



The Chico AAUW Grapewine

American Association of University Women - Chico Branch - Vol. 38 No. 5 Jan 2025

NEXT BRANCH MEETING...

Monday, Jan 13, 6:00pm
Butte County Library, 1808 Sherman Ave, Chico

What is it like to be a woman in the world of news media?

That's a question for some of the professional reporters we're lucky to have in Chico. Linda Watkins-Bennett is an award-winning journalist who has been covering TV news in the area for over 35 years. Jennie Blevins is a reporter for the *Enterprise-Record* newspaper and is a member of our branch. Bring your questions for them!

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.

AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

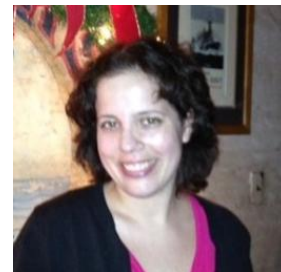
By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women and girls have a fair chance.

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.



Linda Watkins-Bennett



Jennie Blevins

SAVE THE DATE

**NORTH VALLEY INTERBRANCH COUNCIL LUNCHEON
MCCONNELL FOUNDATION, REDDING
SATURDAY, MARCH 1**

AAUW members from Chico, Gridley, Marysville/Yuba City, Oroville, Paradise, and Redding gather once a year to share information about their programs and strategies for success. We also have a great speaker lined up and a delicious lunch at the beautiful site of the McConnell Foundation. Carpooling is being planned. More information in the February newsletter. Mark your calendar and plan to attend.



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

Holiday Greetings!

The year has sped by. AAUW-Chico has accomplished a lot and we need to give ourselves credit. Our meetings are always informative and also allow us that social time to keep in touch with fellow members.

Our contributions to scholarships and programs like Tech Trek are amazing, given the size of our branch. Tech Trek has been recognized by organizations like Soroptimists, The Discovery Shoppe League, and Power of 100 Women as a very valuable program for the long-term boost it provides to keep young women engaged in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Our local scholarships help young women starting college to do so with less debt and a boost in confidence.

Our contributions through our dues and more to AAUW-CA and AAUW-National help them do their tireless work to further our mission of advancing equity for women and girls. We would like to thank all of you who have contributed through dues and volunteer work to keep our branch going.

We hope that however you celebrate the season, you can enjoy it fully. Let's look forward to another year of progress and friendship.

Michelle Rasmussen and Jana Lawton
Chico AAUW Copresidents

Membership News

AAUW Social Media

If you are on social media, be sure to like and share our posts on

Facebook – [AAUW Chico](#)

Instagram – [@aauw_chico](#)

Our email at aauwchico@gmail.com, and

Our website – chico-ca.aauw.net

Or
Scan this code with your phone for more information



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

Mary Huntsinger, Membership

ANTIQUÉ APPRAISAL FAIRE

Our Tech Trek committee has been busy selecting girls to attend Tech Trek camp this summer. The cost this year will be about \$1,200 per girl. We try to send 8 girls which means we need to raise about \$10,000. As the girls attend by scholarship only, we need funds to make this happen. Over the past 25 years we have had a successful Antique Appraisal Faire to help raise funds where we have six to eight appraisers volunteer their time to help. Planning for the Faire starts this month with our first meeting set for Monday, January 27, at my house, 462 Todd Ct at 10:30 am.

There may be two other meetings before the event set for Sunday, March 23 from 9:30-3:30 pm at the Chico Women's Club. Extra people are needed to make this event happen so please let me know if you would like to help. Donations are always appreciated!

Sue Blizman

FOREIGN POLICY DISCUSSION GROUP

The Foreign Policy Discussion group is looking for another member or two to join in its mind expanding endeavor for 2025 (and/or beyond). The *Great Decisions study guide* purchased from the Foreign Policy Association provides the background material and discussion questions. All members read one chapter each month (usually 10-12 pages). The discussion leader for the month can add any new or updated information, share videos, or any other material deemed of interest. This is a wonderful way to stay in the know about what is happening in our world and understand more fully the role our country has played in various events and countries. This is an easy and stimulating way to expand your knowledge base and participate in lively discussion. Contact *Jeannie Trizzino* if you would like to try us out.

NEW BRANCH POLICY

We want potential members and interested people to be able to read our newsletter to give them some idea of who we are and what we do in the community. We have been posting them on our branch website and we send the newsletter to people who have expressed an interest in joining AAUW. We are also mindful that *scamming* and *phishing* and many other affronts to our digital privacy are much more prevalent than they used to be.

It has always been an AAUW policy that we do not share any member information with other groups. The directory is only to be used for AAUW communications. To make sure member privacy and security are maintained, we will no longer include contact information in the newsletter other than names which will be included in articles, but members must look up contact information (telephone numbers, email and home addresses) in their directories. We realize this is an added step but hope it gives us the online security and privacy we want. You can always use our branch email address for help if your directory is misplaced — aauwchico@gmail.com

Membership News - cont'd

HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Happy holidays! We celebrated the season of giving at our December annual party with plenty of food, music, fun, and games. Pam Bodnar presented a video about our UC Davis Tech Trek program. Once again, we were pleased to fulfill the Christmas wishes of families who are utilizing the programs at [Catalyst Domestic & Sexual Violence Services](#). Thank you to all of our branch members who participated!



Catalyst family gifts



Pam Bodnar and Catalyst representatives

DID YOU KNOW ...



.. that our local bus service, the B-Line, has transportation services for seniors and those with disabilities? The **B-Line Paratransit** is a shared ride service made up of two programs: (1) **ADA Paratransit**—for those with a documented disability that limits their functional mobility so that either some or all of the time they cannot use the fixed route and (2) **Dial-A-Ride**—for residents in the service area who are 70 or older, regardless of disability status. Both services require that you fill out an application to verify eligibility and to provide your address for pick up when using the service. This may

be a great solution when you need a ride to a doctor's appointment or other meeting. Visit www.blinetransit.com for all the details.

An AAUW member living near you will usually be happy to give you ride to an AAUW event. Let Jana Lawton know if you would like to rideshare to meetings, especially if you don't drive at night.

MEMBER NEWS

- Long-time member Diane Flaherty is recovering at home from an illness and would enjoy hearing from her friends in the branch. It would be good to call first if you plan to visit in person. Best wishes to Diane for a healthier new year.
- Kim Cross's husband, Elden, lost a long and valiant battle with cancer in December. Their long marriage was a happy one and both contributed to our branch in many ways. Many condolences to Kim and her family.

Contact information for both these members can be found in the branch directory. If you have member news to contribute, please contact Carol Holzgrafe.

Membership News - cont'd

WOMEN'S MARCH ON CHICO

Saturday, January 18, 2025

Chico City Plaza

Gather at 10:30 a.m.

March begins at 11:00 a.m.

Gather at the Chico City Plaza for a grassroots march in the downtown area. Afterward, at the Chico Women's Club, there will be food, an indoor rally with speakers, groups will have tables with information and resources and more, to uplift and connect communities on that day and beyond.

The purpose of the women's march and rally is to honor the Martin Luther King Jr. weekend and the life and legacies of the Reverend Dr. King, his wife Coretta Scott King, and civil rights legacies, and the local movements for the MLK Unity and Beloved Community. Join in to show solidarity and to learn more.

For more Facebook information, [Click here](#).

Public Policy/Social Action

TOOLS FOR FAIR SCHOOLS

School Board Project

We all know book banning and censorship of educational materials are rapidly sweeping across the country. And lately, they are on our doorstep! But we don't have to—and we won't—tolerate it. [Click here](#) to download the webinar and toolkit to learn what the AAUW Public Policy team is doing about it, and how you can help.

The *School Board Project* committee members will explain the breadth of the problem and the scope of the proposed solution, along with a representative from the League of Women Voters to guide members with some useful tips about speaking out at school board meetings.

Protect your school board from members who want to ban books, censor curricula, and institute policies that harm LGBTQ+ students. AAUW California's *School Board Project* encourages all our members to become vigilant observers of their local districts.

To access the reporting form, find your Parent Brochure, and/or the complete toolkit, [click here](#)

On September 25, 2023, Governor Newsom signed [AB 1078](#) into law, officially preventing school districts from banning books and censoring curriculum based on the materials' depiction of inclusive and diverse perspectives. Specifically, the law reaffirms, in the Introduction, that

- California supports accurate and inclusive education;
- the California Constitution guarantees pupils equal protection under the law;
- California schools have an obligation to combat bias against pupils within their schools;
- accurate and inclusive education are essential to ensure the educational success of all pupils;
- requires the Department of Education to develop guidance and public educational materials to ensure that all Californians can access information about educational laws and policies that safeguard the right to an accurate and inclusive curriculum;
- requires all school districts to have sufficient instructional materials for all students that align with approved content standards;
- adds to list of included topics in social sciences textbooks: the role and contributions of people of all genders, Latino Americans, LGBTQ+ Americans, and members of other ethnic, cultural, religious, and socioeconomic status groups;
- reduces a school district's funding formula allocation if the district does not provide sufficient Instructional materials pursuant to these provisions;
- prohibits governing members of school districts from refusing to approve or prohibiting the use of any book or instructional material on the basis that it contains inclusive and diverse perspectives.

Interest Groups for Fun ... and Learning

NOTE: Use the AAUW directory for contact information or email aauwchico@gmail.com



LES FLANEURS

Carol Holzgrafe (email/call for schedule and 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). Meets 3rd Wed, Jan 15, @ 5:30pm at *Grana*, 198 2nd St. Bring a friend, share snacks, and enjoy wine or other drinks with us. Please RSVP and bring cash to avoid the check crazies.

OUT TO LUNCH

Mary Huntsinger (call/text for location and to make a reservation). Meets 2nd Thur, Jan 9, @ 11:30am at *Momona*, 330 Main St, #100. *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, Jan 12, @ 2pm at Jana Lawton's house. *All writers welcome!*

FOREIGN POLICY DISCUSSION

Jeannie Trizzino (text for more information). Meets 4th Mon, Jan 26, @ 6:30pm. Meetings are held in members' homes. The group will set the calendar of events for 2025, including who will cover which topics and who will host the meeting. *New members welcome!*

EVENING BOOK DISCUSSION

Elaine Schlinger (text for more information). Meets 2nd Tues, Jan 14, @ 7pm in a member's home. Will discuss *Crashing Through* by Robert Kurson.

ETHNIC WRITERS BOOK DISCUSSION

Severance Dolan (call for more information). Meets 4th Wed, Jan 22, @ 10am in a member's home. Will discuss *The Unwanted: A Memoir of Childhood* by Vietnamese-American author Kien Nguyen. *New members welcome!*

FRIDAY BOOK DISCUSSION

Severance Dolan (email for more information). Meets 4th Fri, Jan 24, @ 10am in Woodoak condominium clubhouse. Will discuss *That One Patient: Doctors and Nurses' Stories of the Patients Who Changed Their Lives Forever* by Ellen de Visser. *New members welcome!*

NONFICTION BOOK DISCUSSION

Carol Krok (text for more information). Meets 1st Fri, Jan 3, @ 9.30am in a member's home for socializing; discussion starts promptly @ 10. *Currently at capacity.*

MYSTERY BOOK DISCUSSION

Lyn Smith (text/email for more information). Meets 3rd Wed, Jan 15, @ 3pm in a member's home. Please bring book suggestions for 2025. *New members welcome!*

BRIDGE

Sylvia Hedlind (text/call if interested in joining). Meets 2nd Mon, Jan 13, @ 1 pm. 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, Jan 21, @ 2 pm. Bring your questions.



AAUW CHICO BRANCH

