

The Chico AAUW Grapevine



American Association of University Women - Chico Branch Vol. 35 No. 5 Jan 2023

Next Event: Presentation from River Partners Ecologist

Monday, January 30, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

Butte County Library - 1108 Sherman Avenue in 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.

The goal of River Partners is to protect our State's precious freshwater ecosystems and its important habitat. Together with other local organizations, they seek to strengthen local communities as they protect water resources, expand green jobs, support productive farmland and improve carbon storage in our fast-growing river forests.

In the past year, our local League of Women Voters has helped us understand our immediate local water problems. River Partners, started two decades ago by conservation-minded California farmers and ecologists, has been trying to find solutions to these problems by building resilient ecosystems in communities along the Sacramento River. Their salmon recovery project is working to optimize foraging habitat for salmon. Through these and other projects since 1998, they have restored 18,000 acres and have conserved 10 billion gallons of water.

Our speaker Jade Jacobs (pictured at right), a restoration ecologist with River Partners, will talk about current projects that are so vital to saving our precious freshwater and river habitats. An interesting note about Ms. Jacobs is she received an AAUW fellowship to study the Sacramento River for her Ph.D. work.



Chico and Paradise AAUW branch members and friends are all welcome and encouraged to attend this meeting. Learn about the work that is so vital to our region and find out if there are ways in which the greater community can participate.



**Interbranch Luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, February 4.
Read article on page 4 to find out how to attend.**

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

Cheers for a happy, healthy 2023!

Thanks to **Jan Britton** and committee for planning our holiday party. Yummy food, great music, fun games, and wonderful, generous people added to this enjoyable time. The three families that Catalyst selected for us to support had all their gift requests fulfilled! Thank you to all the shoppers who helped make this a great celebration for them!

Our wonderful secretary, **Maria Elena Ramirez**, found she needed to resign from her duties. In steps **Severance Dolan** to pick up the recorder's pen and continue taking the minutes at our most recent Board meeting. I am grateful to Maria Elena for her past service to the branch and to Severance for so quickly coming to our rescue. The branch secretary is one of only three leadership positions that our bylaws require.

To raise funds to send 7th grade girls to Tech Trek camp this summer, we will continue our successful Antique Appraisal Faire scheduled for Sunday, March 26. New members are needed on the planning committee to help with publicity, food, and all the logistics. Please let me know if you can volunteer some time to make this year's Appraisal Faire another success (530) 891-3489

Sue Blizman
Chico AAUW President

A message to take to heart from AAUW-California President, Sandi Gabe

For me, leadership and volunteering go hand in hand. I'm motivated to take on these roles because they inspire me and make my world more vibrant and fulfilling. Through my leadership and volunteer work, I have the opportunity to:

- Meet new people and build connections, learning from and with them.
- Keep my brain active by learning new things and tackling new challenges.
- Use my passions to make a difference in the world. One example of this is expanding Gov Trek, a program that helps girls explore the world of politics and make their voices heard.

Think about how you might lend your time and skills to advance the mission of education and equity for all women and girls in Chico.

CHEERS TO ALL CALIFORNIA BRANCHES!

Because of you and your efforts, AAUW Funds exceeded the targeted goal of \$525,000 by an additional \$44682 through the end of November. And this exceeded last year's Fund donations by \$51,000! These figures don't include December's donations so, there will be more! Yay!!! To all of you who made donations to AAUW Funds at our Souper Supper or who made donations directly to AAUW Funds, we appreciate your support and for helping to make California one of AAUW's most generous donor states.



Membership News

NEW MEMBER Add to Directory

Connie Brennan
1058 Lia Way
Chico, CA 95926
(530) 961-2846
cbrennan@csuchico.edu

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Mary Peterson
new email address
steneby@mail.com

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 are pleased to introduce you to **Linda Bilsborough**. Thanks to **Carol Krok** for writing this short biography about her. We also want to welcome our newest member, **Connie Brennan**. Don't forget to add her contact information 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

Linda McAfee Bilsborough is a West Coast native. Born in Spokane, Washington, her parents moved the family to Millbrae and then Novato (Marin). She attended College of Marin and Chico State for her undergraduate studies and UC Berkeley and USF for graduate studies. Her Master's degree is in health sciences and she has been able to put that to good use.

Linda married in Marin and moved to San Francisco. She and her husband eventually moved to Chico for his ag-related businesses. Linda was a faculty member at Chico State for 34 years in the Department of Health and Community Services and supervised interns in their community placements. They have a son and daughter who also live in Chico.

Health is a vital part of Linda's retired life. A member of Chico Sports Club, she works out daily. She also likes to go dog walking, kayaking, fishing, paddleboarding and travelling. All this, she feels, benefits her physical and mental health. Added to this wealth of activity is her volunteer service to the community. Linda has been a Reading Pal in a local elementary school for 6 years. She is a Board Member for Enloe Hospital Volunteers and is a "cuddler" in their Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Her church community service includes working with community members in need of help with food, rent and utilities.

Several AAUW members are her neighbors and Linda is looking forward to joining them in our wonderful organization.



The Culture Club had their first outing to Chico Theater Company's performance of *Another Night Before Christmas*. The group got a photo op with the stars of the show. More fun outings to be discussed at the next meeting on January 17. Details in the Interest Section on page 6.

Interbranch Council (IBC) News



Right on the heels of our January program is the North Valley Interbranch Council (IBC) luncheon. This annual event is produced by all six branches in the IBC (Chico, Gridley, Marysville/Yuba City, Oroville, Paradise, and Redding) and is shaping up to be a most extraordinary occasion. Redding, our host branch, has secured the beautiful McConnell Foundation meeting center (photo at left) and will cater a wonderful lunch. See the following menu and be ready to make your selection when you register to attend. Both options cost \$30

Regular option: green salad with cranberries, walnuts, and feta, and rolls; chicken Alfredo pasta bake; and cheesecake

Vegetarian option: green salad with cranberries, walnuts, and feta, and rolls; stuffed zucchini bake; and cheesecake.

The Marysville/Yuba City branch has engaged **Lynn Fritz** to be our speaker. Fritz is a licensed marriage family therapist in private practice. She's bicultural Swedish and Native American, Hoopa and Karuk. She is an enrolled tribal descendant of the Karuk Tribe in Happy Camp, California

Fritz was asked to talk about the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) movement. The movement is an activist effort in response to the pervasive issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women across North America. This movement brings awareness to an issue which did not previously receive mainstream attention. To capture just how immense this issue is: Indigenous American women are murdered at a rate 10x the national average. Only 106 out of many thousands of those women are recorded in the Department of Justice's National Missing and Unidentified Person database. Fritz can shed light on how this came to be and what the MMIW movement hopes to accomplish.

It is a stretch to attend a meeting in Redding but carpooling is offered. You won't want to miss this thought-provoking program, a delicious lunch in beautiful surroundings, and the camaraderie of AAUW members from throughout the Northstate.

You can register yourself at this website:

AAUWRedding.org/Payment

click on Chico branch and select Chico \$30 or Chico veg \$30

Or you can contact Jana Lawton via email (jdlawton72@gmail.com) or call (530) 894-1843 to make arrangements. Make sure to give your menu preference and whether or not you want to carpool (we already have 4 drivers). If you want to drive yourself, the address is 800 Shasta View Drive, Redding, CA 96003

Because six branches are working on the logistics, it is important to make your reservation and pay in advance. If you make a reservation, you are expected to pay even if you end up not attending the luncheon.

The deadline to sign up is Friday, January 27, 2023.

Branch News and Notes



The following message was received by Kim Cross who thought you would all love to read this missive from Puneet Mann, one of our past Tech Trekkers. Recent photo taken by Pam Bodnar.

I hope this email finds you well! I am reaching out to you to give you an update. After high school, I went on to attend Pepperdine University and majored in biology. During my 4 years there I studied abroad in Buenos Aires, minored in art history, and completed an honors thesis in biochemistry. Since graduating this past May, I have been accepted to work as a research fellow at the NIH in the cancer division and will be moving to the east coast at the end of January. While there I will be mostly working on immunotherapies for patients and will be focusing on applying to medical school in the summer of 2023.

AAUW's Tech Trek STEM Camps for Girls

Pam Bodnar has contacted the four Chico schools that we work with, providing information about the nominating procedure and what sort of student thrives best at a Tech Trek camp. We do not know yet how many of our 7 requested places will be honored at the TT Davis residential camp but should know soon. We also requested 2 places at the virtual camp.

Since our last newsletter, the northern California team of camp directors tried to get permission to open two more camps to address the dozens of requested places for which there was no room at Davis, Sonoma or Fresno State. There will be a second week at Sonoma State but no week at Stanford this year. In 2024 there may be an additional camp at Stanford, U.C. Santa Cruz, or CSU Monterey Bay, all to be determined later. (Camp directors needed!)

In the meantime, we want to thank Jana Lawton and Lauree Asarian for offering to be dorm moms (adult counselors) this summer. They will have an eye-opening, wonderful time working with their 10 to 12 girls and the camp staff. We are still taking names for dorm moms should any of you want to join our little group. The Sonoma dates are June 17-24 and July 23-29. No date for Davis yet but it is usually in July.

Carol Holzgrafe and Pam Bodnar, Tech Trek Coordinators for AAUW Chico

YOU'RE INVITED . . .

to join the Scholarship Team, a group of members who are dedicated to supporting worthy high school seniors when they graduate to pursue their college educations. Join us Thursday, January 19, 1:30 p.m. at Mary Jensen's house, 45 Edgewater Court.

The team will discuss finances, determine criteria for this year's awards, and do initial brainstorming for 2023 fundraising. Contact Mary Jensen at mkcjensen@icloud.com, (530) 345-5010; or Ruth Berger at krberger71@comcast.net, (530) 895-3959.

Speaking of fundraising, **THANK YOU** to everyone who attended our fundraising tea at Allies Pub! You were a joy and your hats were a wonder to behold!

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.
Jan 18 - Sicilian Cafe - downtown at Wall St & 3rd. Contact Carol Holzgrafe at carol@holzgrafe.com if you want to join in. All welcome.
Note: Meeting at 5 p.m. this month

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.
Jan 12 at 11:30

Culture Club

Dori Moura (530) 321-6508
Seeking out cultural opportunities of all kinds and sharing them with friends.
Jan 17 - 6 p.m. Planning meeting at the home of Nancy Wirtz - 1191 Bonair Rd. in Chico to schedule outings to museums, gardens, theater productions, etc. Bring your ideas.

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 writing.
Feb 12 - Hosted by Lily Loughlin at 1226 Mary Arthur Court. 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.
Jan 23 - Biden's Agenda hosted by Linda MacMichael at 900 Laburnam Avenue. In addition to the listed topic, the schedule of discussion topics for 2023 will be established.

Evening Book Discussion Group

Wendy Woods (530) 899-8607
Group meets at 7:00 p.m. on 2nd Tuesday
Jan 10 - *The Dalai Lama's Cat* by David Michie. Hosted by Jennie Blevins at 1459 E. Lassen Ave - #82 (530) 891-3489

Ethnic Writers Book Discussion Group

Severance Dolan 433-0258 All welcome!
Group meets at 1:00 p.m. on 4th Wednesday
Jan 25 - *Against the Loveless World: A Novel* by Susan Abulhawa. Hosted by Sadie Urbanowicz at 622 Madrone Ave (530) 343-8180

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
Jan 18 - *Island of the Mad* by Laurie R. King. Mary Huntsinger hosts at 1366 Manzanita Ave (530) 809-0705

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
Jan 27 - 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.



Items for your calendar

Jan 5 - 4 p.m. Chico branch Board meeting

Jan 18 - Deadline to sign up to participate and register for training for Lobby Days. The opportunity for all members to help advocate for our priority bills in the California legislature.

Feb 4 - 11:30 a.m. North Valley Interbranch Luncheon in Redding, CA. Register no later than January 27.

Mar 15 - Equal Pay Day - educate your community about the gender pay gap.

Mar 20 - mandatory training for all those who registered to participate in Lobby Days

Mar 21 and 22 - Lobby Days - two days of advocacy with state legislators.

Apr 22, 2023 - Amador branch Home Tour in Sutter Creek



1112 Bidwell Avenue
Chico, CA 95926

Chico (CA) Branch

