

The Chico AAUW Grapevine



American Association of University Women - Chico Branch Vol. 36 No. 8 Apr 2024

Next Branch Event ...

Wildlife Rehabilitation

Monday, April 8, 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.

Spring is here, and so are the baby wild animals. What should you do if you find one that's sick or injured? That's a question for Shelly Rogers from Bidwell Wildlife Rehabilitation. Dedicated to rescuing Northern California's wildlife since 1973, they seek to rehabilitate orphaned and injured small mammals, raptors, reptiles, and more in the Butte, Colusa, and Glenn Counties. Shelly is a Board member and volunteer who will share a wealth of information about the organization. Bring your questions for her!



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.



The Pageant Theater is offering a limited run of several films that relate to recent AAUW programs. Members who have already seen them give them a thumbs up.

APRIL 4 at 6:30 p.m. - Recently part of the LABELS Project designed to challenge our assumptions about unhoused people. This thought-provoking film touches on the lives of members of our Chico area community who have or are experiencing homelessness and offers insights that reach across the divide. Discussion after the film, which is approximately 40 minutes long. All seats \$5

APRIL 6 at 2 p.m. & 7 at 7 p.m. - **ORIGIN** by Ava DuVernay (135 minutes long) Inspired by the New York Times bestseller *Caste: The Origins of our Discontents*. Author Isabel Wilkerson tasked herself with exploring the relationships in the caste system of India, the Third Reich in Germany, and slavery in America. A moving drama that's unafraid to ask big questions. **ORIGIN** honors its source material with powerful performances in service of a deeply emotional story.

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

April showers bring May flowers as the saying goes. With all the rain we have had, May should be beautiful for our Strawberry Brunch.

Our Antique Appraisal Faire fund raiser for Tech Trek girls did quite well this year. Many thanks to all who helped, attended, passed the word, or donated.

KZFR radio station is still in need of volunteers to answer phones for their fund raiser. Please let me know if you would like to represent AAUW and help.

Many thanks to Anne Russell and Mary Huntsinger for volunteering to take over the membership job from Dori Moura who has been doing both membership and program planning this year.

*Sue Blizman
Chico AAUW President*



Appraisers were kept busy talking to patrons and helping to determine values for their antiques and collectibles.



Lyn Smith and Marilyn Myrick (above) provided a warm AAUW welcome to the Appraisal Faire. Sylvia Hedlind and Michelle Rasumssen (at right) took donations to "Build a Girl" which, when completed, covered the cost of sending one girl to Tech Trek.



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, Linda Crill.

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

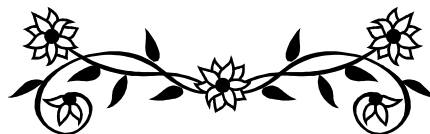
Linda Crill was born in Kansas, spent 10 days there, and the rest of her life was on the go. She's lived in 17 states and abroad. When asked her favorite place, she replies it's the one in which she currently lives. She graduated from Manchester University and studied at the graduate level at Georgetown and New York University.

The only rule Linda lives by is that there are no rules. As a change management expert, she has worked with Fortune 100 companies as well as the State Department and clients around the world. In her book, *Blind Curve*, Linda relates how she reinvented her life when the current ways no longer worked, and she was looking to answer "What now?" One of the new "now" events was learning how to ride a motorcycle in 30 days and traveling the West Coast on it.

Her interests include downhill skiing, trapeze flying, scuba diving, hiking, biking, kayaking, pickleball, ballroom dancing and joining meetup groups.

Linda lived in San Diego from 1987 to 1992. Having good California memories, in the spring of 2022, Linda decided to move across the country and found herself visiting her brother in Yuba City. Scouting the area, she became familiar with Chico. She was impressed with the friendliness of the people she met and the fact that people looked her in the eyes. Linda bought a home locally and is planning to learn how to landscape it, especially with native plants.

Linda enjoys talking to groups about improving their lives through family, work and play. She shared her knowledge through an OLLI winter session class entitled *Answering "What Now" in a World of Accelerating Change*. You can learn so much more about Linda through her website, www.lindacrill.com. or, better yet, seek her out for a conversation at the next AAUW meeting.



If you have a new telephone number, email address, or have moved and your address is different that what we have in our branch directory, please send an update to either Lyn Smith at lindy_48@yahoo.com or Helen Gesick at gesick@comcast.net with your new contact information. We want to keep our records current.

LOOK



Branch News and Notes



Past Tech Trek campers volunteer at our Antique Appraisal Faires

This is the news from Tech Trek – and there is quite a lot of it. Because of the generosity of our members, the Power of 100+ Women, Soroptimist International of Chico, the Discovery Shoppe, and visitors to the Antique Appraisal Faire, we are able to send 8 girls to the residential camps and 5 more to the Virtual Camp this summer.

Working with four Chico schools, the Selection Committee of Pam Bodnar, Marilyn Myrick, Katy Azevedo, and I interviewed 16 girls in March. These are the results: Attending Tech Trek at U.C. Davis, July 14-20 are Hazel Hunter, Helen Martin, Cassidy McClath, Molly McLaughlin, Alexa Nelms, Allison Scott, and Chloe Warner. Kennedy Parent will attend Tech Trek Camp Rachel Carson at the new CSU Monterey Bay, held the same week. Five more girls have accepted places at the virtual camp: Adelle Latouche, Mia Lopez, Odessa Patience, Sarah Plummer, and Nancy Vu.

We will organize a meet and greet soon for these young women and their parents at an upcoming event: a pizza party, an ice cream social, or something creative. They will meet again at the May 17 picnic that the Oroville branch holds each year. It is important that the girls meet each other so they find

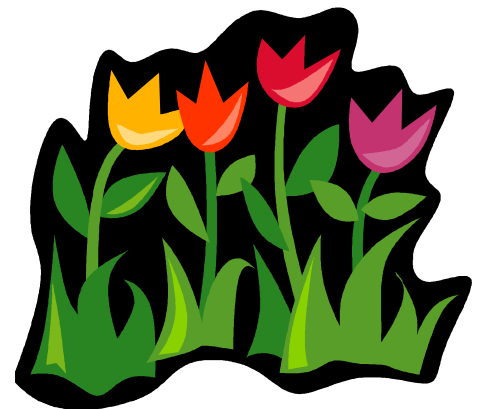
some familiar faces that first day of camp. Their parents are usually comforted to hear more about the camps their daughters will attend. We also want you to know that 2022 camper, Greta Nikolai, will be a Junior Counselor at Camp Carson. She is a year younger than girls usually accepted for this job but, because those of us who have seen Greta in action, helping out at so many branch events and at the Power of 100+ Women meeting, were able to convince the camp directors that she would be perfect for the job.

Additionally, on April 17 both Greta Nikolai and new camper Alexa Nelms will speak at the Soroptimist's lunch, telling them about camp and thanking them for their camperships. Katy Azevedo, Debbie Rosenow, and I will be dorm moms at the Monterey Bay camp. We will publish our campers' thank you notes in a future *Grapevine* and you'll meet them this fall when they attend our September brunch.

Carol Holzgrafe

Tech Trek Selection Committee

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. Self-guided tour from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Visit mvycc-ca.aauw.net/garden-tour/ for tickets online.



**Saturday May 4, 2024
Garden Tour
Marysville/Yuba City**

Branch News and Notes

Several members of the Travel Group had an enjoyable day in Oroville visiting historical sites: the Pioneer Museum, the State Theater, and the Butte Historical Society Museum.

The Pioneer Museum focuses on early settlement of Butte County with emphasis on the Oroville area and areas around it which were mined for gold. There are display “rooms” that show life at that time with a kitchen, parlor, bedroom etc. There are maps, mining tools, pictures, and much more.

The State Theater is in the process of being renovated by STAGE, a local group that has spent 3 million dollars on this renovation so far. The Theater is being used on a regular basis for events, movies, etc. We were able to see the organ which came from the home of Cecil B. DeMille. There was no organist there for the tour but DVDs were played and we were able to go backstage and watch how the pipes work.

The Historical Society Museum has lots of photographs and information on the agricultural past of the Oroville area and early businesses in the area. There are also a lot of pictures of the Oroville Dam construction. An interesting exhibit was on Ishi, the last surviving member of his tribe still living in the wild. The Southside Center is now adding a section on Black history in Butte County. There were several displays and much more coming in the future.

Another Travel Club outing included visiting two art museums, having lunch under a 7-foot sculpture, and shopping the Avid Reader bookstore. The group highly recommends making the trip to the Crocker Museum of Art in Sacramento and the additional short jaunt to the Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art in Davis. At the Crocker: Riveting: through May 19. Revolutionary, some political, some not political but family oriented, combining African and African-American art, fine art with a general outlook and truly fine. Also worth seeing at the Crocker: their permanent collection of early California art, European art, and some extraordinary modern stuff.

At the Manetti Shrem: Horses to Montoya was our take on the varied exhibit.



Deborah Butterfield’s “P.S. These are not horses”, (but they are): a collection of remarkably unique horse sculptures, full-sized, made of bronze tubes, clay, straw and sticks, sticks and steel, each with a unique “facial” expression. Through June 24. Plus, “Malaquias Montoya and the Legacies of a Printed Resistance”. Must be seen to be believed. Through May 6. Also, Wayne Thibaud, Robert Arneson and many others.

To join future Travel Club adventures, contact Toni Reid.

Toni Reid, Roxanne Ferry, and Mary Huntsinger pose by a Deborah Butterfield sculpture at the Manetti Shrem

Public Policy



Are you an Actioneer?

Do you want to be notified when you can do something - right then - to affect what your legislators consider before voting? It's easy! Sign up for the Two-Minute Activist. "Members of AAUW's Action Network receive urgent email notices and text messages when their advocacy is needed most. With our online Two-Minute Activist tool it takes just minutes and an internet connection to make your voice heard on issues affecting women and girls!" To sign up, go to aauw.org, scroll down to "Take Action" and enter your email and zip code. AAUW already has your email so no privacy is affected.

Decision Time

For those of you concerned about the approaching vote to eliminate the final degree requirement for AAUW membership, this is the history of those requirements. You may draw your own conclusions about the commitment to diversity and inclusion that has changed – slowly – over the years.

1881 - To join AAUW (ACA) you needed a graduate degree from one of 8 colleges: Oberlin, Vassar, Wellesley, Smith, Boston University, Cornell University, the University of Michigan, and the University of Wisconsin. Shortly afterwards M.I.T. and Wesleyan (Connecticut) were added. Prospective members had to be recommended by a current branch member and be accepted by a unanimous vote. Additionally, colleges also needed to apply and were checked for numbers of female faculty/administration/students. Both these applications included a site visit and there was no guarantee of membership for woman or school.

1887 - Bylaws changed to require only a 2/3 vote for membership.

1923 - Women with honorary degrees from accredited universities became eligible. This would include Eleanor Roosevelt, a high school graduate who worked tirelessly for women and girls and Lilly Ledbetter (the Fair Pay Act). Some women with only an undergraduate degree could, under some circumstances, become Associate Members.

1930s and 1940s - still required a site visit to a prospective member's home. AAUW had a non-discrimination policy, but you can imagine

1946 - Mary Church Terrell, a highly accomplished African-American woman, re-applied for membership in the D.C. branch; she was turned down in a branch vote, 254 to 350. "The ensuing crisis was one of organizational identity and principle for AAUW and proved to be a searing experience for the women involved. The board ruled in 1946 that eligibility for Association membership was to be based solely on educational criteria and that branches could no longer discriminate in their membership policies."¹ After this time AAUW became a leader in the civil rights movement, which continues today.

1961 - Women with undergraduate degrees (B.A., B.S.) could now become full members – 80 years after AAUW's founding.

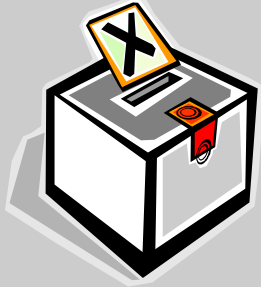
1963 - The first Black college (Howard University) was accepted. They first applied in 1950. Graduates of any accredited college or university could join; schools no longer had to apply. Membership increased exponentially.

1986 - Membership was opened to men. Some joined.

2005 - Membership was opened to women and men with only an A.A. or equivalent degree.

(continued on following page)

Branch News and Notes



And now there is one final barrier. The mission will not change; there will be no name change but the application will probably change to “List education and relevant experience.” No, we won’t be deluged with people wanting to change our mission. Each successive group of those newly eligible to become members has worked toward the mission alongside us. We can still be proud of our accomplishments, personal and organizational. Those will be detailed in the May *Grapevine*. If you have concerns or want to know more, please let me know. You’ll be notified by mail when the voting starts. We will send you a prompt so you don’t miss it. Do watch this webinar on YouTube by AAUW’s Archivist, Jessica Miller: “AAUW’s History and Evolution – a Journey Through Time”. Other resources: “The History of the American Association of University Women, 1881-1931” by Marion Talbot (and original member).

¹ “Degrees of Equality: The AAUW and the Challenge of Twentieth-Century Feminism” by Susan Levine

<https://openupaauw.org/membership-history/> [More fascinating details about AAUW’s activities through the decades.]

Thank you,

Carol Holzgrafe

carol@holzgrafe.com

Overview and Reasons for the Proposed Amendment from your national AAUW board

We remain committed to higher education as a pathway to eliminate barriers that hold women back and to enhance their leadership opportunities at all levels. We admire the effort of the inspiring women who have led the way in earning their degrees. We recognize, however, that in today’s world higher education degrees are one of several paths needed to advance equity for women and girls. Professional certifications, on the job training, career technical experience and life experience all are alternative paths to obtaining education and the skills needed to become leaders and advocates for ending discrimination against women.

When AAUW began its work, higher education and professional careers were denied to most women. That is no longer the case. More than 50% of college degrees are currently being awarded to women, and women are now attaining powerful positions in business and government. Yet discrimination against women continues. Eliminating the degree requirement enables us to expand our voice and our reach, our ability to fulfill our purpose, and will open more opportunities to address the needs of all women.

AAUW’s name, which continues to have significant brand recognition as a women’s rights organization, will remain the same if the amendment is adopted. The board recognizes that some members have strong views on the proposed change in the requirement for membership and encourages respectful debate on this important issue. The board firmly believes that the proposed amendment is in the best interests of AAUW and its future relevance and sustainability as an inclusive and forward-thinking organization committed to advancing equity for women and girls. The board urges a vote in favor of the amendment. For more understanding, go to aauw.org and search for “Open membership vote.” You will find a helpful Open Membership Toolkit.

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.
Apr 17 - Grana at the corner of E 2nd & Wall Streets. 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 (530) 894-1843
Semi annual meetings

Out to Lunch

Mary Huntsinger
Group meets on 2nd Thursday @ 11:30
Apr 11 - Sierra Nevada Taproom & Restaurant. 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.
Apr 14 - hosted by Jana Lawton

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.
Apr 22 - *Invisible Indonesia* hosted by Jana Lawton

Evening Book Discussion Group

Elaine Schlinger
Group meets at 7:00 p.m. on 2nd Tuesday
Apr 9 - *In the Land of the Grasshopper Song* by Mabel Reed & Mary Ellicot Arnold. Hosted by Wendy Woods.

Ethnic Writers Book Discussion Group

Severance Dolan
Group meets at 1:00 p.m. on 4th Wednesday
Apr 24 - *The Road to Dawn* by Jerad A. Brock. Hosted by Carol Krok.
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
Apr 17 - *Marple: 12 New Mysteries* by Agatha Christie et al. Hosted by Anne Russell.
New members welcome.

Friday Book Discussion Group

Severance Dolan
Group meets at 10 a.m. on 4th Friday at Woodoak condominiums club house
Apr 26 - *The Invisible Woman: A WWII Novel* by Erika Robuck. **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



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Chico (CA) Branch

