

The Chico AAUW Grapevine



American Association of University Women - Chico Branch Vol. 35 No. 9 May 2023

Next Branch Event ...

Strawberry Brunch
Saturday, May 20, 2023 - 10 a.m.

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.

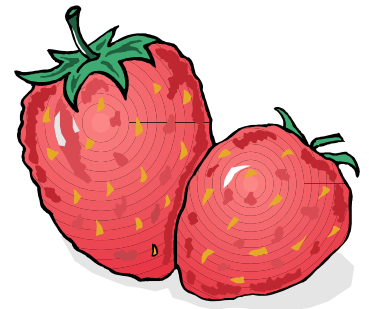
AAUW membership is open to all graduates holding a recognized associate (or equivalent), baccalaureate, or higher degree from a qualified educational institution.

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.

Join us as we wrap up our 2022-23 year with our annual Strawberry Brunch. Spring weather will give us the opportunity to meet outdoors and **Kim Cross** is hosting us in her beautiful backyard. The program will include election of officers and branch awards. One special highlight will be honoring our long-time members. **Mary Kowta** made it to the status of "golden girl" this year for being an AAUW member for 50 years. We will also honor **Eleanor Calvert, Jana Lawton, Sadie Urbanowicz, Wendy Woods, and Diane Flaherty** as long-time members.

Members are asked to bring a brunch item to add to the buffet. Fruit, breads, egg dishes or anything else that pleases your fancy. Need not be homemade. Beverages will be provided. Come! Bring friends and introduce them to AAUW.

Jan Britton is asking for a little assistance with setting up tables and chairs since she cannot manage all of this on her own. If you can lend a hand, please come to Kim's home the day before the meeting, Friday, May 19 at 11:00 a.m.



An AAUW Student Affiliate Branch is Coming to Chico State

Representatives from both CSU, Chico and AAUW will meet this summer to work on establishing a Student Affiliate AAUW Branch on campus. Before the pandemic, member **Jackie McClain** met with administrators and faculty promoting this idea. With their accomplishments as a foundation, new joint efforts are expected to begin by August. AAUW Chico members interested in participating are sought. Please contact Ruth Berger if you want to be part of this exciting new venture for our branch (aauwchico@gmail.com). Look for updates next fall!

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

So many wonderful compliments about our Women of Distinction program. Bill Bodnar set the mood with his wonderful music. Pam Bodnar, Ruth Berger, Jan Britton, and Jana Lawton gave great introductions to our four selected women. Each person was so interesting to listen to and their path to leadership roles was fascinating. It was delightful to hear from our 6 selected girls about their Tech Trek experiences, too.

Many thanks to our committee - Jan Britton, Pam Bodnar, Ruth Berger, Carol Holzgrafe, Dori Moura, and Jana Lawton. Carol's husband, Jim, created the beautiful framed certificates we were able to present to our honorees. Also, thanks to Ruth's and Jana's husbands for their help in setting up. All of the snacks and extra help from our members were appreciated. Jan Britton, in particular, wanted to thank everyone who attended. It was a great turnout for our branch with over 80 people in the audience.

For me, the best part of the program was being able to honor our own Woman of Distinction, Jana! I continue to be amazed and inspired by her many contributions to AAUW and the Chico community. Thank you, Jana, for all you do!

Our Strawberry Brunch meeting is set for Saturday, May 20. More information on page one. If you have any ideas for programs next year, please contact Dori Moura, our new program chair for 2023-24.

I hope everyone has a wonderful summer.

Sue Blizman

Chico AAUW President

Tech Trek NEWS

The search for the amazing 2023 Tech Trek student participants who will attend the residential UC Davis summer STEM camp or the virtual camp has successfully concluded! Sixteen 7th grade girls from four local Chico schools (Chico Jr. High, Marsh Jr. High, Bidwell Jr. High and Chico Country Day School) submitted their applications and sat for an interview process. As always, the final selection was extremely difficult. All of these young ladies are worthy of recognition.

The six campers selected to attend the residential UC Davis Camp are: Rylie Davidson, Kaitlyn Wasinger, Giselle Regalado, Hailey Schlager, Jayda Robinson and Katya Quintero. Allison Thao has been selected to attend the virtual online camp.

Thank you to our on-site school partners and the volunteer dorm moms and interview team for their hard work in identifying, selecting and supporting the candidates. Contributions and donations from Soroptimist International of Chico and private donors help make the Tech Trek program a reality.

Congratulations to all of the 2023 campers!

Pam Bodnar and Carol Holzgrafe

AAUW Chico Tech Trek Coordinators

Membership News

A fond farewell to **Louise Cummins**. She is relocating to the Seattle area to be close to her son and family.



The end of the AAUW fiscal year is June 30. That means it will soon be time to renew your membership in AAUW. Most members renew on this anniversary date. People who recently joined AAUW at a different time of year (say in January) will renew on that anniversary date.

Those whose membership needs to be renewed by June 30 will receive an email reminder from Katrina Breese in our Washington, DC office. The link to renew online is in her message. If you are comfortable with paying via credit card and navigating a relatively simple form on your computer, you should take the opportunity to renew your membership this way.

You can still pay by check if you prefer. Make out your check in the amount of \$110.00 payable to **AAUW Chico** and mail it to our branch treasurer: C/O 25 Abbott Circle, Chico, CA 95973. The \$110 amount for dues includes \$72 to the Association, \$20 to AAUW California, and \$18 to the Chico branch.

A special note for NEW members. If you invited friends to join AAUW, they can join for the first time at a reduced price of \$74 if they get their membership application and check to treasurer by May 10. The Association is offering 50% off their portion of the dues but this is a limited time offer and Lyn needs to get the appropriate paperwork submitted by their deadline.

Dori Moura, Membership Chair
aauwchico@gmail.com

A Letter from the Editor

I was surprised, to say the least, that what I thought was the end of our Women of Distinction program was not the end. There was one more honoree - me. As part of the committee involved in planning our program, I was excited to be able to honor these amazing local women. After hearing their introductions and the talks they each gave, I was even more impressed by what they each were able to accomplish in their careers. To a person, none of the women envisioned themselves having the careers they finally ended up having. Their aspirations seemed to be more modest and yet there were people along the way who encouraged them, believed in them, mentored them, even goaded them, to reach higher. We have all benefited from their leadership in that unique way that often happens when women not only have a seat at the table but are seated at the head of the table.

I count AAUW, and the friendships I have developed through this organization, as my motivators. You have encouraged me, helped me, inspired me, and put me in positions to do more than I thought I could. Because of what AAUW does in the community, and our impact even beyond Chico, I want to help get things done. Ann Schwab has a wonderful touchstone "life is for learning." If I had to come up with one for myself it would be "do what you can." I am very appreciative of this honor. Thank you.

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)

Women of Distinction



We had a wonderful turnout for the Women of Distinction program but we know that not everyone could attend. Here are a few highlights: **Ann Schwab's** mother died at an early age and that quickly thrust her into taking on important responsibilities for her family. That carried through in all of her endeavors. In terms of her community activism, she learned about the importance of being both behind the dais and in front if you want to get things done. Members of Chico Velo volunteered on many commissions over the years and thus helped shape Chico into a widely-recognized bike friendly city. When she was mayor she conducted meetings using important tenets including LISTEN and CIVILITY.



Juanita Mottley opened her remarks with a story about why she finished college at such a young age. Her mother wouldn't let her get married until she had gone to college. Wanting to get on with her life as fast as she could, she opted for a degree in business and worked like mad to finish up by age 19 and then she got married. That dedication and determination have served her well throughout her career. Her training and education did not stop as a teen, though, and she went on to earn a nursing and MBA degrees. She arrived at Chico State just in time to deal with the campus response to both the Camp Fire and the COVID-19 pandemic and her life was a whirlwind of constantly changing goalposts, 16 hour days, and almost continuous Zoom meetings. She was given the ultimate initiation and now feels she can handle just about anything. She is looking forward to a little less hectic life as the Associate Vice President for Student Support Services.



Kelly Staley always wanted to teach and became an English teacher after college. Then she was asked to step into the role as interim principal. That word "interim" has popped up more than once in her career. Asked to do the job while the search was on for someone else. She proved that she was up to the jobs and the need to find someone else disappeared. That was the way she started out as the superintendent for Chico Unified. She has been a hands-on administrator, often visiting schools and talking to students and teachers, unlike many of her predecessors. One of her principles is "work hard." She doesn't leave the office until she has returned every phone call and answered every email message. She admitted that her husband often doesn't see as much of her as her staff does.



Being good at sports was something that **Gayle Hutchinson** acknowledged influenced her decisions about college. Her family had no expectations that she would attend college like her brothers. Title IX had been instituted and Gayle was able to attend college on an athletic scholarship. She often used sports metaphors like not winning every game but getting back up and trying again to describe her career path. She loved teaching and student success was important to her. People who knew and worked with her saw that she had qualities that would make her an effective leader in places other than the classroom. So began her ascent from professor, to department chair, to dean, to provost, and finally to president of CSU, Chico. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are not just words to her. As with AAUW, they are her words to live by.

A special joy of the day was being introduced to 6 young women whom Pam Bodnar described as "our future women of distinction." Four of them were 8th

Women of Distinction (continued)

grade students who had gone to Tech Trek camp in the summer of 2022. Each briefly talked about what the camp experience meant to them. “We actually did hands-on stuff every day. This made science so much fun.” and “We got to meet women who have these amazing careers.” “ Being around people that love learning like I do was exciting.” The other two students had just been selected as campers for Tech Trek camp at UC, Davis in July. A little more shy than the other four, Pam asked them questions about the application process, which they answered forthrightly.



It is a satisfying experience to be able to meet these women and learn about their career journey and to acknowledge that we appreciate their contributions to our community. We will likely continue this program into the future. If you think that someone you know, or have heard about, should be included in a Women of Distinction program, get in touch with Dori Moura, our program chair for the coming year.



Interest Sections for Lifelong Learning . . . and Fun

email listed contact at: aauwchico@gmail.com

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 -
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 for schedule
Carol Holzgrafe or Satsie Veith

Wine and Whine

Meets the 3rd Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. May 17- Wine Time - 26 Lost Dutchman Drive . 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. May 11 at noon - Call Mary for location.

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. May 21 - Hosted by Lyn Smith
Share what you've written with the group.

Note new date avoids Mother's Day this month.

Foreign Policy Discussion +Group

Linda MacMichael
Group meets 4th Monday at 6:30 p.m.
No meeting in May.
Group will resume meeting on June 26 when Kelley Crockett will discuss Energy Security

Evening Book Discussion Group

Wendy Woods
Group meets at 7:00 p.m. on 2nd Tuesday May 9 - *Circe* by Madeline Miller. Hosted by Maria Elena Ramirez.

Ethnic Writers Book Discussion Group

Severance Dolan. All welcome! Group meets at 1:00 p.m. on 4th Wednesday May 24 - *Unorthodox: the scandalous rejection of my Hasidic roots* by Deborah Feldman. Hosted by Donna Kemp.

Non-fiction Book Discussion Group

Group meets on 1st Friday at 10 a.m.
Contact Helen Gesick.
Continues to meet through the summer.

Mystery Book Discussion Group

Denise Worth
Group meets at 3 p.m. on 3rd Wednesday May 17 - *Killer's of the Flower Moon* by David Grann. Hosted by Linda Menicucci.

Friday Book Discussion Group

Severance Dolan
Group meets at 10 a.m. on 4th Friday at Woodoak condominiums club house located at 555 Vallombrosa
May 26 - *Nomadland* by Jessica Bruder.
New members welcome.

Bridge Group

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

Computer and iPad Group

Helen Gesick
Meets 3rd Tuesday at 2:00
Meets during the summer



Connect with AAUW



Chico AAUW Social Media

Website <https://chico-ca.aauw.net/>
Facebook [AAUW Chico](#)
Instagram [aauw_chico](#)
Email aauw.chico@gmail.com



1112 Bidwell Ave
Chico, CA 95926