

# The Chico AAUW Grapevine



American Association of University Women - Chico Branch Vol. 36 No. 2 Oct 2023

## Next Branch Event ...

**Souper Supper**  
**Monday, October 9, 2023 - 6 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.

Our branch program is at the library and will feature speakers who are employees of the library. **Heather Tovey** is the literacy coordinator and will talk about the adult services they provide as well as volunteer opportunities. **Misty Wright**, assistant director of Butte County libraries, will tackle the hot topic of book banning. In addition to our soups, these speakers will give us much to savor.

Souper Supper is a chance to retire from kitchen duties for the evening and break bread with AAUW friends and neighbors. Homemade soups, breads, beverages, and a dessert will be provided. This AAUW meeting is open to the public so please feel free to invite a spouse, friend, or prospective member to join you.

This is also our annual event to celebrate the accomplishments of our philanthropic arm, AAUW Funds, and make a donation to keep them strong so that the important work they underwrite can continue. As an incentive to make your donation at Souper Supper, **Jana Lawton** has donated 25 of her handmade bowls and you may select one to use and/or take home for a donation of \$35 or more. You are not required to make a donation in order to attend the event and dinner is available without charge to all who attend.



## Wednesday, November 1 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Make your reservation now for the next installment of “meeting our members.” Three of our AAUW members had careers whose work took them overseas and we can learn what it was like to work as a professional woman in another culture. We are linking this meeting with a Brazilian dinner and a fundraiser for our branch scholarships at Chico State, awarded to students preparing for a teaching credential in a STEM field. (continued on page 4)

# 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

Aloha! Our Hawaiian luau was a great way to start our 2023-2024 year, welcoming our new members and guests, hearing about upcoming programs, and meeting our Tech Trek girls and their parents.

A big thanks to Jana and Dave Lawton for hosting our meeting. Wonderful turnout! The Tech Trek girls were a big hit. Giselle, one of the girls who attended Tech Trek at UC, Davis talked about the fascinating field trips and the fun of meeting and working with other girls who were interested in science. It was particularly interesting to hear from Lily, one of our virtual campers. The girls connected online for all of their activities, projects, and social interactions and still were jazzed about the whole experience. Lily brought the wearable tech project she created: a solar charging station in a hat!

I was proud to present **Dori Moura** with one of our Named Gift Honoree Awards. When we contribute to AAUW Funds, based on the total amount our branch donates, we get to name someone to honor. Dori volunteered to be membership chair both last year and this and also added program chair to her list this year! We appreciate her wonderful ideas and hard work for AAUW. We are so happy you are a member, Dori. We also recognized **Wendy Woods** for her membership of 25 years and **Jana Lawton** for being a member for 35 years.

The next branch Board meeting is set for Thursday, October 5 at 4 p.m. at my house. All members are welcome to attend.

Happy Fall!  
*Sue Blizman, Chico AAUW President*



**Wendy Woods**



**Dori Moura**

## Membership News

I am happy to welcome **Joanne Reid** as the newest member of the Chico branch. Joanne joined after attending our September meeting. Please make note of contact information for Joanne in the column at left.

Invite prospective members to a meeting and/or pass on 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](mailto:dorimoura@yahoo.com)

Do yourself a favor and check out one of the text/trade books from the Butte County library written by our newest member, **Beverly McMillan**. "The times, they are a-changin'", and this is so true as far as texts that visually engage young students in the world of science. Beverly has a gift which you will find stimulating, encouraging you to keep reading and learn.

Bev holds a BA and MJ (masters of journalism) from the University of California-Berkeley, 1982. She is a science writer who has specialized in interpreting science for lay audiences. She has written, coauthored, or been the development manager for eighteen books. One of her current projects is coauthoring a general biology text for science majors. Her trade clients include Weldon-Owen Inc., Times Books/Henry Holt, Yale University Press, Waterford Press, Firefly Books and the U.S. National Park Service.

Bev is also well versed in the field of autism, having several family members on the spectrum. Conversations with Bev will always be interesting, guaranteed! Born in Los Angeles, Bev grew up in Washington State and lived in Berkeley, San Francisco, and coastal Virginia before recently settling in Chico to be close to her family. Her "sports" are power walking with friends, xeriscape gardening, and trying to keep up with her son, grandson, and Beau the cat. Bev sees AAUW providing her with a chance to make new friendships with a group that is known to have smart, intellectual members. We welcome you, Bev, with open arms AND minds.

Our condolences to our dear members Kathy and Caroline. It was a sad week when we learned that the husbands of both **Kathy Sweet** and **Caroline Langen** died within days of each other. **John Sweet** died on September 5. A celebration of life took place on Sunday, Sept. 24th and was overflowing with people from all walks of life who knew and loved John and Kathy. In lieu of flowers, friends could make donations to these organizations: American Association of University Women; AAUW, Chico Branch c/o P.O. Box 1498 Chico, CA 95927; Hanna Boys Center, 1700 Arnold Dr., Sonoma CA 95476; Skyway House Residential Treatment Center; 392 Connors Court, Suite C, Chico CA 95926; or The Little Red Hen via their website.

**Oliver Edward Hoiland**, died on September 7<sup>th</sup>. Caroline has told us that a memorial service will be held for Ed on Sunday, October 8 from 10 to 12 at the Lakeside Pavilion, 2565 California Park Drive. In lieu of flowers, charitable contributions in his memory may be made to the Museum of Northern California Art (monca) 900 Esplanade, Chico, CA 95926



## Member News and Notes

(Meeting Our Members - continued)

Those who attended our branch meeting in March 2023 found it fascinating to learn about the careers that four of our members had in the criminal justice system. At this event we will meet **Pam Bodnar**, **Kelley Crockett**, and **Sadie Urbanowicz** who will talk about their experiences working overseas.

We are taking over Lili's Brazilian Bistro for the evening and we need to have reservations so Lili knows how much food to prepare for us. Tickets can be purchased at the Souper Supper or you can contact Michelle Rasmussen to make your reservation. Cost: \$40 (includes dinner and scholarship fund donation). All welcome so invite a spouse or friend. The restaurant can accommodate only 40 diners so don't wait to get your tickets.

**Date/Time: Wednesday, November 1, 2023 – 6 to 8 p.m.**

**Location: Lili's Brazilian Bistro – 142 Broadway Street in downtown Chico**

Menu: A buffet including Feijoada (slow cooked black bean and pork stew over rice), Moqueca Vegana (linguine, coconut cream sauce, bell peppers, garlic, onions, and tomatoes), Brazilian Lasagna (pasta with ground beef, white sauce, house-made tomato sauce, cheese), fruit drinks (pineapple mint or blueberry watermelon), and small sweets Brigadeiro (chocolate) and Bijinho (coconut).

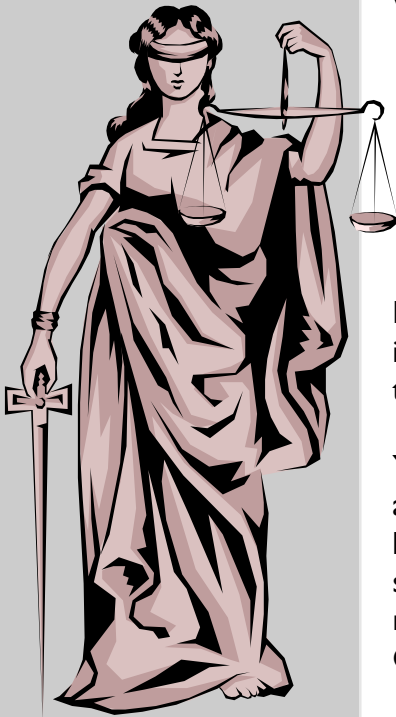
We will cap our evening of delving into foreign food and work environments by meeting **Lili DaSilva**, our chef, emigree from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and also a trained computer engineer. She is excited to be cooking for us and looks forward to meeting our AAUW members.

We have stars in our midst, with **Jennie Blevins**, Marilyn Myrick's Husband, **Howard Myrick**, and her granddaughter, **Maeve Smith**, acting and singing in the Chico Theater Company's production of Fiddler on the Roof. Jennie has the role of Shaindel, the oldest daughter, Howard plays the rabbi, and Maeve plays Bielke, the youngest daughter. The photo below shows our cast of stars with Culture Club members who attended a recent performance. The play runs through October 22 so there is still time to see it at the playhouse on Eaton Road.



iconic sculpture of Jesus Christ in Brazil

## Public Policy - Can book banning happen here?



Well, yes, according to a webinar AAUW California presented Thursday, Sept. 21. We tend to think that only happens in places like Florida or Texas. AAUW defends the right of every parent to control what her or his child is exposed to – but they do not think that one parent should control what everyone else’s child can read or experience. AAUW CA encourages each branch to have members keep an eye on local school board meetings so the community can be warned when this has come up.

I encourage you to watch the webinar on book banning and curriculum change. It is available now at [https:// www.aauw-ca.org/category/2023-2024-webinars/](https://www.aauw-ca.org/category/2023-2024-webinars/) OR go to [aauw-ca.org](http://aauw-ca.org), click on “webinars 2023-2024” at the very top of the home page.

You can read the slide deck or watch the video; it will take you longer but there is a lot of useful information. You will learn: how to evaluate a school board meeting, how to speak at one, how to defuse a confrontational situation and protect yourself. And much more. The AAUW CA Public Policy Committee has provided many resources for us to help our community, all available for you on [aauw-ca.org](http://aauw-ca.org). Check it out.

Also, if you attend a school board meeting where people discuss these issues, please let me or [aauw-ca.org](http://aauw-ca.org) know. They are keeping track. One more thing we can do is to find and support board candidates who do NOT agree with this censorship of what other people’s children can read.

*Carol Holzgrafe, Public Policy*

## High School Scholarships

A big thank you to those who responded to the letter from the CCSA high school scholarship committee in which members were encouraged to support the fund with contributions equal to their ages. This will help us award scholarships to young women currently attending a Chico high school. It’s not too late to mail your checks to Linda MacMichael, 900 Laburnam Ave, Chico, CA 95926. Payee is CCSA, with AAUW Scholarship in the memo line.

Celia O’Connell who is the Chico Community Scholarship Association (CCSA) donor liaison emailed the following information about where our 2023 AAUW scholarship recipients are attending college:

Eliana Hinnenberg - Dominican University of California  
Piper Hanawalt – California State University, Chico  
Sharon Wu -University of California, Davis  
Shamiya Hadid – California State University, Chico

She also thanked us for our continued support of CCSA. We appreciate our branch members for their support of these girls as they begin their college years.



*Marilyn Myrick, high school scholarship committee*

## Tech Trek Update for 2023

**Kelley Crockett** took advantage of experiencing Tech Trek camp for herself on Visit Day this past July. After spending the morning making the rounds of the core classes, Kelley had lunch in the cafeteria with the Trekkers from Chico (see photo below). The table talk varied from how could they get some rules “updated” to include regular time to talk to family, some general expressions of appreciation that they were picked and that it was all paid for, and a suggestion for more explanation of exactly what was going to happen at camp before the next group attended etc. Kelley mentioned there had been two different encounters (interviews and the pizza party) when explanations had been given but they really wanted more detail like an actual picture of the dorm rooms, the cafeteria (and how to navigate it), under what circumstances could they ask to talk to their parents on their phone etc. Her overall impression was that the girls had matured since the interview that was part of the selection process and had had a very good experience.



Nol checking in to Tech Trek at CSU, Fresno

*An abbreviated letter Carol Holzgrafe received this summer from the Johnson family. The Power of 100 Women provided funding.*

On behalf of Nol (a student at Chico Country Day) and my wife and I, we just wanted to send you our heartfelt thanks for making last week possible. This was such an incredible experience for Nol and it was not only lots of fun but really a huge accomplishment for her also . . . it's been a long 3 years with the pandemic and seeing the kids locked away from so many of their activities and opportunities for social and educational challenges during that time. This was such a big “win” in that regard and it really came at an important time for our daughter!

. . . we just wanted to let you know how much we've appreciated all your help and enthusiasm for the girls and this program. Nol is already talking about wanting to come back to help donate her time and serve the upcoming girls in years to come and it was so much fun seeing her succeed in this challenge, have loads of fun and build so much confidence in the process as well! She was initially really nervous about being away from home for so long but she did really great . . . Thanks again Carol.

## Branch News and Notes



It may seem like scholarships are all we talk about. We fund the Tech Trek program for junior high school girls, scholarships for girls graduating from high school, fellowships for graduate women through AAUW Funds, and now our special scholarships for Chico State students who are in the credential program preparing to teach in STEM subjects.

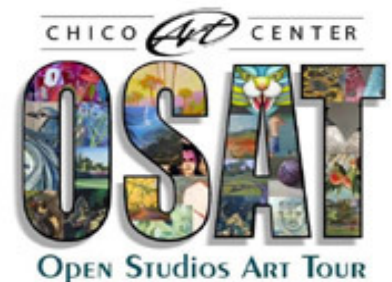
There is no denying that planning, interviewing, communicating about them, and raising funds in support of them consume a significant amount of time for our branch members. It is one way for us to have a direct impact on the education of women and girls so we all benefit from having intelligent, motivated, and resourceful women in the workforce, in government, and in public service. When you think that most AAUW branches across the country do similar things, THAT is big.

The drumbeat for women's suffrage was sustained for decades until women had the right to vote. Now our mission is to help break down educational, economic and social barriers so that all women and girls have a fair chance. We are not there yet but all AAUW members are part of that work and every contribution of time, talent, and treasure moves us forward.

Our newest scholarship hasn't received as much fanfare as the others. Two \$1500 scholarships are awarded to two graduate students in the credential program at Chico State. Students who receive the awards must intend to teach STEM subjects. These awards are based on need. We hope to reach our goal of having enough funding to make awards to two graduate students next year and these donations need to be into the University Foundation by December for next year's students.

Checks can be written at any time before December to the University Foundation, CSUC, Chico and in the memo line be sure to include AAUW Scholarship. Send checks to our treasurer: Lyn Smith, 26 Abbott Circle, Chico, CA 95973. If you want to support this program, be sure to attend the Meeting our Members event at Lili's Brazilian Bistro on November 1.

**Jana Lawton** reminds us that she and 80+ artists will be opening their studios to the public on October 14/15 and 21/22 as part of the Chico Art Center's Open Studios Art Tour. Guidebooks are on sale at the Art Center and at local art businesses. Jana can get books to you as well.



### Add to your calendar

November 1 - Meeting our Members at Lili's Brazilian Bistro. Get tickets now.

December 16 - Branch holiday party at St. John's Episcopal Church. We will be supporting Catalyst families again. News about how you can help in the next newsletter.

February 3 - Annual Interbranch luncheon hosted by the Chico branch this year. A collaboration of the branches in the North Valley Interbranch Council - Chico, Gridley, Marysville/Yuba City, Oroville, Redding, and Paradise,

# 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**

Carol Holzgrafe  
Meets the 3rd Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.  
Oct 18- Big Chico Japanese Kitchen - 305 Nord Ave (parking in rear). Text or call Carol Holzgrafe to join in this month because reservations were requested. Cash only. All welcome.

## **Women's Microfinance**

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

## **Out to Lunch**

Nancy Wirtz  
Group meets on 2nd Thursday @ 11:30  
Call or text Nancy to make a reservation. Both Paradise and Chico branch members welcome.  
Oct 12 - Sophie's Authentic Thai, in Paradise at 6689 Skyway

## **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 writers welcome.  
Oct 8 - hosted by Lily Loughlin .

## **Foreign Policy Discussion +Group**

Linda MacMichael  
Group meets 4th Monday at 6:30 p.m.  
Oct 23 - War crimes: what they are? How can they be prosecuted?. Discussion led by Jeannie Trizzino. Hosted by Kelley Crockett

## **Evening Book Discussion Group**

Wendy Woods  
Group meets at 7:00 p.m. on 2nd Tuesday  
Oct 10 - *Angle of Repose* by Wallace Stegner.  
Hosted by Elaine Schlinger.

## **Ethnic Writers Book Discussion Group**

Severance Dola  
Group meets at 1:00 p.m. on 4th Wednesday  
Oct 25 - Come prepared to recommend books to read and discuss for the coming year.

## **Nonfiction Book Discussion Group**

Group meets on 1st Friday at 10 a.m.  
Contact Carol Krok

## **Mystery Book Discussion Group**

Denise Worth  
Group meets at 3 p.m. on 3rd Wednesday  
Oct 18 - *An Unsuitable Job for a Woman* by P.D. James. Hosted by Mary Huntsinger. Discussion led by Denise Worth.

## **Friday Book Discussion Group**

Severance Dolan  
Group meets at 10 a.m. on 4th Friday at Woodoak condominiums club house  
Oct 22 - *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane* by Lisa See. **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 contact information for Chico AAUW Social Media, including a website URL, Facebook and Instagram handles, and an email address. To the left of the bubble is a cluster of colorful social media icons (Facebook, Google+, RSS, YouTube, LinkedIn, etc.). To the right is a QR code.



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