

# The Chico AAUW Grapevine



American Association of University Women - Chico Branch Vol. 35 No. 2 Oct 2022

## Next Event:

**Souper Supper**  
**Monday, October 10 at 5:30 p.m.**  
**Butte County Library - 1108 Sherman Ave - Chico**

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.



You won't want to miss this meeting because rarely can one accomplish so much at one event: become an informed voter, support our Foundation (AAUW funds) and have a supper of delicious homemade soups. Spouses are welcome so they, too, can become informed before the election.

Our own **Toni Reid** and **Carol Burr** will be wearing their League of Women Voters hats as they help you prepare to vote in November. They have taken the time to digest the information on the propositions and will give us a succinct version of the pros and cons of each, in the League's non partisan fashion. In addition, we will have **Kathy Harper**, the AAUW California Public Policy Chair, speak with us about the amendment to codify the right to abortions in the California Constitution.

The meeting will start with the Souper Supper. See the *Logistics* section below for how you can help, if you are able. **Jana Lawton** will donate 30 of her handmade bowls for the event. If you want one in which to enjoy your soup for the evening, come prepared to donate (cash or check) \$35 or more to AAUW Funds. Buying a bowl is not a requirement to attend the event or to enjoy soup with branch members. The article on page 4 will remind you of the good work AAUW Funds does in support of equity and education for women and girls and why you might want to contribute. Donations of any amount are appreciated and will help us reach our goal of being a 5-star branch.



**Logistics: SET UP** Tables and chairs are stored in the community room at the library so we will need a few strong hands for set up. If you can help with that, please arrive at 4:30. **SOUP** We hope to find 8 people who can contribute a soup ready to go in a crock pot by 5:30. Contact Marilyn Myrick via email ([myrick.marilyn@gmail.com](mailto:myrick.marilyn@gmail.com)) with Souper Supper in the subject line if you can be one of those cooks. It would be great to have vegetarian and vegan options too. **EXTRAS** dinner rolls/butter, cookies of any kind, and ice. We only need a few people for these items so let Marilyn know if you want to contribute in this way. Not everyone has the wherewithal to contribute to a meeting with this kind of format so don't let that prevent you from attending.

# 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

Fall was in the air just in time for our first wonderful gathering of the year. It was exciting to meet our first CSU, Chico scholarship recipient, **Jennifer Brush**. She will be completing her student teaching in the spring. It was also a joy to learn about Tech Trek camp through the eyes of two of our seven campers, Caitlin and Greta. Pam Bodnar received the following comment from Caitlin's mother Margaret, who also attended the brunch. "We appreciate all that you've done to create this opportunity. When Caitlin got home from Tech Trek she said, 'Mom, I think that was the most fun thing I've ever done.' and then she went to sleep for a day."

As we learned about a number of the interest sections that are part of our current branch activities, Dori Moura suggested forming two new groups: the Culture Club (going on outings as a group to plays, art exhibits, etc. in the Northstate region) and also a writing group. There was good interest for both groups so look for information about them in the coming newsletters.

Be sure to put the High Tea on your calendar for next year. This fundraiser for our high school girls scholarships was lovely with delicious authentic English finger food in a wonderful patio setting, and we heard about our 2021 scholarship winners. Fun hats too!



Who loves a parade? We do! In 2020, we planned to celebrate our branch's 100 year anniversary by being in Chico's Spring parade. Then COVID-19 came along. We're now going to be in the Chico Parade of Lights on Saturday, October 15. Our board has informally approved this to help publicize AAUW to Chico so people know we support education, equity, and voting. A committee is being formed and more information will follow. Save the date and have the fun of being in a parade!

*Sue Blizman*  
*President, Chico AAUW*



Scholarship recipient, Jennifer Brush, accepts the certificate presented to her from AAUW by Jan Britton



Greta and Caitlin talk about Tech Trek with President Sue Blizman

## Membership News

This month we have another new member introduction provided by **Carol Krok**. Welcome again to **Anne Russell** who has already gotten in the swing of things by attending our September meeting, the High Tea fundraiser, and some interest sections. More introductions to come next month. Membership directories should be available at our October meeting so contact information will be available for all.

If you know people who might want to become a member of the branch, invite them to a meeting and/or pass on the contact information to me and I will follow up.

*Dori Moura, Membership Chair*

*(530) 321-6508 or dorimoura@yahoo.com*

**Anne Russell** was born at the West Point military academy in New York and, as an Army brat, moved, on average, every 2 to 3 years. She attended two high schools in France—French and American. After graduation, the family moved to California. She attended College of Marin, the University of Hawaii, Manoa, and finally Chico State, where she was offered a full-time job. She began as a clerical assistant, moved on to training and writing training manuals for software programs for faculty and staff, and, finally, was the database administrator for the campus ID card.

She is an animal rights activist who has fostered many orphaned kittens. All of her pets were and are rescues. She was with the Butte Humane Society for four years, two of them as president. She helped establish and was president of Chico State's non-profit Friends of Animals for 10 years. She currently reads with elementary students through the Reading Pals program. She is an avid reader herself, enjoying many genres.

One of Anne's lifelong hobbies was miniatures. Her husband built her a large electrified dollhouse which she was furnishing with treasures she'd been collecting since childhood. She sold women's clothing at two local stores, as well as vintage coats and made pins and necklaces from antique buttons. Sadly, she lost everything in the Camp Fire and is working on putting together a new life. Anne shares the values of AAUW and looks forward to meeting more like-minded women.

**Barbara Jackson Heron** died this summer on June 9th. She had been a member of our branch since 1974. There was a wonderful celebration of her life in July and, as is often the case, it was an eye opener for those of us who thought we knew her. In addition to touching stories from her children and grandchildren who related what an impact she had on their lives, we learned of her love for dancing, adventure and travel.

The Barbara that most of us knew was the teacher (named Chico's Teacher of the Year) and someone committed to public service (most notably through the Chico Council on Aging and Meals on Wheels). It was after the death of their daughter Janet that the Herons set up an AAUW scholarship in honor of the Heron family women. Those of you who would like to honor Barbara's memory through a donation to this scholarship fund can still do so. Checks in any amount can be made payable to: *Chico AAUW* (with Heron scholarship in the memo line).  
Mail to Ruth Berger - 9 Lindo Park Drive, Chico, 95926



## AAUW Funds



**Valentina Alvarez**, pictured at left, received an American Fellowship for 2022-23. She is studying biology at University of Hawaii, Manoa. The fellowship will help her earn her Ph.D. as she gives special attention to Invasion Genomics.

**AAUW FUNDS** - One of the world's largest sources of funding for graduate women, AAUW is providing \$6 million in funding to more than 320 fellows and grantees in the 2022-23 award year. These exceptional recipients will pursue academic work and lead innovative community projects to empower women and girls. AAUW has become the leading voice in advancing gender equity in education and workplaces. Through research, education and advocacy, we're committed to ensuring that everyone gets the same opportunity to learn, earn and lead. Our programs aim at moving women forward—and we fight for policies that support our goals 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? 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.

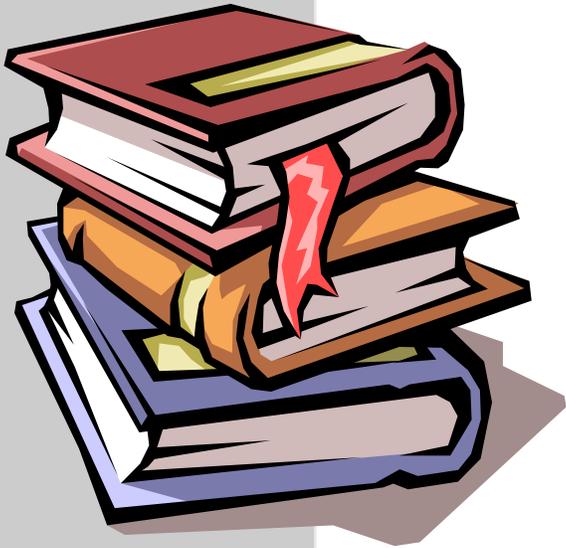
**Leadership** - Do we want more women to run for office at all levels of government? to reach for leadership positions in both the public and private sectors? Each year AAUW invites hundreds of college women from around the country for two days of leadership training, inspiration, and networking at the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). Every year, new leaders emerge with confidence and conviction thanks to the support of 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.

**Education and Training** - Fellowships and grants support women doing important work in our educational system and that will help them attain their graduate degrees. American Fellowships, Career Development Grants, Community Action Grants, International Fellowships, and Research Publication Grants are among the unique ways AAUW tailors their support for women in higher education through 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, we know you will want to make your contribution to AAUW Funds an annual tradition.

## What are You Reading?

Book discussion groups are one of the many ways we build friendships in AAUW and continue with our lifelong learning. This article provides a brief overview of the groups we already have in the branch. As interest grows, we can start new groups that meet on days and at times that are more convenient for participants.



The **Mystery Book Group** meets monthly on the third Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. We meet at members' homes; most are in Chico but we also have one member each in Oroville, Magalia and Paradise. We read a wide range of mysteries; of course, most involve a murder, but we try to avoid those which are gory, cruel, or dark. Our discussions also veer off-topic fairly frequently, enjoying each others' company as well as the mysteries. New members are welcome. If you are interested, contact Denise Worth [dworth@csuchico.edu](mailto:dworth@csuchico.edu) or (530) 343-5711.

The **Friday Morning Book Group** has 10 members at present and we would love to have one additional member. We meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday from 10 – 11:30 a.m. in the clubhouse at Woodoak Condominiums. Refreshments are not served but members are free to bring their morning drink of choice. At our September meeting, members suggest books they have read and would recommend for our group. We read both fiction and non-fiction and try to include one 'classic' novel each year. We then vote on the books suggested and the 11 books with the most votes are our new list. Usually the person suggesting the book will be the one leading the book discussion. At the monthly meeting, it is assumed that everyone has read the book. The Presenter will start with some detailed information about the life of the author and will then ask a series of questions that (we hope!) will elicit stimulating discussion. Call Severance Dolan at (530) 433-0258.

The **Evening Book Discussion Group**. Yes, there is a book group for those of you who can meet in the evening. Come visit us on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. . We are a friendly group gathering in member's homes. After books are nominated and voted on by members, we read and discuss each book. Although we read many fiction books, we also vote on non-fiction books of interest. Call Mary Huntsinger at (530) 521-1323

The **Ethnic Writers Book Group** has 12 members now. We meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 1 p.m. The venue rotates among the members' homes and refreshments are typically served by the hostess, although this is not a requirement to participate. We select books written by ethnic writers from the US and other countries. Reading selections are made at our monthly meetings. To aid in lively discussion, members should read the book beforehand. The member suggesting the book will usually lead the discussion and typically provide biographical information about the author and ask questions to facilitate discussion. Call Severance Dolan at (530) 433-0258

The **Nonfiction Book Group** meets on the first Friday of the month at 10 a.m. The person discussing the book usually hosts the meeting in her home. There is no expectation of reading the book beforehand but one often does want to read it after hearing a detailed description of the book. Call Susan Critchfield at (530) 519-3460

A recap of a recent "book report" from Susan Critchfield is as follows: *Red Notice* By Bill Browder. A financial caper, a crime thriller and a political crusade, this book is the story of one man taking on overpowering odds to change the world, and also the story of how, without intending to, he found the meaning of his life. Browder started his adult life as a Wall Street maverick whose instincts led him to Russia just after the breakup of the Soviet Union, where he made his fortune. He spent the last half of the decade on a campaign to expose the murderous heart of the Putin regime, after Browder's lawyer had been tortured and brutally murdered. He became Putin's number one enemy. He succeeded in having a law passed in the United States - The Magnitsky Act- that punishes a list of Russians implicated in his lawyer's murder. Putin famously retaliated with a law that bans Americans from adopting Russian orphans.

## Branch News and Notes



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)

Mark your calendars. We are going to be in the Chico Parade of Lights on Saturday, October 15. The theme is Unity in the Community. What a great opportunity to share AAUW with Chico.

### Progress so far

- Lyn Smith and Sue Blizman are heading this up. They are new to parade planning so if you have done this before, or have ideas, please share with them.
- The application has been turned in.
- Unused from our canceled parade 2 years ago we have yellow sashes to use with "Vote" printed on them.

- Jana has volunteered to make a banner and signs to hold during the parade

### Things we need

- battery operated strings of lights to use (lanterns, flashlights, other ideas??)— please let us know if you have any we could borrow
- people to march
- old political yard signs to carry our messages (we will put new stickers over these). Please let Lyn or Sue know and they can be picked up.
- Old curtain rod for the banner- Please let Sue or Lyn know.
- A vehicle - Does anyone have or know someone who has an old vehicle we might use and decorate- ie- old truck, convertible, antique car? The lights can be attached with painters tape so they won't damage the vehicle.

**Do we want to . . .** Invite Tech Trek girls to carry the banner? Let their families march also? Invite Paradise Branch to march too? Invite friends to march with us? Wear certain colors? Help us to make a notable statement in the parade.

More information will follow. We're looking for your good ideas! Lyn (530) 636-4984 and Sue (530) 891-3489

## The Art Boutique is Coming in December



This artwork is a reminder that the Art Boutique (a fundraiser for our scholarship funds) will be held on December 3rd and 4th at Jana Lawton's farm house. Caitlin Schwerin's joyful paintings and Victoria Davilas' paper bird sculptures will be among the new work you can purchase, along with pottery, jewelry, soap, mosaics, soft goods, and more. If you can volunteer to work a 3-hour shift to help greet visitors, take payments, or pack purchases, contact Jana Lawton (530) 894-1843 or by email [jdlawton72@gmail.com](mailto:jdlawton72@gmail.com). We need you!



## 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**

Meets the 3rd Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.  
Oct 19 - Wine Time - 26 Lost Dutchman Drive in 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.  
Oct 24 - *Biden's Foreign Policy* Discussion led by Linda MacMichael. 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  
Oct 27 - *Guests of the Sheik: An ethnography of an Iraqi village* by Elizabeth Warnock Fernea.  
Hosted by Denise Worth at 798 Sierra View Way (530) 343-5711

### **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  
Oct 19 - *A Long Time Coming* by Aaron Elkins  
Hosted by Mary Huntsinger at 1366 Manzanita Ave (530) 521-1323

### **Friday Book Discussion Group**

Severance Dolan (530) 433-0258  
Group meets at 10 a.m. on 4th Friday at Woodoak condominiums club house located at 555 Vallombrosa  
Oct 28 - Contact Severance if you're interested in joining.

## Items for your calendar

**Oct 6** - 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

**Oct 10** - Souper Supper at Butte County Library in Chico at 5:30 p.m. Information on voting in November. Support AAUW Funds event.

**Nov 17** - General branch meeting at the Butte County Library in Chico at 5:30 p.m. Speaker will discuss the electoral college - how to update it, modernize it, or get rid of it,

**Dec 3 and 4** - Art Boutique (scholarship fundraiser) at the historic Bell home place located at 12555 Meridian Road in Chico. Hours are 10 to 4 p.m. on Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Get your goodies here!

**Dec 10** - Holiday party with gifts for Catalyst families. St. John's Church

