waste. You’ll receive your first message Monday September 5th to post Wednesday September 7th. Wednesdays are the best time to post to social media.

**Don’t have a social media account?**

Don’t let that stop you!

Click on a social media platform below for YouTube instructions on how to get started.

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Twitter](#)

**Don’t use social media?**

Just copy, save and email to your friends and family

## Branch News and Notes

**Become familiar  
with our new  
website**

**Register for  
the AAUW-CA  
Town Hall**

**Interesting Plans  
from the League  
of Women Voters  
of Butte County**

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](mailto:jdlawton72@gmail.com) (preferred)

### **Introducing Our New Chico Branch Web Site**

We have a new web site. (<https://chico-ca.aauw.net/>)

Here are a few things to check out.

- Information about next event on the home page.
- Link to Becoming a 2-Minute Activist.
- An invitation to view a speech from the LWV Convention - Dr. Sally Roesch Wagner "Native American Women and the Suffrage Movement"
- Link to The Newsletter Archive
- A page of Local Events and Activities with photos

And More

Dear Branch Leaders and Members,

Oh sure, you faithfully pay your \$20 state dues. And we thank you. But what do you get for them? Join us at a virtual town hall on Sunday, September 11th, to hear your state leaders share their fresh plans to support AAUW branches and members this year. Hear them speak. See them laugh. Catch their enthusiasm. It will be almost like meeting them!

Date: Sunday, September 11, 2022

Time: 3 - 4:30 pm

Registration required: Register at [www.aauw-ca.org](http://www.aauw-ca.org)

Hope you can join us and get excited about our plans.

*Sandi Gabe*

*AAUW California State President*

The League of Women Voters of Butte County has an impressive range of programs scheduled to which the public is always invited. A key tenet of both the League and AAUW is education. Becoming a better-informed voter is a given when you attend a LWVBC forum.

- **The Fall Member Coffee** is scheduled for Saturday, September 24 at 10:30 am. Held at the First Baptist Church (850 Palmetto Ave) the featured speaker, Chico State professor Dr. Diana Dwyre, will discuss a core LWV issue - money in politics.
- **A voter forum** for Chico Council and Chico school board candidates will be held at 7 p.m. on September 27 at the Masonic Family Center on East Avenue.
- **Homing in on Homelessness Webinar** *The Path from Crisis to Care* October 5, 2022 from 5-6:30 p.m. In the second of three webinars on the topic of homelessness, some solutions to this complex and large-scale problem will be explored. In partnership with OLLI, LWVBC will present proven models of innovative programs and services that can assist and empower people in their search for accessible, affordable, secure places to call home. Please send any questions you have to Dr. Janet Rechtman, OLLI member and chair of the LWVBC Social Policy Committee, at [drjr@uga.edu](mailto:drjr@uga.edu). The questions will be asked and responded to during the webinar.

## 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.



Jo Ann Palmer has recently read an interesting book about book groups and would like to meet with book group leaders to share. Ideas generated can then be passed on to the book groups for discussion. Contact Jo Ann at (530) 680-3980

### **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**

Meets the 3rd Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.  
Sep 21 - Grana - 198 E 2nd St in downtown Chico  
Please contact Carol Holzgrafe, [carol@holzgrafe.com](mailto:carol@holzgrafe.com) if you want to join in. We need to know how many seats to reserve, and bring a friend or relative. We are nice people.

### **Out to Lunch**

Group meets on 2nd Thursday  
Call Lyn Smith at (530) 636-4984 to make a reservation. Both Paradise and Chico branch members welcome.

### **Computer and iPad Group**

Helen Gesick (530) 570-5185  
Meets 3rd Tuesday at 2:00 p.m.  
Call Helen for information. Mostly meeting in person. Zoom can be an option.



### **Foreign Policy Discussion Group**

Roxanne Ferry - 891-1722 All welcome.  
Group meets 4th Monday at 7 p.m.  
Sep 26 - *Xi's China takes on the Quad* 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  
Call for update on book selections and locations.

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

Severance Dolan 433-0258 All welcome!  
Group meets at 1:00 p.m. on 4th Wednesday  
Sep 28 - *The Best We Could Do* by Thi Bui  
Hosted by Mary Huntsinger at 1366 Manzanita Ave (530) 521-1323

### **Non-fiction Book Discussion Group**

Group meets on 1st Friday at 10 a.m.  
Contact Susan Critchfield (530) 519-3460

### **Mystery Book Discussion Group**

Denise Worth (530) 343-5711  
Group meets at 3 p.m. on 3rd Wednesday  
Sep 21 - *Death in the Devil's Acre* by Anne Perry  
Hosted by Toni Reid at 466 Circle Drive in Oroville (530) 534-6591

### **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  
Sep 23 - *The Nightwatchman* by Louise Erdrich  
Open to new members. Contact Severance if you're interested in joining.

## Items for your calendar

**Sep 8** - AAUW Chico Board meeting at 4:00 - Sue Blizman's home at 462 Todd Court. All members welcome. Call ahead if you will attend (530) 891-3480

**Sep 11** - AAUW California Virtual Town Hall - 3 to 4:40 p.m. Free to all members but register in advance.

**Sep 17** - General branch meeting - Welcome Back Brunch 10 a.m. at 12555 Meridian Road.

**Sep 25** - High Tea Scholarship Fundraiser at Allies Pub from 2 to 4 p.m. Register by Sept 2

**A note from our finance chair: If you intend to renew your membership but have not done so yet, please call Lyn Smith at (530) 636-4984. That way, you will be included in the new directory and continue to receive newsletters and other communications from AAUW.**

