

The Chico AAUW Grapevine



American Association of University Women - Chico Branch Vol. 36 No. 7 Mar 2024

Next Branch Event ...

Chat with CHAT

Monday, March 11, 2024 - 5:30 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.

In our chat with CHAT (Chico Housing Action Team), we'll hear from Janet Brown who is on the Advisory Board for CHAT. She'll bring us up to date on their mission to provide housing options for our most vulnerable Chico community members.

We'll also hear from Christine MacShane, a local artist who is presenting a grant-funded exhibition at monca called "The Labels Project," designed to challenge our assumptions about unhoused people. Bring your questions for both!



Invite a friend and join us. We'll conduct some business, give away door prizes, and spend some quality time with our fellow AAUW Chico members.

Members of the Ethnic Writers Book Discussion group will provide refreshments.

Other March Events

March 18 - Join in the conversation about the Book in Common - *How the Word is Passed* - facilitated by member **Carol Burr**. The March 18 session will cover Blandford Cemetery through Epilogue. Held at 3 p.m. at the Woodoak condominium club house located at 555 Vallombrosa, directly across from the post office. The visitor parking lot is on the left as you enter the main driveway. Club house is also to the left across from the parking lot. All welcome

March 24 - Antique Appraisal Faire - 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Chico Women's Club located at 592 E Third Street. Details 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 - Michelle Rasmussen

Hi, all. February was a full month. We started out with our IBC luncheon at St John's Episcopal Church community hall. Over 50 attended to enjoy a delicious lunch and dessert and hear an interesting speaker share information about the state of a career in nursing today. Thanks to Helen for setting up the sound system, Lyn for getting the dessert and others who jumped in to help. It was nice to have former Tech Trekkers help out, Belle from Paradise, Phong and Greta from Chico.

Jan and I met with Catalyst members in August to discuss the donations for clients at Christmas. We asked if there were other ways to help. The need for small toilet-tries was noted. We thought this might be a good project for students. Pam connected with the Bidwell Junior High scholarship club and they quickly gathered enough items to fill Pam's car trunk! As a way to thank them, Pam provided refreshments for their club meeting and representatives from Catalyst attended and told the students what Catalyst was all about.

Chico schools used to hold an annual science fair. AAUW helped with judging and gave prizes out as well. Although the citywide science fair is no longer held, Sierra View School continues to have their own. They asked if AAUW would help judge the projects. **Jana Lawton** and **Kathy Sweet** volunteered and gave certificates and gift cards from AAUW to two students with great projects. Thanks Jana and Kathy!

Our fund raiser for TECH TREK is fast approaching. Sunday, March 24th is our Appraisal Faire held at Chico Womens Club from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Included in the newsletter is our new flyer. You can make copies and pass out to friends and neighbors to help promote the event. Many thanks for **Kelley Crockett** for getting sponsors to help with ad costs. Watch for our TV stars, **Carol Holzgrafe** and Sam Kisse, head of appraisers, to share information about the Appraisal Faire on Wednesday, March 19 on the noon news on KHSL TV.

Don't forget to purchase your tickets for the opportunity to win this beautiful Orient and Flume vase (shown at left). Drawing will be held at the Appraisal Faire. Proceeds benefit our AAUW scholarships for CSU, Chico students working towards a teaching credential in STEM subjects,

*Sue Blizman, President
Chico AAUW*



Kathy, Jana, and another volunteer judge from the Altacal Audobon Society pose with the projects at the Sierra View School science fair.

Membership News

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 potential new members will see it on their feeds.

I'm pleased to be able to introduce you to one of our newest members this month, Barbara Steinberg..

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

If you're interested in visiting a new or unusual place in California, be sure to talk to **Barbara Steinberg**. She has a wealth of knowledge on the subject.

Barbara's mom and all her siblings were born in Washington, DC, and then moved to Northern Virginia where Barbara grew up. She and her parents relocated to Sacramento and Barbara, as an avid learner, took as many college classes as she could in a variety of fields starting in 1976. In 1990, she graduated from California State University, Sacramento with a BA in Communication Studies.



As a California destination marketing expert, she writes for a variety of publications and destinations including our own Explore Butte County. In early 2020, during COVID, she relocated to Chico to live with her boyfriend. They were married on October 14, 2020. Ruby Tuesday, a much-loved cat, is also a member of their household.

Barbara may be called a jack of all trades having worked at hotels, restaurants, the Student Aid Commission, Visit Sacramento, the California Department of Public Health, and Visit California, as editor of the State Visitor's Guide. Her work brought her in contact with many Chico notables including Debra Lucero, Jacki Headley of Made in Chico fame, and Maisie Jane who she met as a 17-year-old when she began developing her California Sunshine brand. Barbara is the Outreach Coordinator for California Watchable Wildlife, a wildlife and nature tourism program, and has been an exhibitor at the Snow Goose Festival for many years. She is also a board member of the Outdoor Writers Association of California and their Goodwill Ambassador.

Barbara feels that her work and life experiences have helped her become a better writer as a freelance journalist. After more than 30 years, she is still passionate about her work and exploring California's endless wonders.

Ask Barbara how she chose her website name www.AreYouThatWoman.com. You will walk away smiling.

A directory update page was emailed to you recently from Helen Gesick. The update includes names and contact information for all the members who joined this year as well as a few changes of email address or phone numbers. If you don't remember seeing it, contact Helen and she can send you another copy. gesick@comcast.net

LOOK



Events you won't want to miss

March 24
Antique Appraisal Faire
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Chico Women's Club
592 E 3rd Street

The public is invited to this branch fundraiser. Proceeds help send local 8th grade girls to AAUW's summer Tech Trek camp at UC, Davis. Appraisers on hand will give information on the value, and perhaps some history, of such items as fine art, books, china, clocks, clothing, coins, furniture, glass, jewelry, dolls, photos, postcards, quilts, and toys. Appraisals are \$10 per item or matched set (jewelry or china). Take a few minutes to print a copy or two of the flyer included in this newsletter and pass on to neighbors and friends. That is one of our most effective ways of advertising.



We will have a "Send a Girl to Camp" poster going as well. Our former Tech Trek campers will be on hand to take donations. Here is how you can help to Build A Girl. Fingers and toes are \$10 each. Hands, feet, and heart can be added for \$50 each. Buying arms, legs, and the torso will add \$100 each to the coffers. You can add the head for a \$150 donation. Stop by and make a donation, Whether big or small, all donations help. When the poster is complete, we can **Send a Girl to Camp!**

Upcoming Exhibit:
LABELS
March 7th-17th
Opening Reception:
March 8th 6pm
FREE

Take an interactive look into the lives of our unhoused community - it may surprise you! This exhibit is a culmination of art & writing workshops and filmed interviews of adult and youth currently experiencing homelessness. The Museum of Northern California Art - monca - is located at 900 Esplanade. Hours are Thursday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Saturday, March 9
Tea & Luncheon
Fundraiser
Oroville AAUW

Take a trip to Oroville for their always enjoyable Tech Trek fundraiser. \$25 ticket price includes a buffet of salads, scones, tea, desserts and a good speaker. This year, they will host Jennifer Spangler, the arts education coordinator for the Butte County Office of Education. Spangler will talk about the Any Given Child Program. Contact Alma Short to make a reservation (530) 520-8411 and pay at the door. Location is Trinity Presbyterian Church - 2350 Foothill Blvd in Oroville.



Wanna Go? Jana Lawton has two seats available in her car and will be glad to have the company. Call 530.894.1843

Saturday May 4, 2024
Garden Tour
Marysville/Yuba City

The Marysville/Yuba City branch puts on an amazing garden tour every year and is celebrating their 30th annual this year. Save the date and plan to attend. Proceeds from this event fund all that their branch does throughout the year including a career day for all the girls in their school district.

Public Policy



Women's equality: the fight continues

Recently AAUW stood in support of students affected by the Trump-era Title IX rule, which not only placed new barriers in the way of survivors of sexual misconduct coming forward, but, for most victims, eliminated the possibility altogether. As a result of our protest and those of students across the country, the current Department of Education announced that new, updated rules will be announced in March. Stay tuned. TITLE IX: No person in the United States, on the basis of sex, should be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of or subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." Title IX, Education Amendments of 1972.

The Equal Rights Amendment was first introduced in December 1923. Yes, one hundred years ago! And, with some current legal changes, we need this more than ever. The U.S. is the only modern democracy that does not include sex equality in its Constitution. Without the ERA in the Constitution, advances in women's rights that we took for granted are at risk of being weakened or even reversed. Just think if the Equal Rights Amendment had been ratified and published as the 28th Amendment, the outcome of the Dobbs decision could have been totally different. Affirming the ERA as the 28th Amendment will strengthen legal protections against discrimination based on sex. Finalizing the amendment would likely provide additional support for new and existing protections against sex discriminations in areas including education, the workplace, and access to reproductive health care. And thanks to the recent Supreme Court case *Bostock v. Clayton County* (2020), the ERA includes sexual orientation and gender identity. When the time comes for us to write our legislators in favor of this long-overdue governing structure, we will let you know.

In April all AAUW members will be asked to vote on a change to membership requirements. Currently, one must have at least an A.A. degree or equivalent. AAUW and other organizations consider this a discriminating barrier and would prefer an open membership, welcoming anyone who supports our mission - To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

AAUW started, in 1881, admitting any woman with a four-year degree from a very small group of select colleges. Racial discrimination persisted until the Civil Rights Movement; men were welcomed in the mid-1980s, and the 4-year degree was then replaced by the 2-year requirement. So, there is precedent for updating as society changes.

Over the years I have heard from members about removing the degree requirement; they all worried that the culture of AAUW would change if open to all. We worried about that when it was proposed that men would join and "take over." That did not happen. What did happen was that we have more members who work hard for the things we all care about and we do need all the help we can get. For details and arguments, go to aauw-ca.org/ Scroll down to see the article.

Carol Holzgrafe

Branch News and Notes



Kathy Sweet and **Jana Lawton** volunteered on behalf of AAUW to help judge student projects at the Sierra View elementary school science fair along with parent organizer Mallory Bodney and a member of the Altacal Audobon Society. After spending the morning evaluating and scoring projects, Kathy and Jana also selected two student projects worthy of recognition and provided Barnes and Noble gift cards and certificates of excellence from AAUW.

Kindergartener Rosa Salehi won one prize with her experiment *The Magic of Electronics*. She was trying to find out if graphite could conduct electricity. She drew several different shapes on paper using a graphite pencil, laid small light bulbs on her drawings, and pressed the graphite drawing with a battery. Her drawings conducted electricity to the bulbs and they lit up. Magic!



Fourth grader, Audriana Keller, was testing the old 5 Second Rule - is something safe to eat if it's dropped on the floor for only 5 seconds. She even prepared a message to the judges that noted she prepared her own petri dishes for sampling and her father let her use his computer to write up her conclusions - which were NOPE, germs can easily hop on food after only 5 seconds and the longer food is on the floor, the more germs she found in her petri dish samples.



Catalyst representatives met with the members of the scholarship club at Bidwell Jr. High to thank them for donations of hygiene comfort items they secured for Catalyst client families. They were able to learn how they helped this important community organization.

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. Email or call for schedule.

Wine and Whine

Carol Holzgrafe
Meets the 3rd Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.
Mar 20 - Grill at the Diamond Hotel - 220 W 4th St downtown. Come, bring a friend, share snacks, and enjoy wine or non-alcoholic drinks with us. 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. Semi annual meetings

Out to Lunch

Mary Huntsinger
Group meets on 2nd Thursday @ 11:30
Mar 14 - Foodie Cafe - 999 Marauder at the airport. Call or text Mary to make a reservation. Both Paradise and Chico branch members welcome.

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.
Mar 10 - hosted by Bev McMillan at 51 Skymountain Circle.

Travel Group

Toni Reid
Call to get on communications list for shared travel opportunities.

Foreign Policy Discussion Group

Group meets 4th Monday at 6:30 p.m.
Mar 25 - *Sino American Rivalry* hosted by Jana Lawton

Evening Book Discussion Group

Elaine Schlinger
Group meets at 7:00 p.m. on 2nd Tuesday
Mar 12 - *The Violin Conspiracy* by Brendan Slocumb. Hosted by Jennie Blevins.

Ethnic Writers Book Discussion Group

Severance Dolan
Group meets at 1:00 p.m. on 4th Wednesday
Mar 27 - *An American Marriage* by Tayari Jones. Hosted by Jana Lawton
New members welcome.

Nonfiction Book Discussion Group

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

Mystery Book Discussion Group

Denise Worth
Group meets at 3 p.m. on 3rd Wednesday
Mar 22 - *Artifacts* by Mary Ann Evans. Hosted by Mary Waste **New members welcome.**

Friday Book Discussion Group

Severance Dola
Group meets at 10 a.m. on 4th Friday at Woodoak condominiums club house
Mar 22 - *The Making of Another Motion Picture Masterpiece* by Tom Hanks. **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.

iPhone/iPad Group

Helen Gesick
Meets 3rd Tuesday at 2:00
Bring questions for an informal discussion of this essential technology



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



Chico AAUW Social Media

Website <https://chico-ca.aauw.net/>

Facebook [AAUW Chico](#)

Instagram [aauw_chico](#)

Email aauw.chico@gmail.com



A collection of social media icons including Facebook, Google+, YouTube, LinkedIn, RSS, and Instagram, along with a globe icon with 'www' and a speech bubble background.

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Chico (CA) Branch

