



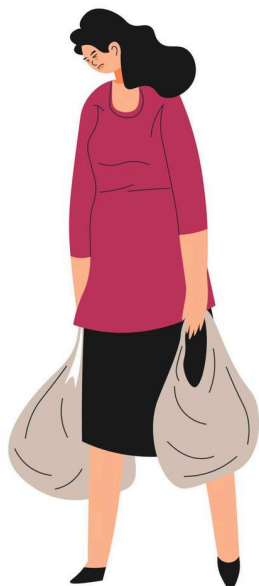
The Chico AAUW Grapewine

American Association of University Women - Chico Branch - Vol. 37 No. 6 Feb 2025

NEXT BRANCH MEETING

TUESDAY, FEB 4, 6:00 PM

BUTTE COUNTY LIBRARY, 1808 SHERMAN AVE, 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.

- Why are senior women the fastest growing demographic in our homeless population?
- What is the current situation in Chico for unhoused women?
- Do our generalized, judgmental opinions about them match reality?

Three very knowledgeable women, who have firsthand experience, will join us for presentations, stories, and a panel Q&A session:

Hillary Crosby, Executive Director of Safe Space
Taylor Storey, Executive Director of True North/Torres Shelter
Natalie Conrad, with stories of unhoused women with whom she has worked

We know there will be a lot of questions, so please be prepared with a short, focused question. This allows more time to hear from the panel.

And, please invite a friend. See you there!



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

Happy New Year!

We hope you are finding many reasons to be joyful in the new year. Being a member of AAUW can add to that joy through participation in branch events, groups, and committees. Being in camaraderie with people who have a shared vision and goals can add worth to your day, allow you to make a difference, and do things that are important.

Have you noticed that the idea of DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) is being disparaged in many corners of our society? It is no longer politically correct to be in favor of such notions. When women make strides forward, backlash almost seems inevitable. We are now going through such a cycle. Regardless of how you characterize DEI, the values are foundational to the AAUW mission of fairness to women and girls. Equity is not a zero-sum game that has winners and losers.

Being a member of AAUW makes you an ally in that struggle for equity and education for all women and girls. We can use our resolve and strength in numbers to help shape (reshape??) public policy and model our commitment to equity through our own activities. Right here in Chico we can try to make sure books are not banned in our libraries and schools, that women have access to appropriate reproductive health care, and that our residents are well informed about important community issues. We appreciate what our members can do, and have done, for the cause of equity.

Thanks to all who came out for the meeting with Linda Watkins-Bennett and Jennie Blevins last month. They provided so much insight into print and television journalism, both the challenges and rewards of being in a small media market. More interesting and relevant topics will be covered in our branch meetings in the next few months and we hope you can all attend.

Jana Lawton and Michelle Rasmussen
Chico AAUW Co-presidents

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
aauwchico@gmail.com

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

The fundraising committee for our Tech Trek girls is working on finding sponsors to help cover the cost of ads for our **Antique Appraisal Faire**. If you can suggest people or businesses we might contact who could help with sponsorships, please let me know.

Save the date for the Faire — **Sunday, March 23, 11-3 pm, Chico Women's Club.**

Sue Blizman

WOMEN OF DISTINCTION

Mark **Saturday, April 26** on your calendar for our third **Women of Distinction Award Ceremony**. It will be in the afternoon; we will tell you the time later. It will be held at St. John's Episcopal Church where we hold our holiday parties. As before, we will be asking for members to make finger foods, salads, and other goodies for the event.

This is a vital event for our AAUW affiliate, as it helps us inform the community what we do and who we are. We have been around for over 100 years, but many in our area have no idea what AAUW does (or even what that acronym stands for...) and this event provides some press for us.

We have formed a committee to work on this project and are beginning to select award candidates. We have a number of worthy candidates to select from this year and our committee will be working hard on the selection process.

More Information will be forthcoming so **WATCH THIS SPACE!**

Jan Britton
Women of Distinction Committee

Membership News - cont'd

NORTH VALLEY INTERBRANCH COUNCIL LUNCHEON

MCCONNELL FOUNDATION, REDDING
800 SHASTA VIEW DRIVE
SATURDAY, MARCH 1



We're heading out of town on Saturday, March 1, and we want you to come along. The *North Valley Interbranch Council* is having its annual luncheon; this time at the beautiful [McConnell Foundation](#) headquarters in Redding. Upon arrival, we will have time to talk with members from other area branches. Find out what's going on in Paradise, Gridley, Redding, Marysville, Yuba City, and Oroville.

After a bit of socializing, we will have a catered lunch that includes beverages, a kale salad, cauliflower mascarpone mash, spinach-artichoke chicken, stuffed portobello mushrooms, and a dessert. Except for the chicken, all is vegetarian and can be made vegan if the caterer knows in advance.

Our reservations need to be in by February 15!

Our speaker, Amy Louis, will bring us an inspiring story of leadership and advocacy. Her story will underscore the importance of cervical cancer screenings and her drive to create change has empowered many women, providing them with the necessary resources and support to prioritize their health. Her story will also be a reminder of how one person's dedication can lead to significant positive change in the community. Come and be inspired by Amy, a true leader who has made a profound difference in the lives of many women.

Who could ask for anything more from an outing? A lovely lunch, interesting speaker, and traveling to and carpooling with friends. Sign up today (but no later than February 15). Call or email Michelle Rasmussen and send her a check for \$35 made payable to AAUW Chico. Michelle's contact information is in your directory. Also let her know if you want to carpool and whether you prefer to be a driver or a rider.

We will leave Chico between 10 and 10:15 am to arrive by 11:30-ish.

Membership News - cont'd

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Are you open to taking on a small job to help Chico AAUW? One that you can finish in a morning? Consider being a judge at the **Sierra View Elementary School Science Fair**. No experience or expertise in science needed.

Even though Chico Unified no longer holds a traditional science fair, Sierra View has continued the tradition as a way to encourage their students to stay curious and be life-long scientists who understand how to use the scientific method.

We want to support this worthy effort by helping judge the projects. Scoring guidelines are provided that help you award points to each project. AAUW usually selects two projects to receive awards of merit and gift certificates for science books.

Participation in judging can be very flexible. Starting at 8:30 a.m. and lasting until-11:00 on **Tuesday, February 18**, you are welcome to come and judge as many projects as you have time for during that time frame. Volunteers have come for as little as 45 minutes while others have stayed the whole time so they could judge each project.

No students will be present during the judging. The school site coordinator for the science fair tabulates the scores from the judges and all projects are awarded ribbons. Students and families will come that evening to view each others' projects and see the comments and questions left by the judges.

You are welcome to enlist a spouse or friend to help out. Please let Jana Lawton know of your interest and she will pass on your name(s) to the school.

Membership News - cont'd

A WARM THANK YOU

I didn't want to put the *Art Boutique* to bed for another year without acknowledging all who helped to make it a success. Through your gift purchases, you helped to support seven women artists make a living at the time of year when we all have more expenses. They, in turn, donated at least 10% of their sales (and some did more than that) to support our scholarship programs.

Joanne Reid and her family donated 12 beautiful wreaths they made for us to sell and all of them were gracing new homes by the end of the Boutique.

Katy Azevedo contacted Tech Trekkers to volunteer and Caitlin, Raoisle, Giselle, Alison, and Greta answered the call to assist us with the energetic task of transporting all the items from the artists to the station where purchases were packaged to take home. One young lady said that working at the Boutique was one of her favorite things to do because she loved being at the farm, talking to the artists, and drinking hot cider. A win/win in my book.

The Boutique could not have run well without all of the branch members who volunteered. Guests were met at the door with friendly greetings from Roxanne Ferry, Suanne Miller, Mary Huntsinger, and Jan Britton. Purchases were tallied by Margaret Swick, Jeannie Trizzino, and Jennie Blevins. Vickie Bernhardt, Bev McMillan, and Katy Azevedo wrapped all the purchases for people to take home. The cashiers were Nancy Praizler, Susan Critchfield, and Michelle Rasmussen, who all did an excellent job in spite of some technical glitches they faced. Ruth Berger was an all-around guide and helper. We raised \$1,433 for our scholarship programs, but the benefits far exceeded that.

With appreciation to the artists, the customers, and the volunteers,

Jana Lawton



Membership News - cont'd

HOW TO AVOID GETTING SCAMMED

While attending a meeting of the Morgan Hill branch board earlier this month, we were treated to a short and valuable lesson in email cybersecurity by Michelle Robleto, a new member who works in that area. While some of these things may be familiar to you (I hope so), it is always good to have a refresher.

- Always check the **email address** (at the top), not just the name. If the address shown does not agree with the one you are familiar with, **STOP!** Delete it or move it to your trash/spam folder and, if possible, **block**.
- If a **message**, even from a familiar name, sounds odd for **any** reason: **STOP!** Do not reply. Especially if it asks for money, gift cards, etc. Ask yourself: **Am I expecting this message?** Would this person be sending such a message? Is the wording different than you would expect from this person?
- **Never, ever** open an **attachment** in a suspected message. It can cause you unlimited trouble such as downloading malware to your computer (and your friends if you forward the message and the attachment).

If you are unsure, send a separate message to the known sender, include the message (take a screenshot if you can or copy the text but DON'T forward the message itself), and ask if the message is real. If not, they will be happy to know that they have been hacked. Well, not actually happy but ... they can then notify friends that the email is a scam and not to open the suspected message.

- Addresses and websites beginning with **https://** are more secure (that's what the "s" means). Addresses and websites beginning with **http://** are less secure.
- Before scanning **QR codes**, make sure the code has not been tampered with, such as having another code taped over it. Make sure it is from a legitimate source (for instance when the restaurant wait staff give you a QR code to use for their menu).

Last, try not to use QR codes that require you to enter payment information. Ideally you should go directly to the website rather than scanning the code, which can easily be tampered with.

Carol Holzgrafe

Tech Trek

Our Tech Trek team is preparing for the exciting 2025 residential summer STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) camp at UC Davis.

The four Chico middle/junior high schools have submitted the names of 7th grade girls who have demonstrated enthusiasm and academic interest in STEM areas.

The Tech Trek team will interview 22 nominees in March to select six girls to attend the UC Davis Camp in July 2025.

Generous donations from AAUW members and community grants allow us to fund the program costs for the finalists.

Support for Tech Trek provides a unique opportunity for local students to participate in a week-long STEM experience on a university campus. We are proud of the many former trekkers that have gone on to make significant advances in related careers. Tech Trek camp inspires girls to pursue their dreams!

Carol, Pam, Debbie, Marilyn and Katy
AAUW Tech Trek Team

Public Policy/Social Action

For your viewing pleasure—and information—AAUW California offers many webinars on subjects important to branch health and knowledge. I will bring some to your attention in each issue of the *Grapevine*.

Just this week I watched one on the future of reproductive health under the incoming administration and one on help for struggling branches. There are many more worth your time. Think of it as scrolling through Facebook.

Reproductive Rights and Where Do We Go From Here?

The Silicon Valley branch (formerly Palo Alto and Los Altos/Mountain View) invited New York Times staff writer Emily Bazelon to discuss the reproductive issue. She focused on law, women, and family issues, and explored shifts in American jurisprudence—for example, how the Supreme Court’s decision to overturn Roe ([Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization](#)) impacts people seeking abortions. One interesting fact (among others) is that, after the Dobbs decision in June 2022, there have been slightly more abortions rather than fewer. Many of these are because of the two “abortion pills” (mifepristone and misoprostol). However, access to these could be affected by further use of the [1873 Comstock Act](#). Bazelon said that the Act could deny mailing of any such medications, not only through the post office but also private mailing services (Fed Ex, UPS, and others).

[Find most webinars [here](#). Most webinars are in chronological order, though you can sort them in other ways.]

Addressing Branch Challenges

The January 22 webinar on this issue, produced by the state branch support committee, offers help for struggling branches. It is full of excellent and doable ideas for different “struggles.” It is worth our me. Find this and other webinars [here](#).

Carol Holzgrafe

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 9:30 am, depending on the season.

WINE AND WHINE

Carol Holzgrafe (text/email for more information). Meets Wed, Feb 19, @ 5:30 pm at **Wine Time, 26 Lost Dutchman Dr, Chico** (off The Esplanade, just south of Eaton Rd). Good conversation, the best wine list in town (along with non-alcoholic drinks of course). Fascinating food menu to share. Please RSVP, bring friends, visiting relatives, new prospective members...

OUT TO LUNCH

Mary Huntsinger (call/text for location and to make a reservation). Meets 2nd Thur, Feb 13 @ 11:30 am, La Familia Restaurant, 1008 W. Sacramento Ave. **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, Feb 9, @ 2 pm at Lily Loughlin's house. **All writers welcome!**

FOREIGN POLICY DISCUSSION

Jeannie Trizzino (text for more information). Meets 4th Mon, Feb 24, @ 6:30 pm. Meets at Jana Lawton's home. Will discuss *International Climate Cooperation in an Era of Geopolitical Turmoil*. **New members welcome!**

EVENING BOOK DISCUSSION

Elaine Schlinger (text for more information). Meets 2nd Tues, Feb 11, @ 7 pm in a member's home. Will discuss *The Wager* by David Grann.

ETHNIC WRITERS BOOK DISCUSSION

Severance Dolan (call for more information). Meets 4th Wed, Feb 26, @ 10 am in a member's home. Will discuss *The Unwanted: A Memoir of Childhood*, by South Vietnam's Kien Nguyen. Hosted and led by Donna Kemp. **New members welcome!**

FRIDAY BOOK DISCUSSION

Severance Dolan (email for more information). Meets 4th Fri, Feb 28, @ 10 am 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. Led by Sue Raitt. **New members welcome!**

NONFICTION BOOK DISCUSSION

Carol Krok (email for more information). Meets 1st Fri, Feb 7, @ 9.30 am in a member's home for socializing; discussion starts promptly @ 10. **Currently at capacity.**

MYSTERY BOOK DISCUSSION

Lyn Smith (call for more information). Meets 3rd Wed, Feb 19, @ 3 pm in Denise Worth's home. Will discuss *The Children Return* Martin Walker, led by Anne Russell. **New members welcome!**

BRIDGE

Sylvia Hedlind (text/call if interested in joining). Meets 2nd Mon, Feb 10 @ 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, Feb 18, @ 2 pm. Bring your questions.

