

# The Chico AAUW Grapevine



American Association of University Women - Chico Branch Vol. 36 No. 1 Sep 2023

## Next Branch Event ...

**Welcome Back Brunch**  
**Saturday, September 9, 2023 - 10 a.m. to noon**  
**12555 Meridian Road in Chico (Jana Lawton's farm)**

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.

Aloha! Say goodbye to summer and hello to our new season of events. We'll have information to share on branch and interest group activities, people to meet, and new opportunities to get involved. We'll also have door prizes, music, and delicious food. Wear something Hawaiian-themed and get an extra door prize ticket! Here's your chance to wear that mumu again or your most colorful outfit.

Hot and cold beverages provided, but we'd love it if you could bring some food to share . . . especially if it's Hawaiian! But if that's not in your repertoire, bring anything you'd love for brunch (fruit, muffins, bagels, vegetables, egg dishes, etc.).

We're sending good thoughts to the people of Maui. If you'd like to donate to their recovery, we'll have a donation station set up.

Don't miss out on the merch! We're selling AAUW mugs and tumblers to benefit our branch's marketing fund.

This meeting will be held outdoors at Jana Lawton's historic farm. Gravel lanes mean fancy shoes not recommended. Bring along a potential member or two and join us for this fun and informative meeting. Aloha!

Driving Directions: 12555 Meridian Road is just off Highway 32 (the road heading to Orland). Turn right on Meridian and head north. Look for the big barn at the first farm on your left. You've gone too far if you cross the railroad tracks.

The Trivia Bee for Literacy is coming up on October 27 at the Sierra Nevada Brewery Big Room. Our own **Dori Moura** has assembled her team of extra smart trivializers to compete in this rousing event. It's a fundraiser for Butte County Library Literacy Services so, of course, we must pay for our fun. Get your ticket soon so we can cheer her on.



# Message from the President

## Branch Leaders

President -

Sue Blizman

Membership -

Dori Moura

Finance -

Lyn Smith

Secretary -

Severance Dolan

Program -

Dori Moura

Jan Britton

Newsletter Editor -

Jana Lawton

Public Policy -

Carol Holzgrafe

Tech Trek Team -

Katy Azevedo

Pam Bodnar

Sylvia Hedlind

Carol Holzgrafe

Diversity Team -

Margaret Swick

Jan Britton

Technology -

Helen Gesick

Toni Reid

Historian -

historian needed

Welcome to the 103rd year of the Chico Branch of AAUW! Here's to a great year!

This summer, branch leaders have been busy planning some great programs and activities for our 2023-2024 year. We have some fun and interesting events on tap and are ever mindful of our AAUW goals of advocating for equity for women and girls through education and research. Your *Grapevine* newsletter will keep you informed about all the details. Newsletters are archived on our branch website. If you delete after reading and then discover you need to reference an important date or time, visit [chico-ca.aauw.net](http://chico-ca.aauw.net) for instant access. Or just Google Chico AAUW. That works too!

A big thank you to **Helen Gesick** and **Kathy Sweet** for their efforts on our nominating committee to recruit a president elect for 2023-2024 year. Unfortunately, they could find no candidates by the time we elected officers at our May meeting. Later, **Jana Lawton** and **Michelle Rasmussen** decided to sign up as copresidents starting in September 2024. Thank you ladies!

We will miss members **Margaret Mow** and **Louise Cummins** who have moved to be closer to family and we wish them luck in their new homes. On a sad note, long-time member **Tedo Best** passed away in June. As were her wishes, her family made a nice donation to Tech Trek.

Sue Blizman, Chico AAUW President



We were able to honor some of our members at the branch meeting in May. It is always fun to recognize members who have supported the branch for such a long time. **Mary Kowta** joined AAUW in 1973. 50 years ago! Mary is eclipsed only by **Jeannemarie Bordoli** (who joined in 1970) as our most long-term member. At right in the photo is **Sadie Urbanowicz**, who was celebrated for being a 25-year member.

**Pam Bodnar** was our Named Gift Honoree. When we contribute to AAUW Funds (the philanthropic arm of AAUW) based on the total amount our branch members donate, we get to name someone to honor and Pam

was selected this year. Pam had a long career with Chico Unified School District. She joined AAUW when she retired. As a counselor at Marsh Junior High, she was impressed with our Tech Trek program and wanted to get involved with that. She jumped in with both feet and really kept things going with all the challenges faced during

## Celebrating Our Members



COVID and the switch to an on-line registration format. WE are grateful to Pam (photo at left) for her dedication and can-do spirit.

Long-time members **Diane Flaherty** (on left below) and **Eleanor Calvert** (on right below) were also celebrated at the May meeting. Diane joined AAUW in 1997 making her a 25-year member. Diane has served as our Membership Chair. Eleanor joined our branch in 1988 making her a 35-year member. Both continue to participate in branch programs and interest groups.

**Anne Russell** received the President's Award for outstanding contributions as a new member. Anne attends most branch meetings, offers rides to other members, helps with getting things set up and put away, and is an active participant in everything she does. We were all delighted that President Sue recognized Anne for her enthusiastic approach to the AAUW mission and to branch activities.



Anne Russell



**Helen Gesick**, the person who puts together our membership directory, reminds us that a new edition will be printed soon. Let her know about any changes or additions to your listing (email or phone change??) If you are one of our newer members, please provide her with your telephone number as that was not included on the application this year. We have some program ideas and would like to collect career information about branch members. If you are so inclined, let her know what profession in which you were, or are, engaged. Send to Helen at [gesick@comcast.net](mailto:gesick@comcast.net).

## Membership News

Our branch membership has increased with the addition of 6 impressive women. Welcome to Dawn Dawson, Beverly McMillan, Grace Means, Juanita Mottley, Michelle Rasmussen, and Ann Schwab. Please add this contact information for them to your branch directories.

*Dori Moura*  
*Membership Chair*

Dawn Dawson

Beverly McMillan

Grace Means

Juanita Mottley

Michelle Rasmussen

Born in Huntington, West Virginia, **Ann Schwab** moved to the West Coast before she turned one. Her dad's career kept them moving but Ann had her longest spell in one area, grade 3 through high school, in Santa Clara. She then attended CSU Chico, majoring in psychology. Graduating in 1979, Ann continued working her college part time job at Mervyns, but now in a management position.

Ann and her husband wanted to stay in Chico and were able to purchase a bicycle store. This provided Ann with lots of experience in the business world as well as meeting people who worked for the city. Ann's dream of working at CSU, Chico was fulfilled when she became Director of Community Action Volunteers in Education (CAVE). The mission of CAVE is to serve a broad base of community needs through meaningful volunteer opportunities and the development of student leaders. Started in 1996, the program is still offered. Ann retired from the university in 2019.

Ann was also a city council member starting in 2004. There is a comprehensive list of most of Ann's activities in Chico in an ER article written August 25, 2020. This past February, Ann and her husband sold their bicycle shop and now Ann feels truly retired. Ann enjoys stitching, needlework, cooking, traveling, and biking. You will also find her walking in Bidwell Park for pleasure and as a Park Watch volunteer. She is appreciative of the many benefits of retirement, especially having time to learn more about herself. Ann's favorite quote is "life is for learning."

Living here for almost 50 years, Ann enjoys Chico, its downtown, the University, the park but especially the people. She now has the time to reconnect with old friends and make new ones. She looks forward to meeting AAUW members and has already joined one of the book clubs. Ann is so approachable and would love to meet you. You owe it to yourself to meet her too.

Born in Seattle, **Michelle Rasmussen** has moved around the country because her dad's profession as a Boeing aircraft engineer required this. Perhaps she is a blend of the best of what each area had to offer. If so, she is a bit of Seattle, New Orleans, San Diego, New York, and Chico.

Michelle attended CSU, San Diego and received her BS in accounting in 1980. Her career was as a managerial accountant. She jokes about being a city girl who eventually retired as a professional in farm management.

When deciding where to move from San Diego, Michelle was sitting at One Mile and found the setting to be similar to a Norman Rockwell painting. What a pull Bidwell Park has for so many people who can appreciate the beauty it has to offer. During her first stint in Chico, Michelle was a member of the Chico branch from 2003 to 2015 and remembers many members from this time period. She looks forward to reconnecting with old friends while also making new friends in AAUW.

She is a member of Chico Sports Club and looks forward to doing more swimming. She is also involved locally as a Soroptimist. Michelle's demeanor causes one to relax and enjoy the conversation. We are happy to welcome Michelle back to Chico and to AAUW.

# 2023-2024 Branch Budget

## General Fund 22-23

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$3,350</b>	
<b>Income</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Actual</b>
Member Dues	\$1,200	\$1,800
Donations	\$100	\$800
Marketing: Sales	\$0	\$249
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$1,300</u></b>	<b><u>\$2,849</u></b>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Liability Insurance	\$390	\$390
Postage	\$90	\$97
Funds Assessment	\$65	\$65
Web Domain	\$30	\$30
Awards/Pins/Gifts	\$200	\$200
Program Expenses	\$500	\$590
Science Fair	\$50	\$0
Directory/Printing/Mailing	\$250	\$229
Women's Club Membership	\$35	\$35
Marketing: Inventory	\$0	\$181
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$1,610</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,817</u></b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$3,040</b>	<b>\$4,072</b>

## General Fund 23-24

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$4,072</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
Member Dues	\$1,980
Donations	\$250
Marketing: Sales	\$300
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$2,530</u></b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Liability Insurance	\$400
Postage	\$110
Funds Assessment	\$65
Web Domain/ 2 years	\$40
Awards/Pins/Gifts	\$200
Program Expenses	\$600
Science Fair	\$50
Directory/Printing/Mailing	\$265
Women's Club Membership	\$35
Marketing: Inventory	\$280
IBC (CA-AAUW Regional) Dues	\$30
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$2,075</u></b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$4,527</b>

I hope all of you have had a nice summer. Yes, it got a little warm the week of July 14, but overall the weather was normal for our beautiful Chico!

Bookkeeping/accounting can be boring but it's a necessary subject that I have to bring to your attention. For most of us, dues were to be paid at the end of June. Newer members renew on a different schedule according to the anniversary of the date they joined. If you still need to renew, please send a check payable to *Chico AAUW* for \$110.00 to me, Lyn Smith at 25 Abbott Circle, Chico, 95973. We don't want you to miss out on some exciting meetings that are planned or any interest groups in which you are active.

September is the time to vote on the budget. Please go over the 2023-24 proposed budget for our branch and come to our first general meeting on Saturday, September 9, at Jana Lawton's farm where we can discuss and then vote on it. Thank you all for your dedicated devotion to empowering and encouraging women of all ages to keep learning, sharing and creating fellowship with others in our community. Have a great year.

Lyn Smith, Finance Chair



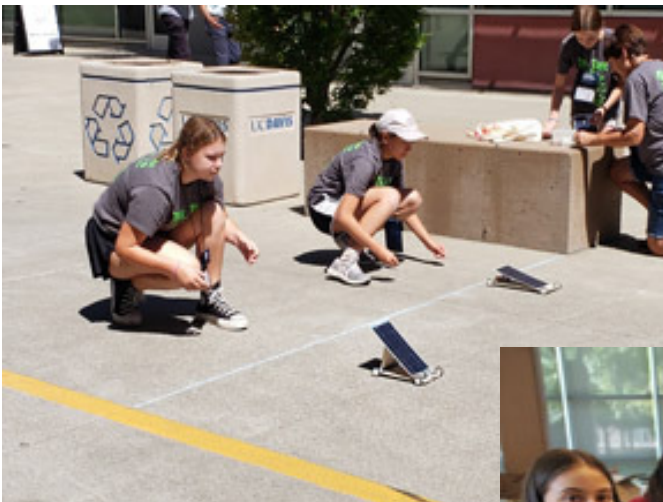
# Tech Trek Update for 2023

Eight in-person camps. One virtual camp. 110 branches. More than 800 campers. 250 volunteers. Hats off to the Tech Trek leadership, camp staff, volunteers, curious campers, and all the parents who mastered CampDoc to register. Photos below show Trekkers who had the anatomy core class observing how animal lungs inflate. The girls studying engineering race the solar-powered cars they built. Among the many interesting field trips was a visit to the Food Innovations Lab at UC, Davis where the girls learned about how the chemistry of sugar affects baking properties. Collaboration and cooperation with fellow campers in classroom sessions was a key to a great learning environment and an easy way to make friends.



A note from 2023 Trekker Lily Zhang: Virtual Tech Trek was one of the highlights of my life. One of my favorite parts of TT was how it taught me so much about aspects of STEM I didn't know about. Before the camp, I wasn't very familiar with circuits, coding, engineering, and many other careers in STEM. However the workshops and lessons were very engaging and easy to follow, but still packed with important information, as were the activities that came with them.

Another outstanding aspect of the camp was the inspirational stories from women in all areas of STEM. Some of these women had been through some very tough times in their lives and careers, but still prevailed and are flourishing. It may sound cheesy, but they make me believe that no matter what life throws my way, I need the strength to keep going because the hard times will pass and I will overcome them. Lastly, I've made so many new friends, and they are all fantastic girls who have given me and the other campers incredible support throughout the week. I'm so glad I met them all. I will never forget my time at Tech Trek because of all the valuable lessons it taught me and the new connections I have made. Thank you to the Power of 100 Women for this opportunity!



## Branch News and Notes

From the AAUW California Connection - Public Policy News

Sometimes being 100 years old is good. Like for a giant sequoia or a fun grandma who knows how to text. It's not good for the ERA. The Equal Rights Amendment which provides a constitutional guarantee that all men and women are truly equal under the law was introduced 100 years ago. It's still waiting to be published as the 28th Amendment to the Constitution. Really? Take action and tell your elected officials to support the resolution to affirm the ERA. A fun grandma would.

We're puttin' on our gloves. Not the ones Holly Golightly wore. No, our boxing gloves. AAUW is not going lightly into the fight against the book banning and censorship that are creeping into California's schools. Join us for the webinar Book Banning and Curricula Censorship in California? AAUW California to the Rescue! on Thursday, September 21st, at 7:00 pm. Hear from our own Public Policy's School Board Project Committee and other heavyweight organizations about the scope of the problem and how you can help resist its appearance in your own school district. Register on [www.aauw-ca.org](http://www.aauw-ca.org), then put up your dukes.

Is there a chance you know someone who would like some money? Women pursuing advanced studies or organizing community action projects can apply NOW for funding through AAUW's Fellowships and Grants program. Check out the opportunities and apply [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org). Oh, and it's a lot of money. In 2022-23, AAUW dispersed \$6.3 million.

**Marilyn Myrick** reported for the scholarship committee responsible for selecting our high school graduating seniors through the Chico Community Scholarship Association. Our 2023 high school scholarship recipients were: Sydney Stewart memorial scholarship of \$3000 - Eliana Hinnenberg from Inspire High School. AAUW scholarships of \$2500 each - Sharon Wu from Pleasant Valley High School, Piper Hanawalt from Inspire High School, and Shamiya Haddid from Chico High School.



Sip and Paint with Christine MacShane raised some serious money for our scholarship funds. Both branch and community members participated and learned the basics of using acrylic paints. More "funraising" events are planned this

7 year.

A small team consisting of Carol Holzgrafe, and past Tech Trekkers Greta Nikolai and Summer Sun were invited to make a brief presentation to a local organization - Power of 100 Women. This message was received the following day:

*Good morning, Power of 100 Women members!*

*We had quite a showing at last night's meeting ... Thank you to our members for spreading the word and bringing friends to see what we're all about. We had six new members join last night! Three wonderful nonprofits River Partners, Work Training Center, and AAUW Tech TREK Stem Camp for Girls presented. As always it was a tough choice because of all the substantial work they do for the Chico Community.*

*In the end, our winner was AAUW Tech TREK Stem Camp! AAUW Tech TREK Stem Camp coordinates with Chico middle schools to provide the opportunity for 7th grade girls to attend a weeklong STEM based summer program at a CA university. There are both in-person and virtual sessions. ... They plan to use the funds from Power of 100 Women to send more girls to the program in 2024. Each slot costs \$1000 so our donation has the opportunity to send over 20 girls!*

And the checks came pouring in as each member writes a check for \$100 to the winning organization. We are most grateful for the positive reception we received and their vote of confidence in this program aimed at filling the pipeline in the STEM fields with eager, engaged, and qualified young women.

# 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.



## **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.  
Sep 20- Wine Time - 26 Lost Dutchman Drive. Contact Carol Holzgrafe at [carol@holzgrafe.com](mailto:carol@holzgrafe.com) if you want to join in this month. All welcome.

## **Women's Microfinance**

Jana Lawton  
Oct 19 at 6:30 p.m. Wine Time - 26 Lost Dutchman Dr. Hear updates about our Guatemalan women entrepreneurs and plan for next trust bank.

## **Out to Lunch**

Group meets on 2nd Thursday @ 11:30  
Call Mary Huntsinger to make a reservation. Both Paradise and Chico branch members welcome.  
Sep 14 - Meze Moon at 163 E 2nd St

## **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.

## **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.  
Sep 10 - 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.  
Sep 25 - Economic warfare and US foreign policy. Discussion led by Jennie Blevins. Hosted by Roxanne Ferry

## **Evening Book Discussion Group**

Wendy Woods  
Group meets at 7:00 p.m. on 2nd Tuesday  
Sep 12 Call for details this month.

## **Ethnic Writers Book Discussion Group**

Severance Dolan All welcome!  
Group meets at 1:00 p.m. on 4th Wednesday  
Sep 27 - *A constellation of Vital Phenomena* by Anthony Marra Hosted by Denise Worth.  
**New members welcome.**

## **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  
Sep 20 Call for details this month

## **Friday Book Discussion Group**

Severance Dolan  
Group meets at 10 a.m. on 4th Friday at Woodoak condominiums club house  
Sep 22 - No discussion. Choosing books for the next year. Bring your recommendations.  
**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



The *GRAPEVINE* is published by the Chico branch of AAUW. Items for inclusion can be sent to newsletter editor, Jana Lawton, at [jdlawton72@gmail.com](mailto:jdlawton72@gmail.com)



## Connect with AAUW



Chico AAUW Social Media

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



A graphic featuring a large grey speech bubble on a blue background. Inside the bubble, there is text for social media contact and a QR code. To the left of the bubble is a cluster of colorful circular icons representing various social media and web services, including Facebook, Google, YouTube, LinkedIn, RSS, and Instagram.



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