



The Chico AAUW Grapewine

American Association of University Women - Chico Branch - Vol. 39 No. 4 Nov 2024

OUR HOLIDAY PARTY IS COMING UP!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 4-6 PM
ST JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH HALL
2341 FLORAL AVENUE, 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 education institution.

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks 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.

We will have finger food. If your last name begins with **A to L** please bring a sweet dish. If your last name begins with **M to Z**, please bring a savory dish.

Please bring your gifts for the Catalyst families to the party. Catalyst representatives will be coming to pick them up there.

We will have music, a holiday trivia "pub quiz," and drawings. Come, meet old friends, and make some new friends.

If you have any questions, please contact Jan Britton at 530.896.1240.

Here are a few reminders as you decide which gifts you may wish to donate to the **Catalyst Holiday Adopt-a-Family Gift Giving Program**.

- Click on this **link** to the wish list spreadsheet:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/11lvorO2BXYwyC7BncOjoSfqNBfcl-OsoeDgdFQDO-U/edit?usp=sharing>

- Choose the gift(s) you wish to purchase and sign up in the column to the right.
- A gift card may be purchased in lieu of the gift (if you want to have them choose their own).
- Do **NOT** wrap the gifts.
- Attach a **LABEL** to each gift indicating the family number and which family member it is for (for example, "Family # 310 for daughter age 4").
- Bring all gifts to our **Holiday Party** (see details above) for pick-up by Catalyst staff.

If you will not attend the party or you have trouble accessing the link, please contact **Pam Bodnar (530.521.7321)** or **Helen Gesick (530.570.5185)** for assistance.



Chico (CA) branch

Message from the Co-presidents

2024-2025 Branch Leaders

Presidents –
Jana Lawton
Michelle Rasmussen
Membership –
Mary Huntsinger
Anne Russell
Finance –
Lyn Smith
Secretary –
Severance Dolan
Program –
Dori Moura
Jan Britton
Newsletter Editor –
Anne Russell
Public Policy –
Carol Holzgrafe
Tech Trek Team –
Katy Azevedo
Pam Bodnar
Debbie Rosenow
Carol Holzgrafe
Diversity Team –
Margaret Swick
Jan Britton
High School Scholarships –
Marilyn Myrick
College Scholarships –
Jan Britton
Website –
Helen Gesick
Toni Reid
Historian –
Michelle Rasmussen

What a great meeting we had at Lili's Brazilian Bistro. The members who were our featured speakers have such diverse and interesting careers and interests. **Bev McMillan** shared her very impressive career in writing science textbooks. **Linda Crill** inspired us with her story of leaving her comfort zone behind and going on a daring adventure which led to writing a book (or two). **Barbara Steinberg**, I think, made us all a little envious through the stories she told about her career as a travel writer. We were glad that **Lily Loughlin** shared a story she wrote about her experiences as a farm kid growing up in Hawaii and her family's traditional Okinawan holiday celebration.

Thanks to **Lili DaSilva** for being a great host, providing a cozy spot to gather, and delicious food and drink.

We have so much for which to be grateful: our wonderful members, the great work that AAUW does locally, statewide, and nationally, the opportunity to have thoughtful and intelligent conversations about books, world relations and more. Thank you all for being members of our impressive AAUW Chico branch. We hope to see you at the **Art Boutique** and the **holiday party** where we have fun and enjoy each other's company AND also always manage to combine that with support for women and girls.

Jana Lawton and Michelle Rasmussen, co-presidents

Scholarship Fundraiser

Mark your calendars!

Inter-branch luncheon –
Mar 1, 2025 (more later)

THE ART BOUTIQUE 12555 MERIDIAN RD.

JUST OFF HWY 32, LOOK FOR SIGNS ON THE ROAD

**SAT, DECEMBER 7, 10-4
SUN, DECEMBER 8, NOON-4**

The Art Boutique will feature fine art and handmade goods from these local artists. There will be unique items in all price ranges starting at just a few dollars. Ceramic sculpture, pottery, mosaics, jewelry, luscious soaps, soft and snuggly wearables, cards, collages, quilts, 2025 calendars, functional and decorative textiles, and kiln formed glass ornaments, candle holders, small plates, bowls, and larger display pieces. Don't miss this opportunity to get gifts made from the heart and to also support AAUW scholarship programs. Artists donate a portion of their proceeds to our scholarship funds.

Sheryl Cummings



Brenda Schlegel



Caitlin Schwerin



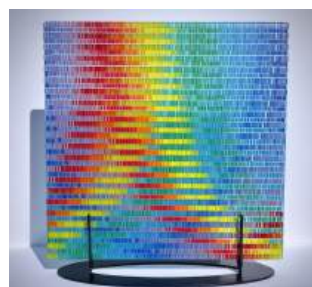
Linda Lunsford



Jana Lawton



Carla Resnick



Susan Fuller

Membership News

Each year, **Joanne Reid** and her family and neighbors gather in her driveway to make holiday wreaths from fresh pine greens and other botanicals that give them beautiful color and texture, and a heavenly fragrance.

This year they made some for themselves and some for AAUW and you will be able to get one for your home at the Art Boutique. Simply make a donation in the amount of your choice to support AAUW's scholarship programs (Tech Trek, high school scholarships through CCSA, Chico State scholarships for students in the teaching credential program, and AAUW Funds) and take home the wreath you like best. Jana picked one (see photo) she'd like to see hanging on her door at the site of the Art Boutique.



Please Share!

If you are on social media, be sure to like and share our posts on **Facebook** at **AAUW Chico**, **Instagram** at **@aauw_chico**, **email** at **aauwchico@gmail.com**, and our **website** at **chico-ca.aauw.net**.



The more you interact with our content, the more likely potential new members will see it on their feeds.

Mary Huntsinger,
Membership
Call/text 530.521.1323
or marylouiseh@gmail.com

HATS OFF!

Severance Dolan was unable to attend our branch meeting in May when awards for our 2023-24 year were presented. **Sue Blizman** took the opportunity of the next AAUW Board meeting to present Severance with the award she received as our branch AAUW Funds honoree.



During Sue's first year as AAUW president, our secretary had to resign after only three months of service. The bylaws state each branch must have a president, financial director, and a secretary so we really needed to find a replacement. Sue took a chance and asked Severance to take over the job and she said yes! Although

Severance warned her that she had never taken minutes before, Sue said that she has done a commendable job; is very organized, careful with details, and is a good writer. When our branch had an opportunity to give a special state award to one of our members, she chose to honor Severance and believes we are very lucky to have her and appreciates all she has done for the branch.

Membership News - cont'd

SMART COOKIES SWEEP THE COMPETITION AT THE ANNUAL TRIVIA BEE FOR LITERACY

Member **Dori Moura** and her two colleagues proved that their name, the **Smart Cookies**, was no fluke. They swept the competition handily with a near perfect score. Their score was 29 out of 30 questions! Last year's champions from the district attorney's office were no match this year for our titans of trivia. Congratulations Dori and we're proud that, in celebrating sweet victory, you also helped the Butte County Library raise the funds that support their adult literacy program.



THE DISCOVERY SHOPPE LEAGUE



Jana Lawton is shown with **Pam Bodnar** accepting a check on behalf of AAUW. **The Discovery Shoppe League** members voted to award Chico AAUW \$8,100 in support of our Tech Trek program. Even though the cost of sending our local girls to Tech Trek camp increased this past year, this award will almost cover sending all of our students this coming July. The Discovery Shoppe (315 Flume St., Chico) is

a thrift shop run by an all-volunteer staff. The proceeds they generate are significant and are spent in support of non-profit organizations they believe are doing good work in the community. We are grateful for their financial support and the knowledge that they like what we do.

Membership News - cont'd

THE TRAVELING LIFE

Carol Holzgrafe recently spent two weeks visiting Rome, Florence, and Venice and “having a wonderful time.” She reports, “The food, while lacking in garlic (who knew?), was a bit different from our “American” Italian version but totally enjoyable. And we had no bad wine ever. Two weeks packed with art, food, wine, remarkable buildings, lovely countryside, high speed trains (recommended), and lots of new friends were memorable.” And, yes, we did see “David”—quite a lot of him, actually. Here I am (in pink hat) on a gondola ride—required, it seems.



(David, Galleria dell' Accademia, Florence)



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Member **Nancy Wirtz** was feted recently for her 85th birthday with Italian cuisine at Crush. Joining her (and helping with dessert) were Satsie Veith, Jan Britton, Mary Huntsinger, and Carol Holzgrafe.

Tech Trek News 2025

The Tech Trek (TT) season is getting underway and your team (Pam Bodnar, Debbie Rosenow, Katy Azevedo, and Carol Holzgrafe) is working with a new approach. Because our potential camper nominees and their families—and even some of our nominating teachers—don't really know what to expect from TT, we met recently with math and science teachers from Chico and Bidwell junior highs.

Besides plates of cookies, we presented them with why AAUW does Tech Trek, what camp is really like, and who thrives in that environment. Debbie offered links to the Davis camp video and other on-line sites that will help ease the feeling of jumping into something totally unfamiliar (google "tech trek davis").

Also, at Bidwell, some of our 2024 campers were a terrific hit when they came to tell their experiences. To further help with the comfort level of girls (and their families) deciding to accept our "camperships," we plan to share the experience of Sadie Arendt, a 2024 Paradise camper. Sadie kept a detailed journal of her six days and offered to share it with other girls who want to know: What IS Tech Trek really like?

With the board's approval, we have requested eight places at the Davis camp; but, if there is not enough room there, we can send a few to Tech Trek at UC Santa Cruz, now in its second year.

NOTE: The number of girls the Chico branch can send to Davis will depend on the number of volunteers we provide to the camp. One teacher said she was interested in being an adult counselor and at least one member of our TT team may be also. But, should you enjoy the company of nifty 13-year-old STEM-oriented girls and want to spend a week on the Davis campus (lots of flat walking, good A/C, good food), contact us for more information. To volunteer: <https://www.aauw-ca.org/tech-trek-volunteer/>

Further, we want to thank **The Discovery Shoppe League** for its grant of \$8,100 to send local girls to camp; Soroptimist International of Chico also provides a campership. Other sources come from generous branch members, the Antique Appraisal Faire, and anonymous donors. The results are worth it!

Thank you all, Carol Holzgrafe

Public Policy/Social Action

Our AAUW California Public Policy Committee studies all upcoming bills and decides which ones work closely with AAUW's mission of supporting all women and girls. These are the three California bills that AAUW-CA is supporting this legislative session:

AB 2099 (Bauer-Kahan-McCarty) Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society: This bill would make a new *misdemeanor or a felony (Wobbler) for sharing personal information or images of certain individuals, such as reproductive health care providers, with the intent of causing harm or violence against them or anyone living at the same address.*

AB 2326 (Alvarez) Equal Access to Quality Public Education for All Students: This measure requires the three public higher education institution chancellors/presidents to gather information on each institution's *compliance with Title IX, and to provide an annual report, including a direct presentation to the Assembly and Senate Subcommittees on Education Finance.* This would include information on new policies adopted to improve the reporting process, investigation, and resolution of complaints.

AB 2843 (Petrie-Noris; Co-author Addis) Economic Security for All Women; Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society: *Several factors may impact a rape survivor's decision to seek care and/or report a rape, but costs for medical care should not be one of them.* AB 2843 eliminates cost-sharing, including deductibles, from being imposed on any rape survivor seeking medical care following a rape. Forensic exams and rape kits are free, however, other costs associated with an ER visit are not for those with private insurance. AB 2843 ensures that those individuals who wish to report a rape and file charges will have the benefit of a rape kit test and forensic exam to provide evidence to secure more convictions for acts of sexual violence. Moreover, they can receive the care that they need following a traumatic sexual attack.

FYI: Did you know that the AAUW California website (aauw-ca.org) has a great deal of information, answers to questions, and help you will need or want to know? Please take some time to investigate the site, particularly if you hold a branch officer position. There are tool kits on how to do your job, deadlines, what to expect, and where to go if you have questions.

If you would like to follow the progress of these bills: go to aauw-ca.org, click on *Branch Tools* at the top, scroll down the *Public Policy* picture, and click on the *Bill Tracker 2024* rectangle. If you want information on Tech Trek, from the home page click on *Projects/Programs*, then click on *Tech Trek*. The AAUW California Web Team is highly skilled and works hard to provide the answers you want; do them a favor and use what they have provided. If you are looking for a specific thing on the national website (aauw.org), "google" it (for example, type "aauw membership") in your favorite browser (Google, Mozilla, DuckDuckGo, Safari, etc.) and it will take you right there.

It's easy, but if you need more help, please contact Carol Holzgrafe.

Interest Groups for Fun ... and Learning



LES FLANEURS

Carol Holzgrafe (text/email for more information). A walking/talking tour of Chico and Paradise. Usually meets Tues, Thur, and/or Sat @ 8:30 or 9:30am, depending on the season.

WINE AND WHINE

Carol Holzgrafe (text/email for more information). Will meet Dec 18 @ 5:30pm, Alibi Pub and Grill, 3010 Floral Ave, Ste 125 (corner of Floral and Eaton). Sharable snacks look tasty. Bring a friend, share snacks, and enjoy wine or other drinks with us. Please RSVP Carol.

OUT TO LUNCH

Mary Huntsinger (call/text for location and to make a reservation). Meets 2nd Thur @ 11:30am. **Both Paradise and Chico branch members welcome!**

WOMEN'S MICROFINANCE

Jana Lawton (call if interested in joining). Semi-annual meetings.

WORDSMITHS

Jana Lawton (call for more information). Meets 2nd Sun (Dec 15) @ 2pm at Lily Loughlin's house. **All writers welcome!**

FOREIGN POLICY DISCUSSION

Jeannie Trizzino (text for more information). Meets Mon, Dec 16 @ 6:30pm. (note date change for December). Topic is Global Trade and Green Energy, hosted by Jan Britton. **New members welcome!**

EVENING BOOK DISCUSSION

Elaine Schlinger (text for more information). Meets Dec 10 @ 7pm in members' homes. Will discuss *Something in the Water* by Catherine Steadman.

ETHNIC WRITERS BOOK DISCUSSION

Severance Dolan (call or email for more information). Will meet Dec 18 @ 10am. Will discuss *New Song in a Strange Land*, Esther Warner's memoir of her life in Liberia in the early 1940s. Hosted by Jana Lawton. **New members welcome!**

FRIDAY BOOK DISCUSSION

Severance Dolan (call for more information). Meets Dec 20 @ 10am in Woodoak condominium clubhouse. Will discuss *Annie* by Jamaica Kincaid. **New members welcome!**

NONFICTION BOOK DISCUSSION

Carol Krok (text for more information). Meets 1st Fri @ 9.30am in members' homes for socializing; discussion starts promptly @ 10. **Currently at capacity.**

MYSTERY BOOK DISCUSSION

Lyn Smith (text/email for more information). Meets 3rd Wed (Dec 18) @ 3pm. Members will be emailed a reminder where we are meeting. Will discuss *Killers of a Certain Age* by Deanna Raybourn. **New members welcome!**

BRIDGE

Sylvia Hedlind (text/call if interested in joining). Meets 2nd Mon @ 1pm. Group plays for fun with the goal of improving members' games. **Substitutes always needed!**

IPHONE/IPAD

Helen Gesick (text for more information). Meets 3rd Tues @ 2pm. Bring your questions.



AAUW CHICO BRANCH

