

# The Chico AAUW Grapevine



American Association of University Women - Chico Branch Vol. 35 No. 6 Feb 2023

## Upcoming Program Highlights . . .

Mark your calendars  
Details in upcoming newsletters

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.



### **March 26 - Antique Appraisal Faire - 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Chico Women's Club - 592 E 3rd Street**

The public is invited to this branch fundraiser. Proceeds help send local 8th grade girls to AAUW's summer Tech Trek camp at UC, Davis. Appraisers on hand to give information on the value, and perhaps some history, of such items as fine art, books, china, clocks, clothing, coins, furniture, glass, jewelry, dolls, photos, photographs, stamps, quilts, toys, and historic weapons. Open to all.



### **March 27 - branch program at 5:30 p.m. - What about the other women? Butte County Library - 1108 Sherman Ave in Chico**

The *other* women are those who are incarcerated or immersed in the Criminal Justice system whether it is jail, probation or prison. How do we empower marginalized women? What happens to women in custody and after they are released?

Members **Adele Arnold, Sue Griffin, Sylvia Hedlind and Margaret Swick** will talk about their professional careers in corrections. Join us to learn about the *other* women and to ponder the question of how we can empower all women to achieve high quality lives. Open to all.

### **April 30 - 3 to 5 p.m. - Women of Distinction St. John's Episcopal Church Hall - 2341 Floral Avenue in Chico**



Honoring local women who have made extraordinary contributions to our community. Come and learn about the many quiet achievements that add up to an exceptional career devoted to public service. Open to all.

# Branch News and Notes

## Branch Leaders

- President - Sue Blizman
- Membership - Dori Moura
- Finance - Lyn Smith
- Secretary - open
- 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



It isn't often that we get to celebrate a new baby! Member **Marina Rocchi** gave birth to 9 pound 9 ounce Sloan Hutton on October 23. Recent photos show she is growing well. Congratulations to Jordan and Marina and Sloan's big brother Leif.



## A Tech Trek Success Story

**Kim Cross** happened to see **Katelyn Fong**, a young woman who attended Tech Trek in 2010, and was a Junior Counselor at the camp the following year. Kim learned that she graduated from St.Mary's College and then went on to Berkeley. Currently she works for Amazon as a robotics engineer traveling throughout the Southwest. She would love to help encourage young women to pursue STEAM careers. She's simply so engaging and enthusiastic about her work. She credits AAUW and Tech Trek for helping her reach her goals. It is always gratifying when we are validated for the work we do on behalf of women and girls.

## 2023 AAUW Chico High School Scholarships

Four worthy graduating students will receive scholarship awards from the AAUW Chico Scholarship Fund this May. The Sydney Stewart Memorial Scholarship (\$3,000) and three AAUW Chico Scholarships (\$2500 each) have been designated by the High School Scholarship Committee. The awards, totaling \$10,500, have been made possible by proceeds from the September, 2022 High Tea at The Allies Pub and many generous contributions by branch members and others.

## Tech Trek Update

Tech Trek STEM Camp will be held at UC, Davis on July 9 – 15, 2023. Our school-site leaders at Bidwell Jr. High, Marsh Jr. High, Chico Jr. High and Chico Country Day School are nominating 7th grade female students who would benefit from this amazing experience. The teachers are carefully identifying those students who demonstrate a strong work ethic and also express a genuine interest STEM subjects.

Nominees will participate in an in-person interview with our branch Tech Trek team: **Carol Holzgrafe, Marilyn Myrick and Pam Bodnar**. Six girls will be selected to attend the residential camp at UC Davis. One additional student will be invited to attend the virtual online camp. We are excited to have our exceptional students return to the original in-person Tech Trek programs throughout California!

## Membership News

### NEW MEMBERS Add to Directory

#### Connie Brennan

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

#### Sue Peterson

318 Royal Glen Lane  
Chico, CA 95973  
(530) 592-9893  
sepeterson@csuchico.edu

#### Marcia Moore

20 Dana Point Road  
Chico, CA 95928  
(530) 518-5448  
mamooore001@earthlink.net

#### Julie Postma

1245 Palm Avenue  
Chico, CA 95926  
julip326@gmail.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)

Three women joined our branch this past month. Welcome to **Sue Peterson, Marcia Moore, and Julie Postma**. Please remember to add their contact information to your member directories. This month we are pleased to introduce you to **Connie Brennan** and **Sue Peterson** in this column. Thanks again to **Carol Krok** for writing these short biographies.

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

**Connie Brennan** was born in Vallejo, CA, and moved to Chico in 1968. Graduating from CSU, Chico in Art (studio art) in 1972, Connie continues to paint and has exhibited her artwork around town. She is active in Chico Art Center and recently had 3 paintings entered in their Small Works exhibition.

Connie has a lifetime elementary credential. She was hired at CSU, Chico in 1979 and first worked at the Educational Opportunity Program helping urban "first generation" youth transition into college. She then worked at the Liberal Studies Program - a pathway to a Multiple Subject Credential. She was the department secretary and an academic adviser for the major. She retired after investing 30 years in helping students.

Connie enjoys hiking, traveling, watching movies, and socializing. She treasures being in nature and shows this by supporting various environmental and wildlife groups. Her involvement with the Chico Food Project includes helping publicize and organize food collections as well as driving to collect food bags from individual homes.

Connie is happily married to Don Brennan who was a great special education teacher. They are enjoying their retirement together. Connie also loves time with her daughter, who is a school psychologist, and her family who live in town. That includes 4 grandchildren and a son-in-law who is the principal at Chico High School. She is a woman of many interests and her support of them shows she cares.

**Sue Peterson** loves Chico. She attended Chico State and enjoyed the area so much that she always wanted to return to it. Sue found her way back to Chico in 2007.

Born in Vallejo, CA, (is there a pattern here?) Sue attended Chico State for her BA in Communication Studies, and her MA at Pepperdine in the same. She works at CSU, Chico as the Director of First-Year Experience, a program that develops first-year courses that fulfill general education (GE) graduation requirements and helps students explore their identities and interests, develop successful skills and habits, and make close connections to peers and faculty. They include collaborative and active learning, peer support and engagement with public issues that challenge students to get involved immediately, not eventually, as scholars and engaged members of the community.

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## Membership News

### March is Women's History Month

Because of the unforeseen lack of a state-level technical person, our Branch Support workshop, "Help Wanted! Refreshing, Reviving, Restructuring Your Branch" has been postponed. It will be rescheduled as soon as possible. We will let everyone know when they can register. Our apologies to all.  
*Carol Holzgrafe and Sharyn Siebert  
AAUW CA  
Branch Support*

(Sue Peterson continued)

Prior to becoming the Director of First-Year Experience, Sue was a communications studies instructor and an intercollegiate speech and debate coach for over two decades. Being a coach meant travelling and competing at different colleges. In her travels, Sue met her husband who also worked with students on college debate teams. He has worked at USC, Cal Berkeley, University of Michigan, but is currently remotely coaching at St. Marks High School in Texas.

They have a 13-year-old daughter and Sue is currently her Girl Scout troop leader. In her busy life, Sue finds time to read and looks forward to socializing with other AAUW members.

Women's History Month is a fitting time to observe Transgender Day of Visibility  
*by Melissa Maceyko, Member AAUW California Public Policy Committee*

Each year on March 31, the world observes Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV) to raise awareness about transgender people. It is a day to celebrate the lives and contributions of trans people, while also drawing attention to the poverty, discrimination, and violence the community faces.

We understand how women's history tells the story of misogyny, which is the systemic mistreatment of women, girls, and feminine peoples through forms of physical and structural violence. But we rarely consider how it is linked to transmisogyny, which focuses on the complex intersections between transphobia and misogyny that are faced by trans women and girls, as well as transfeminine and gender non-conforming peoples. It is a term that attempts to capture multiple layers of gender-based marginalization and systemic mistreatment. If misogyny and transmisogyny are not combatted together, then the root of the problem will never truly be eradicated.

Although the past decade has seen a more vocal public push for diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives around gender, the current sociopolitical climate in the United States is not supportive of, and is often openly hostile to, transgender and gender non-conforming individuals. Under this sphere of increased hostility is the explicit targeting of trans women and girls and transfeminine peoples with words, actions, and legislation. It is particularly important for women's organizations who seek to combat gender-based forms of oppression to build coalitions and take a stand against **misogyny and transmisogyny** in all its forms, because misogyny and transmisogyny come from the same place. They both describe gender-based oppression that results from the prioritization of masculinity alongside the degradation of femininity.

Targeted hostility against trans women and girls and transfeminine peoples can be seen not only in the alarming uptick in physical violence against this community, but also in the increasing persistence and intensity of public debates over whether or not trans women and girls and transfeminine peoples are "real women" that belong in "women's spaces," including gender-specific bathrooms, women's sports teams, and locker rooms. These debates prioritize misplaced and misunderstood claims of biological authenticity. They are dehumanizing and cannot be disconnected from other forms of violence as they normalize widespread and explicit marginalization and exclusion.

As a women's organization, the increasingly hostile environment for trans women and girls and transfeminine people should be at the forefront of our collective education and activism - let's help ensure that history doesn't continue to repeat itself. Visit the AAUW Public Policy website to learn more.

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

#### **Wine and Whine**

Meets the 3rd Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.  
Feb 15 - Wine Time - 26 Lost Dutchman Drive. Contact Carol Holzgrafe at [carol@holzgrafe.com](mailto:carol@holzgrafe.com) if you want to join in. All welcome.

#### **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.  
Feb 9 at 11:30 - Priya located at 2574 Esplanade

#### **Culture Club**

Dori Moura (530) 321-6508  
Seeking out cultural opportunities of all kinds and sharing them with friends.  
Mar 5 - 2 p.m. Mama Mia at the Paradise Performing Arts Center  
Outings to museums, gardens, and theater productions, are being planned.

#### **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.  
Mar 12 - Hosted by Jana Lawton at 1112 Bidwell Ave. (530) 894-1843.  
Share what you've written with the group.

#### **Foreign Policy Discussion Group**

Roxanne Ferry - 891-1722  
Group meets 4th Monday at 7 p.m.  
Feb 26 - Political Trends in Latin America hosted by Anne Russell at 9 Buttercup Ct. (530) 521-5556.

#### **Evening Book Discussion Group**

Wendy Woods (530) 899-8607  
Group meets at 7:00 p.m. on 2nd Tuesday  
Feb 14 - *Ghettoside* by Jill Leovy. 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  
Feb 22 - *The Vanishing Half: A Novel* by Brit Bennett. Hosted by Sue Blizman - 462 Todd Ct. (530) 891-3489

#### **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  
Feb 15 - *Fortune Favors the Dead* by Stephen Spotswood. Hosted by Anne Russell at 9 Buttercup Court (530) 521-5556

#### **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  
Feb 24 - 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

**Mar 11** - 11:30 am. Oroville branch Women's History Tea - Trinity Presbyterian Church in Oroville. \$25 ticket supports their Tech Trek program. Priscilla Burns speaks on the Science and Art of Living. Contact [almashort@comcast.net](mailto:almashort@comcast.net) for tickets. Good food, good cause, good time!

**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.

**Mar 26** - Antique Appraisal Faire at the Chico Women's Club - Chico branch Tech Trek fundraiser

**Mar 27** - Chico Library, branch program about women in the criminal justice system

**Apr 22** - Amador branch Home Tour in Sutter Creek

**Apr 30** - Women of Distinction - branch program at St. John's Episcopal Church



1112 Bidwell Avenue  
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