

The Chico AAUW Grapevine



American Association of University Women - Chico Branch Vol. 36 No. 4 Dec 2023

Next Branch Event ...

Annual Chico AAUW Holiday Party
Saturday, December 16, 2023 - 3 to 5 p.m.
St. John's Episcopal Church Hall - 2341 Floral 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.

If the month of December has been chock full of "to dos," give yourself some "me" time and relax for a few hours with your AAUW friends. Our annual holiday party will have music, food, a trivia game, and door prizes. Most important of all, though, are our members; those intellectually stimulating travelers, readers, writers, workers, makers, and doers. Come and meet someone new to you and have a great conversation. Spouses and friends are welcome too.

Everyone gives a little is how we roll with our refreshment table. If your last name begins with the letter A through L, please bring something savory. If your last name begins with the letter M through Z, bring something sweet to share. Coffee, tea and water will be provided and you can also purchase wine by the glass.

The branch special project in December is to support some families who are clients of Catalyst Domestic Violence Services. Our gifts of clothing, home goods, books and toys for the kids will all help these families who are trying to start new lives free from domestic abuse. If you signed up to provide a gift for Catalyst, please bring your unwrapped items to the party where Catalyst will pick them up. A reminder email with a link to the sign up sheet will be coming soon if you still want to help. Call Pam Bodnar if you encounter technical snags.



Happy Holidays



Add to your calendar

December 10 - 2 p.m. - Paint Party Fundraiser for CSU, Chico scholarships at the studio of Christine MacShane. Learn how to paint your own gift tags with watercolors.

February 3 - 11 a.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church Hall.

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.

President's Message

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 -

Michelle Rasmussen

Cheers for a wonderful holiday season! Please mark your calendars for our festive party on Saturday, December 16 at St John's Episcopal Church. Great food and lots of fun! As we round out 2023, best wishes for a happy and healthy 2024 year.

Next board meeting is Thursday, December 7 at 4:00 pm at my home - 462 Todd Court. All members are welcome to attend.

Thinking ahead, mark your calendar for our Interbranch Council Luncheon (IBC) on February 3. Come hear a very interesting speaker and meet other AAUW members from Redding to Yuba City.

Sue Blizman

President, Chico AAUW



Guest speakers were Sadie Urbanowicz, Pam Bodnar Lili DaSilva, and Kelley Crockett

Thanks to everyone who attended or contributed to the CSUC Scholarship fundraising dinner at Lili's Brazilian Bistro. Our scholarships help fund two graduate students who are studying for their teaching credential in order to teach STEM coursework at the elementary, junior high or high school levels.

These students face high tuition costs plus transportation expenditures to get to their student teaching assignments (possibly as far away as Redding or Willows). The scholarships are based on need and on grades. The dinner and donations provided over \$2,000 to help fund this program. We are very grateful for every contribution.

I want to give a shout out to Lili to thank her for offering her restaurant for the dinner. We could not have done this without her help and the wonderful food she prepared. We are very thrilled with her support and her new membership. Many thanks, Lili.

Jan Britton, on behalf of the CSU, Chico scholarship committee

Membership News

November has brought more new members to the branch. I am excited to welcome **Teri Bradburn, Linda Crill, Lili DaSilva** and **Donna Ensele** as our newest members. In the coming months, you will have a chance to meet them through Carol Krok's short introductory bios in the newsletter. We hope to meet them in person at our branch meetings and interest sections.

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. **Carol Krok** invites you to meet **Shannon Rooney** and **Jeannine Olson** this month.

Dori Moura, Membership Chair
(530) 321-6508 or dorimoura@yahoo.com

Shannon Rooney was born in Turlock. At age 7, she moved with her family to Weaverville where her dad worked in education. After high school, she earned an AA at College of the Redwoods, intending to transfer to Humboldt State, but a desire for non-academic pursuits pulled her away.

Eventually, having moved to Chico, she married and had a child. When her son entered 5th grade, she attended Butte College part-time to wrap up some transfer courses.

Next, Shannon attended Chico State as a full-time re-entry student for six years, earning a BA in English, a single-subject credential, a technical writing program certificate, and an MA in interdisciplinary studies (English/Education). Also, she was active with the Re-entry Student Council.

When her child was pre-K, and she was living in Redding for a few years, Shannon worked part-time as a case manager for Shasta County Mental Health. She also worked as a reporter for her hometown newspaper, the *Trinity Journal*. She did freelance writing and editing part-time for many years, mostly poetry and journalism. She wrote for local publications, including the *Chico News and Review*. She has a collection of her poetry on Amazon: *Dissolve and other poems*.

After graduating with her MA, Shannon commenced teaching at Butte College for the Language Education and Development (LEAD) Program in the English Department. A couple years later, she met AAUW member **Kathy Sweet** when Kathy arrived to teach in the same program.

Shannon enjoys the great outdoors, often hiking or camping in the Sierra Nevada foothills and other places. She has traveled to a number of countries and states and has visited Mayan ruins in Mexico, Guatemala, and Belize. She kayaks, reads, attends music festivals, and experiments with various arts and crafts. She loves movies, photographing outdoor landscapes, and her 6½ year old grandson. Impressed with our Tech Trek Camp, she looks forward to helping with Tech Trek and other activities.

NEW MEMBERS ADD TO DIRECTORY

Teri Bradburn

Linda Crill

Lili DaSilva

Donna Ensele

Membership News (continued)

Chico has many beautiful neighborhoods but there is something special about the Bidwell Avenue community. You may see locals walking their dogs, going for a jog, or chatting with each other as well as . . . promoting and joining AAUW.

Jeannine Olson is the latest to join from this area. She was born in Vallejo, grew up in Fremont and received her RN in San Jose. She then traveled in Europe, Egypt and Sudan for the next 6 months. She moved to South Lake Tahoe where she worked in a small emergency room and spent her spare time skiing.

Jeannine had her first and last blind date in Tahoe when she met her future husband. Paul and Jeannine were married in 1984 on a boat on Lake Tahoe. After a few years, Paul and Jeannine moved to San Jose where Jeannine worked the big ER at Valley Med, the county hospital.

Finally, in 1996, she and her husband, a CPA, settled in Chico. Jeannine also graduated from CSU, Chico, earning her MS in Nursing (MSN). In Chico, Jeannine enjoyed working with seniors (before she was one) in home health and at Passages and then enjoyed working with nursing students. She retired from teaching nursing at CSUC in 2017. She is grateful she was able to explore different roles in nursing and loved each new learning curve.

Jeannine and her husband look forward to celebrating their 40th anniversary. They both like to travel including Viet Nam where her son and grandson live with his in laws. Jeannine also enjoys gardening, reading and expressing herself through ceramics. Jeannine appreciates how AAUW supports females in education. And she says that she lives on the best street with the best neighbors. Aren't you tempted to walk down Bidwell Avenue on a bright and crisp day and perhaps meet a new member or two?



Pictured above L to R are Ruth Berger, Denise Worth, Carol Burr, and Linda MacMichael

Ruth Berger was feted over lunch recently where she learned that donations of over \$5000 were made in her honor in support of AAUW's high school scholarship program. Ruth has worked for many years on the scholarship committee and served in many capacities: liaison with the Chico Community Scholarship Association, (CCSA) director of fundraising, application reader, and

student interviewer. AAUW remains one of the top community donors to CCSA due, in part, to the commitment of individuals like Ruth Berger. Thanks for all the years and for a job well done.

Are you a member of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI)? If not, you might want to join to take this course offered by new member **Linda Crill**: "What Now?" in a World of Accelerating Change. The class will meet on Thursdays from 10 to 11:30 a.m. starting on 1/11/2024. In the class, you'll look at how to continuously update yourself by erasing old boundaries, opening doors labeled "not me," and being contemporary in a world we don't always understand.

Member News and Notes



Gov Trek

AAUW Chico is taking the first steps to start a Gov Trek program locally. The goal of Gov Trek California is to encourage young women to pursue a career in public service and/or elected office. We will be recruiting Chico high school students in their junior and senior year. We have high hopes of meeting with our high school principals and teachers in the near future to talk with them about Gov Trek and get their help establishing this important program.

And, we also have high hopes of participating in the program by February, 2024 so we need your help. Do you have a friend, child or grandchild who might be interested in participating? Please let us know if you do. Our Gov Trek girls will meet with students from across California and the Gov Trek sessions will all take place on-line. The goal is that participants will develop public speaking skills, learn to write a speech, learn leadership skills and in the process collaborate with students across California. Gov Trek information can be found at the AAUW California website: <https://www.aauw-ca.org/>

Email one of us if you have a person to recommend or if you would like to join our group. Volunteers welcome!

Margaret Swick Sue Blizman
Michelle Rasmussen Ann Schwab

Tech Trek News

We were excited to present an enrichment program for our Tech Trek girls at the Gateway Science Museum, California State University, Chico! The girls learned about fossils with a presentation and activity from the Paleontologist in Residence.



It's time to get into the holiday spirit with some festive art! Bring a friend or two and sign up for this class to create gift tags (see samples at left). Proceeds benefit our CSUC scholarship fund. Hurry, seating is limited!

Saturday Dec. 10. @ 2 p.m. - Watercolor gift tags at Christine MacShane's Studio - \$35.00 per person

Take a little time out of your busy month and paint up to 6 gift tags with us. You may want to just keep painting! Each gift will have special meaning with these personally created tags. All paints and tags provided along with instruction and Christmas music. Ho Ho Ho! 1459 Humboldt Road, Suite B. To sign up, visit:

<https://www.christinamacshaneart.com/shop/p/4unwf8c5858sejxfyve496ksocmsb>



Member News and Notes



Our November branch meeting featured guest speaker Heather Wood, local coordinator for American Cultural Exchange Service - (ACES) and 3 of this year's international students. They talked about the origins of the program and the lives of women in different parts of the world. Each girl dressed in traditional clothing from her country, and they brought sweet treats to share. It was an interesting and entertaining evening!

Introducing our new fundraiser for the CSUC Scholarship Fund! This beautiful floral art vase from Orient & Flume Art Glass Co. could be yours. Purchase drawing tickets at any of our events for just \$10 each . . . or get 10 tickets for \$90! We'll draw the winning name at our Antique Appraisal Fair in March. Good luck!



The Bridge Group plays for fun and is always looking for members who are able to substitute.

The Wine and Whiners gathered at the Diamond Grill in November and were happy to have some new members join in. Appetizers: amazing Company: the best Wine: yes Whine: of course



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. Dec 20- Wine Time - 26 Lost Dutchman Dr. Text and include your name or call Carol Holzgrafe to join in. All welcome. Two requests: Don't forget to RSVP and please bring cash to avoid splitting charges among 8-12 cards.

Women's Microfinance

Jana Lawton
Contact Jana if you are interested in this group.

Out to Lunch

Mary Huntsinger
Group meets on 2nd Thursday @ 11:30
Call or text Mary to make a reservation. Both Paradise and Chico branch members welcome.
Dec 14 - momona - 330 Main Street

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.
Dec 9 - hosted by Jana Lawton at 1112 Bidwell Ave. Come and find an eager audience for what you're writing.

Note new date this month.

Foreign Policy Discussion Group

Linda MacMichael
Group meets 4th Monday at 6:30 p.m.
No meeting in December

Evening Book Discussion Group

Wendy Woods
Group meets at 7:00 p.m. on 2nd Tuesday Dec 12 - *The Husbands* by Chandler Baker. Hosted by Jan Britton.

Ethnic Writers Book Discussion Group

Severance Dolan
Group meets at 1:00 p.m. on 4th Wednesday Dec 27 - *The little old lady who broke all the rules* by Catherina Ingelman-Sundberg. Hosted by Sue Blizman.

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 Dec 20 - *A Highland Christmas* by M.C. Beaton. Hosted by Linda.

Friday Book Discussion Group

Severance Dolan
Group meets at 10 a.m. on 4th Friday at Woodoak condominiums club house Dec 22 - *call for information on book selection.*
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

Connect with AAUW



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