

The Chico AAUW Grapevine



American Association of University Women - Chico Branch Vol. 35 No. 8 Apr 2023

Next Branch Event ...

Women of Distinction
Sunday, April 30, 2023 - 3 to 5 p.m.
St. John's Episcopal Church hall - 2341 Floral Ave 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.



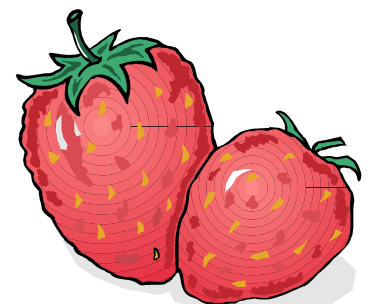
Chico AAUW will honor four local women for their remarkable contributions in our corner of the world. You may already be familiar with some of these names: **Gayle Hutchinson, Juanita Mottley, Ann Schwab, and Kelly Staley**. They are leaders, women with powerful voices in our community, and are passionate about what they do. We want to take note of their many accomplishments and to honor them for the service they have given.

During the program we will learn more about what they have done in the full of their careers, what motivated them to choose professions that focus on education and public service, hear of special challenges they may have faced, and see how they view the future for encouraging young people to engage in careers with a public service focus. These women are often in the news and our program will allow us to see the human side of their jobs and their lives and honor them for the courage and commitment it takes to do important work that benefits us all.

We want to encourage all members to attend this special event and to bring neighbors and friends to celebrate these women in a public forum. Light refreshments will be served as we gather before the program begins. It is not required for attendance, but if you are interested in bringing finger foods to add to the reception, please contact Jana Lawton.

Branch Program for May

Strawberry Brunch
Saturday, May 20 - hosted by Kim Cross
Election of officers and awards



Save the Date

Message from the President

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

Wow! What a month! Our Antique Appraisal Faire was very successful, raising \$3735. These funds will be used to send the 6 girls who were selected last week to Tech Trek camp in July at UC, Davis. Our high school scholarship committee will be conducting interviews soon to select 4 girls to receive our scholarships through the Chico Community Scholarship Association.

The criminal justice system was the topic for our March program. What a wonderful turnout we had with over 50 people attending. Thanks to **Margaret Swick, Sylvia Hedlind, Adele Arnold, and Sue Griffin** for all the work they did to prepare their presentations on such an interesting subject. Their careers in our criminal justice system gave each such unique insights. We ended up with much to think about; especially ways to reduce recidivism through opportunities in prison that can lead to successful lives once prisoners are released.

Attendees thought it was very interesting to learn about the jobs our members have held. Helen Gesick suggested we add "professions" to our membership roster. She is collecting this information for our 2023-24 roster from those members who would like to share it.

I encourage you to attend our Women of Distinction program set for Sunday, April 30 at St John's Episcopal Church Hall. You won't want to miss meeting these women and hearing about their work in education and public service. Having a strong contingent of AAUW members and friends in attendance will say a lot to the women we have selected to honor this year.

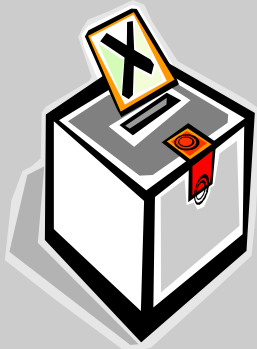
As a final note, **Dori Moura** is heading up our program planning committee next year and would like to hear what programs you would find of interest. Please share your ideas with her.

Sue Blizman
President, Chico AAUW

Voting for new members of the Board of Directors of the Association as well as changes to the bylaws and public policy priorities will be taking place now through May 16. All voting will take place [online](#) (computer or mobile device) unless a member sends a specific request to AAUW for a paper ballot. All members without an email address on file with AAUW national or who have unsubscribed from email will receive a ballot by mail. All members with an email address on file with AAUW should receive an email with AAUW Election 2023 in the subject line. This message will include the Elector ID and Password you will need to vote on line.

To prepare for voting you can read all supporting materials at <https://aauw.org/election-2023>. Voting will close on Monday, May 16 at 5:00 p.m. ET.

Paper ballots must be requested from AAUW by April 15, 2022. All paper ballots mailed to AAUW must be postmarked by 11:59 p.m. April 29, 2022. Paper ballots postmarked after that date will not be counted. To request a paper ballot, email your name, address and member number to connect@aauw.org or call 800.326.2289.



Membership News

This month I am pleased to introduce you to **Julie Postma** and **Suanne Miller** who joined the branch recently. Thanks again to **Carol Krok** who interviews our new members to be able to introduce them to the branch through 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

Julie Postma grew up in Holland, Michigan and always knew she wanted to go to a school someplace bigger. Coming from an area with agricultural workers, she developed an interest in helping the vulnerable population through research in air quality and climate change. She started her nursing career working at the Mayo Clinic and is currently working remotely as a Professor and Associate Dean for Research at Washington State University College of Nursing.

Julie's partner is an arborist and works with the aftermath of the Camp Fire. They both fell in love with Chico, moved here and bought a home. They are currently replacing their lawn with wood chips and planting a drought tolerant garden. Julie enjoys gardening, biking and hiking, and reading, among her many activities. As Julie says, she survived a summer, so all is well. Her optimism, she feels, comes from her mom. Her love for riding her bicycle comes from her dad. Julie calls herself a professor who does not like to profess! She is looking forward to getting out more with other AAUW members in different activities.

Suanne Miller was born in Miami, Florida. She moved in her teens to Michigan, attending high school and college there, then moved to Sacramento, finally settling in Chico in 1981 with her husband. She earned her BA in special education/deaf and hard of hearing in 1974 from Eastern Michigan University, her MA in special education/learning handicapped in 1980 from Chapman College in Sacramento, and a Resource Specialist Certificate of Competence in 1989 from CSU, Chico. She began working for Chico Unified School District in 1981, retiring in 2011.

Suanne is one of those people who can't remember a day she didn't want to go to work. She met wonderful students and teachers in a field she found to be both extremely enriching and fulfilling. In retirement, Suanne fills her days with her many interests. She volunteers at the Discovery Shoppe and with the Reading Pals program with CUSD. She admits to talking to the roses in her garden and raves about a great gardening tool for seniors - a battery-operated hand pruner! She continues to travel and took some wonderful trips through TAUCK. She also enjoys reading, Bunco, going to the movies, playing cards and games, and outdoor activities. Her son and family recently moved to Anchorage and Suanne looks forward to visiting them and exploring the beautiful sites Alaska has to offer.

Suanne considers herself a very social person and feels blessed to have many wonderful supportive friends. She is looking forward to making new friends in AAUW.

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

Out and About - Support Another AAUW Branch



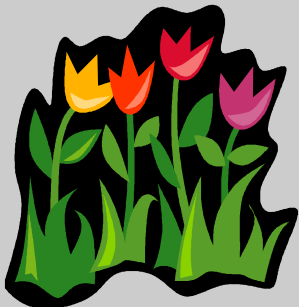
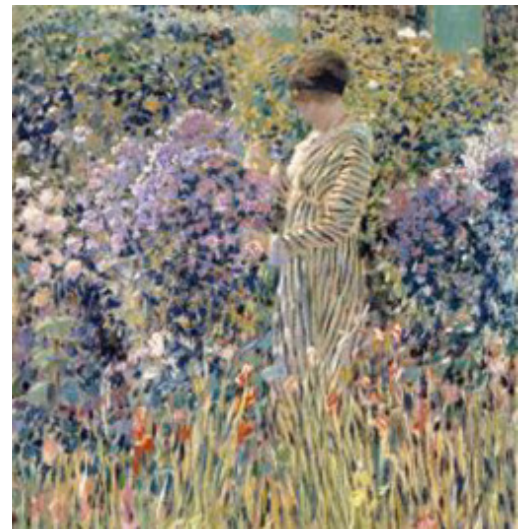
Greetings from the AAUW Amador Branch

The Amador Branch of AAUW is excited to announce the return of our popular Home Tour. You are invited to join us on Saturday, April 22, 2023, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. to Celebrate Spring in Sutter Creek while taking a stroll through this historic gold rush town to view five beautiful homes and several interesting historical sites. Put on your walking shoes and bring your friends to enjoy a day out in the heart of the Gold Country. Sutter Creek offers great restaurants, boutiques, antique stores and wine tasting rooms. Make a weekend of it and stay in one of many local overnight accommodations.

Home Tour tickets are \$40 in advance and \$45 on site the day of the Tour. Tickets may be purchased online on the AAUW Homepage or the Home Tour page through Brown Paper Tickets (\$40 plus a processing fee). Tickets will be available locally at the Feed Barn in Martell (cash or check only) and on Tour Day at the Home Tour Tea located at the Creekside Methodist Church. The link to purchase tickets and find more information is: <https://amador-ca.aauw.net/home-tour/> We are expecting a beautiful spring day on April 22nd and look forward to meeting AAUW members from other Branches.

Oroville AAUW members will be hosting their Annual Garden Party at Mary Lake Thompson's beautiful property located at 3986 Foothill Boulevard. Music, appetizers, and wine will make for a congenial afternoon with your AAUW friends and family. Why? Other than enjoying this beautiful outing, it's a fundraiser to support Oroville's Tech Trek program.

PARTICULARS: Date - Saturday April 29th
Time - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m..
Price - \$25 per person or \$40 per couple.
Information- - Jeannie Maes



May 6 - 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Marysville/Yuba City AAUW Garden Tour
\$25 ticket gives you access to gardens in the Marysville/Yuba City area that are usually not open to the public. This year, gardens are in the communities of Nicholas and Grass Valley with a reception in Pleasant Grove. The self-guided tour takes place rain or shine. \$25 tickets are available online at: MVCY-CA.AAUW.NET/GARDEN-TOUR. All proceeds are used to put on a career day for girls at Yuba College (all girls in the school district attended last year) and to send their local girls to Tech Trek camp.

A wrist band and map to gardens can be picked up at Brochure Central located in the parking lot at Wilber Ave and C Streets (Yuba City) next to Gauche Aquatic Park.

Branch News and Notes

Leadership Opportunities

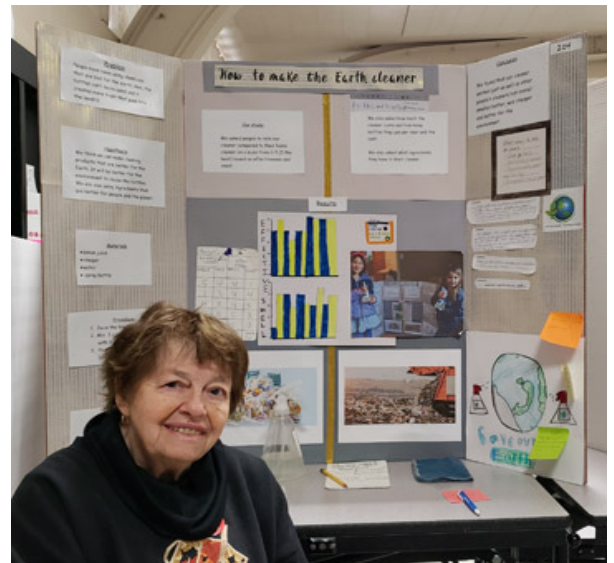
Helen Gesick and **Kathy Sweet** are on the nominating committee for branch officers for the year 2023-2024. Please contact them if you have an interest in serving in a leadership position, both now or in the future. You can learn by shadowing an officer and attending the Board meetings. That's a wonderful way to prepare for future leadership and be truly ready to serve.

Tech Trek Update

The interviews to select this year's Tech Trek campers are complete. We were impressed by all the students from our local junior high schools who were nominated to attend the summer camp at UC Davis in July. As always, it was very difficult to select the finalists from this wonderful group of students. Six girls will attend the residential camp and one will participate in the virtual camp.

Thank you to the local community and our AAUW Chico members for continuing to financially support these amazing young women that are passionate about science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

Pam Bodnar & Carol Holzgrafe, Tech Trek Coordinators



Celebrating Science at Sierra View School

The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) at Sierra View Elementary School reached out to AAUW and asked if any of our members could help judge projects or provide an award or certificate recognizing a particularly good project at their science fair.

Members **Jan Britton** and **Jana Lawton** were able to help out the PTO by judging projects and leaving helpful comments for the young scientists. Jan and Jana identified two projects that exemplified projects with an understanding of the scientific method of discovery. Second graders, **Adi Leedine** and **Brielle Harvey**, developed an eco friendly cleaning product to eliminate harmful chemicals and waste bottles in our landfills. They had 5 people test it out. Hand-drawn graphs showed their results. From their hypothesis to the conclusion, it was a winning project. **Kelly Weiss**, a 1st grader, demonstrated a very exciting exploration of acids and bases. Her project, a pumpkin volcano, used different combinations of baking soda and vinegar to create the "lava flow." She, too, included all the elements of a good experiment. We were happy to award gift certificates for books from AAUW to these three students.

Interest Sections for Lifelong Learning . . . and Fun

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. Use your directory to look up contact information or leave a message with your inquiry at aauwchico@gmail.com

New Group

New Group

Les Flaneurs

Carol Holzgrafe -
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

Wine and Whine

Meets the 3rd Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.
Apr 19- Drunken Dumpling - 1414 Park Ave (by Nobby's) .
Contact Carol Holzgrafe if you want to join in this month. All welcome.



Out to Lunch

Group meets on 2nd Thursday
Call Mary Huntsinger to make a reservation. Both Paradise and Chico branch members welcome.
Apr 20 at noon - Sofi'z Kitchen at 134 Broadway (Pakistani cuisine)
Note new time and date

Culture Club

Dori Moura
Seeking out cultural opportunities of all kinds and sharing them with friends. Contact Dori to get on the distribution list to learn of potential outings. Planning meetings held periodically.

Wordsmiths

Dori Moura
Meets 2nd Sunday at 2 p.m.
All welcome. For people who want to write, encourage and inspire one another, and celebrate writing.
Apr 9 - Hosted by Jana Lawton. Share what you've written with the group.

Foreign Policy Discussion +Group

Linda MacMichael
Group meets 4th Monday at 6:30 p.m.
Apr 24 - *Famine: a renewed threat in the 21st century* hosted by Wendy Woods

Evening Book Discussion Group

Wendy Woods
Group meets at 7:00 p.m. on 2nd Tuesday
Apr 11 - *West With Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge. Hosted by Elaine Schlinger

Ethnic Writers Book Discussion Group

Severance Dolan All welcome!
Group meets at 1:00 p.m. on 4th Wednesday
Apr 26 - *February Flowers* by Fan Wu. Hosted by JoAnn Palmer

Non-fiction Book Discussion Group

Group meets on 1st Friday at 10 a.m.
Contact Helen Gesick

Mystery Book Discussion Group

Denise Worth
Group meets at 3 p.m. on 3rd Wednesday
Apr 19 - *The Woman in the Library* by Sulari Gentill. Hosted by Denise Worth

Friday Book Discussion Group

Severance Dolan
Group meets at 10 a.m. on 4th Friday at Woodoak condominiums club house located at 555 Vallombrosa
Apr 28 - *Lady Clementine* by Marie Benedict.
We have an opening for one new member.

Computer and iPad Group

Helen Gesick
Meets 3rd Tuesday at 2:00
Call Helen for information.

Bridge Group

Kathy Sweet
Meets 2nd Monday at 1 p.m.
The group plays for fun in the homes of members with the goal of improving their games. Substitutes always needed.



Academy AAUWards



Pull up your chair for the *Academy AAUWards* on April 22nd. If you've ever wondered what the AAUW California Leadership Team accomplishes, you can witness firsthand the passion and excitement that the team has for all things AAUW. From the red carpet to the after-parties, you'll learn about our important projects and have an opportunity to virtually mingle with other AAUW members. Register online (www.aauw-ca.org) for this free red carpet event.



Chico, CA 95926
1112 Bidwell Ave

Chico (CA) Branch

