

The Chico AAUW Grapevine



American Association of University Women - Chico Branch Vol. 35 No. 3 Nov 2022

Next Event: Branch Meeting
Learn about services you might need and volunteer opportunities.
Monday, November 14 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.



We have invited speakers who will talk about two important local service agencies: Cori Miller from the Peg Taylor Center and Mary Neumann from Passages will discuss what they offer in terms of opportunities for volunteer work and vital client services for friends and loved ones.

The goal of Passages is to help people stay healthy at any age and to improve the lives of adults in the 10 Northstate communities they serve. Mary Neumann will talk about their services, including volunteer recruitment and training. Their volunteers and staff provide clients with assistance on legal questions and with short-term counseling. They also offer nutrition planning, care-giver respite services, and transportation to in-house services.



The Peg
Taylor
Center

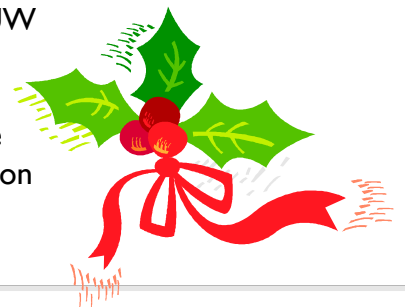
Cori Miller from the Peg Taylor Center will talk about their work in providing care and support for families in need in Butte, Glenn and Tehama Counties. This center pioneered adult day care and transportation services. They also reach out to participants ranging in age from 24 to 104. Clients include diabetics and people dealing with strokes and

Parkinson's disease. They will soon be expanding their services so come and find out about these two organizations where many of the services are free.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10 AT 3 PM IS OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

Save the date and join us at our branch holiday party on Saturday, December 10 at the beautiful hall at St John's Episcopal Church on Floral Avenue in Chico from 3 to 5 p.m.. Last year's party was fun and full of surprises. Bring a treat and come and enjoy the holiday camaraderie with other AAUW Members from Chico and Paradise.

We still need people to serve on the planning committee for the party. It's also fun to do. Please contact Jan Britton at brittonadv@comcast.net if you would like to join the planning group.



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

What a lovey start to November! Cooler weather and thoughts of celebrating Thanksgiving with family and friends.

To wrap up our Souper Supper event, \$2,570 was raised for AAUW Funds and sent to National, mostly designated for the “Greatest Needs” Fund. A big thank you to **Toni Reid** for her presentation on state ballot measures and to **Margaret Swick** for the information on our local measures. **Helen Gesick**, our super Zoom master, connected us with Kathy Harper, our AAUW-CA public policy chair, who shared information of Proposition I. **Jana Lawton’s** beautiful bowls added to the festivities. Many thanks to all who helped with the delicious soups, breads, cookies, set up and clean up, and to the over 40 people who attended. Just remember to VOTE!

The Parade of Lights on Saturday, October 15, was a lot of fun. Robert Fickert, along with his wife Marie, drove his antique 1940s restored fire truck. The fire truck was retired from the Chico Fire Department in 1948. Seventeen enthusiastic members were decked out in jewelry which glowed in the dark and “Votes for Women” sashes. We surrounded the fire truck carrying the banner and signs Jana made which promoted the ways AAUW supports our community. Four cute granddaughters and a daughter rode in the back. Thanks to **Dori Moura** for suggesting the parade and announcing us on the route and to all who jumped into action to make this happen. I think the best part of the parade was seeing all the happy, smiling faces!

Thank you to **Helen Gesick** for printing our new Directory of Members booklet.

Upcoming events - Our next Board Meeting is set for November 3 at 4 p.m. at Jan Britton’s home (643 W. 11th Ave). Everyone is invited to attend.

We have signed up again to help Catalyst families with Christmas gifts. These families use Catalyst services to free themselves from domestic violence and abusive relationships and our support can really give them a boost. Details on how you can help will be coming soon.

Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

Chico branch entry in the Parade of Lights

*Sue Blizman
President
Chico AAUW*



Membership News

NEW MEMBERS Add to Directory

Pam Thomas

2060 Amanda Way Apt 27
Chico, CA 95928
Pamthomas2012@gmail.com

Mary Waste

2060 Amanda Way Apt 75
Chico, CA 95928
mary.e@comcast.net

ADDRESS CHANGE

Sue Griffin

1409 Palm Avenue
Chico, CA 95926

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)

This month we welcome four more new members to the branch, **Linda Bilsborough, Julie Butler, Pam Thomas** and **Mary Waste**. Linda and Julie joined in time to be included in the member directory. The contact information for Pam and Mary is listed in the column at left. Don't forget to add them to your directories.

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. If you're on social media, be sure to like and share our posts on Facebook and Instagram. The more you interact with our content, the more likely that potential new members will see it on their newsfeeds.

Dori Moura, Membership Chair
(530) 321-6508 or dorimoura@yahoo.com

Jennie Blevins, a Chico State and New York University graduate, joined us in August. She has been working as a journalist at the *Chico Enterprise-Record* for a year. Jennie reports on businesses in the area. She features new ones, updates us on what established ones are doing, and informs us of those that are closing. Writing for the *ER* suits her just fine because she has always loved the Chico area.

Born in D.C., Jennie grew up in Monterey. While traveling, her dad discovered Chico, fell in love with it and encouraged her to go to Chico State. Jennie always wanted to live in New York City. She was obsessed with celebrities, so living in NYC was a dream come true. Sarah Jessica Parker came and talked to one of her classes. She also went to every play she could find where a celebrity was starring. For example, she met Al Pacino and Matthew Broderick.

Jennie loves reading, movies, museums, and the musical theater. She is eager to participate in many activities. She looks forward to her membership providing new friends, new activities, and allowing her to contribute to the community.

Victoria L. Bernhardt hails from Iowa, receiving her B.S. from Iowa State University in psychology with a minor in mathematics. She also received her M.S. from said university with a major in statistics, psychology and education. Her Ph.D. is from the University of Oregon in Eugene. She majored in educational psychology research and measurement and has a minor in mathematics. An impressive list of her special recognitions and awards as well as the 22 books she has authored is too numerous to list here.

Starting in 1991, she has been Director of the Education for the Future Initiative, College of Communication and Education, CSU, Chico. This position enabled traveling to over 40 different countries to help schools improve by using collected data.

Victoria moved to Paradise in 1986 for a CSU job and then lost her home in the Camp Fire. She and her husband settled in Chico. She has a great love of traveling, both for work and for pleasure. One of her memorable trips was to Antarctica. The penguins were a highlight! She found herself in Ghana in February 2020 when COVID struck and had quite a time getting back to the U.S. Victoria looks forward to more traveling as the COVID situation becomes more stable. Victoria enjoys biking, hiking, and reading. She takes Pilates and OLLI classes. Victoria is also a member of Great Decisions, PEO, and the Power of 100 Women, and now a member of our AAUW branch. She looks forward to making more friends with smart women. That speaks a lot for her and for us.

The Art Boutique is coming on December 3 and 4

open 10 to 4 on Saturday and noon to 4 on Sunday



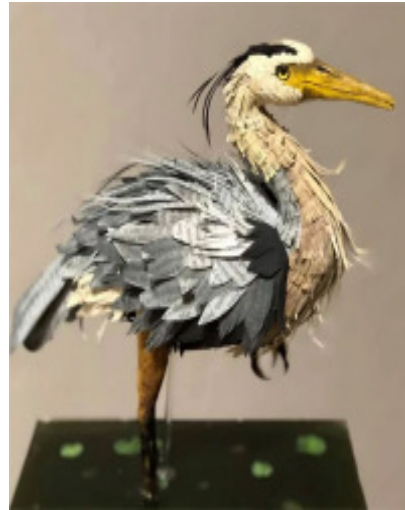
Caitlin Schwerin creates paintings that evoke happiness and love. She has a minimalist style, and because life is often noisy and chaotic, looking at something soft and simple is calming.



Rachelle Lanouette directs her creative energy in many directions. Still life paintings and sweet animal portraits are her current favorites. She delves into quilting when she has more time to devote to a new idea.



The Art Boutique is your very own venue for beautiful hand-made goods created by local artists. An added benefit is the artists donate a portion of their sales to Chico AAUW's scholarship programs, which benefit women and girls. There will be items in all price ranges so you can find a low-cost hostess gift as well as a beautiful piece of art for your home. Here is a preview of what awaits you at the Art Boutique.



Christian Victoria Davila creates bird sculptures in which she blends technology such as 3-D printing and laser cutting with traditional papier-maché methods of hand pasting and painting. She also uses her technology tools to create jewelry and ornaments.



Linda Lunsford has been fascinated by mosaics and uses found objects and hand-made tiles to create whimsical items for home and garden. She will also have botanical items from her garden.

Jana Lawton will have her porcelain sculpture, whimsical shadow boxes and mosaics, and hand-decorated pottery and ornaments at the Boutique.

Brenda Schlegel is a master at metalsmithing. Her jewelry is like tiny wearable sculptures.



Carla Resnick has been developing her palette of colors made from natural materials to hand-dye linen and cotton. She uses this fabric to create decorative and functional items like pouches, pillows, and bags. She also creates collage cards and colorful paintings.



Sheryl Cummings cooks up heavenly hand-made soaps and is using her new computerized sewing machine to create a variety of hand-sewn goods like baskets, coasters, and tea towels.



Branch News and Notes

AAUW Funds Event with Fellows and Grant Recipients

AAUW has an amazing number of fellows and grant recipients who are working in California this academic year. To host them all, AAUW California is hosting four AAUW Fund virtual events. These smart and talented women are sharing nuggets of their fascinating studies. See what, and who, your AAUW Fund dollars support. Sign up for the last one on November 12 (Sat.) 10:00 to 12:00 pm if you haven't yet. Learn about sustainable environments, global migration, refugee studies, and 36 other topics. Use the link below to register:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Ue-VsuEDRuXTHwiTfQMuQ

As an alternative, you can visit AAUW-ca.org and sign up. Registration is free but required in order to get the link to participate in the webinar.



We will be supporting Catalyst Domestic Violence Services once again to help women and children who have experienced violence in the home. Pam Bodnar is heading up the gift donations for this year, and she will contact AAUW members in early November to sign up for a gift or gift card.

VOTE FOR PROPOSITION I

Our Public Policy Group of the California AAUW urges members to consider voting yes for Proposition I. If it passes, California will protect abortion access by adding a new amendment to the California Constitution. This amendment will be harder to change than any law and it will protect access to contraceptives. With this amendment, people will retain the right to make decisions about their own bodies for generations to come. To learn more visit www.YESonICA.com

Marilyn Myrick and **Nancy Wirtz** lead the AAUW Chico branch in the Parade of Lights



Notes from Finance Officer, Lyn Smith

The High Tea High School Scholarship Fundraiser, held in September, raised a total of \$3,754.41 from ticket sales, silent auction items, and donations.

The Souper Supper in October raised \$2570 for AAUW Funds. This amount was sent to the Association in Washington, DC.

Our local Tech Trek fund received donations that total \$600 thus far.

The CSU, Chico postgraduate scholarship in support of a student working for a teaching credential in STEM subject matter received \$1095.

I acknowledge the thoughtful donation of a laptop which will be used for branch financial business and will follow the position. Thank you to all for your generosity and care in giving to support AAUW!

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.



New Group

New Group

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 parks and neighborhoods. Email or call for schedule carol@holzgrafe.com, or Satsie Veith at (530) 570-3550.

Wine and Whine

Meets the 3rd Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.
Nov 16 - Red Tavern - 1250 Esplanade
Contact Carol Holzgrafe at 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 Mary Huntsinger at (530) 809-0705 to make a reservation. Both Paradise and Chico branch members welcome.
Nov 10 - 11:30 at Big Tuna Sushi

Culture Club

Dori Moura (530) 321-6508
Seeking out cultural opportunities of all kinds and sharing them with friends.
Nov 15 - 6 p.m. Location TBD
Organizing meeting to plot outings for the coming months. Come with ideas for places to visit and/or events you want to see.

Wordsmiths

Dori Moura (530) 321-6508
Meets 2nd Sunday at 2 p.m.
All welcome. For people who want to write, encourage and inspire one another, and celebrate the joy of writing.
Nov 13 - 1112 Bidwell Avenue - Jana Lawton's home (530) 894-1843. Share what you've written with the group.

Foreign Policy Discussion Group

Roxanne Ferry - 891-1722 All welcome.
Group meets 4th Monday at 7 p.m.
Nov 28 - *Myanmar's never ending crisis* Discussion led by Jeannie Trizzino.
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 8 - *State of Terror* by Hillary Clinton and Louise Penny. Hosted by Elaine Schlinger at 738 Skyway Ave (530) 894-5873

Ethnic Writers Book Discussion Group

Severance Dolan 433-0258 All welcome!
Group meets at 1:00 p.m. on 4th Wednesday
Nov 30 - *The White Tiger* by Aravind Adiga.
Hosted by JoAnn Palmer at 20 Pebblewood Pines (530) 680-3980 **Note new date**

Non-fiction Book Discussion Group

Group meets on 1st Friday at 10 a.m.
Contact Helen Gesick (530) 570-5185

Mystery Book Discussion Group

Denise Worth (530) 343-5711
Group meets at 3 p.m. on 3rd Wednesday
Nov 16 - *The Man Who Died Twice* by Richard Osmond. Hosted by Carol Holzgrafe at 15024 Jack Pine Way in Magalie (530) 873-6906

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
Nov 25 - Contact Severance for information.

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.



Items for your calendar

Nov 3 - AAUW Chico Board meeting at 4:00 - Jan Britton's home at 643 W. 11th Ave.

All members welcome. Call ahead if you will attend (530) 896-1240

Nov 12 - 10 a.m. to noon for an AAUW Funds event - sign up today at AAUW-ca.org. Event is free but pre-registration is required.

Nov 14 - General branch meeting at the Butte County Library in Chico at 5:30 p.m. Speakers will discuss important local service organizations and their volunteer opportunities.

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

