



The Chico AAUW Grapvine

American Association of University Women - Chico Branch - Vol. 38 No. 3 NOV 2025

HEADS UP!

OUR NEXT BRANCH MEETING

THURSDAY, NOV. 6, 5 PM-7 PM
CHICO LIBRARY

Our branch partners with *Catalyst Domestic Violence Services* each holiday season to provide gifts for families in need. This month, meet Nat Calcutta and Daryll Woodcock, Children's Advocates, two of their tireless workers and wonderful spokeswomen for the organization. They'll share their mission and update us on their programs.

Catalyst supports survivors of intimate partner and sexual violence in Butte County. In addition to legal, therapy, prevention and education, housing assistance and crisis support via the 24/7 hotline and in person at offices in Oroville and Chico, Catalyst provides confidential emergency shelter to survivors and their children whose safety is at immediate risk.

For over a decade, the Catalyst Adopt-a-Family Program has helped bring the holiday spirit to survivors and their families engaged in their services. Thanks to the generous support and partnership of our caring community, they're able to provide gifts that brighten the season and offer comfort during a challenging time. Donors' involvement makes a profound difference in the lives of survivors, helping them feel seen, supported, and valued throughout the holidays.

Invite a friend and join us. We'll conduct some business and spend some quality time with our fellow AAUW Chico members. Snacks will be provided by the Mystery Book Interest Group.

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.



Chico (CA) branch

Message from the Co-presidents

2025-2026 Branch Leaders

Presidents –
Jana Lawton
Michelle Rasmussen
Membership –
Diane Bird
Susan Critchfield
Lyn Smith
Finance –
Severance Dolan
Secretary –
Beverly McMillan
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
Susan Critchfield
College Scholarships –
Jan Britton
Website –
Helen Gesick
Toni Reid
Historian –
Michelle Rasmussen

Dear Members,

We had another excellent Souper Supper! Thanks to all of you who brought the excellent soups, bread, and desserts. All of the funds raised will go directly to AAUW-National funds. These funds provide scholarships for women seeking masters and Ph.Ds and other higher degrees.

Sondra Murphy, our presenter, provided an excellent presentation about the women's suffrage movement in America and, more specifically, about Annie Bidwell's involvement.

We and AAUW-California are hoping that all of you have voted or will vote soon in the upcoming Nov 4 election. No matter how you vote, It's important to make our collective voices heard.

On November 6 at 5 pm we are having an important meeting with a speaker from the Catalyst women's shelter. This will be an excellent opportunity to sign up to buy gifts for the children and their families at Catalyst.

We are meeting at the library and are very grateful that the Mystery Book Club has volunteered to bring the appetizers.

Also, save the date for the Holiday Party on December 13 at St. John's Episcopal Church's meeting room.

We are hoping that you are able to come and enjoy the AAUW-Chico events. If you need transportation, please let Michelle Rasmussen know by phone or email.

Jana Lawton and Michelle Rasmussen
Co-presidents AAUW-Chico

Membership News

HOLIDAY PARTY

Saturday, Dec. 13, 2pm-4pm

St John's Episcopal Church

2341 Floral Ave



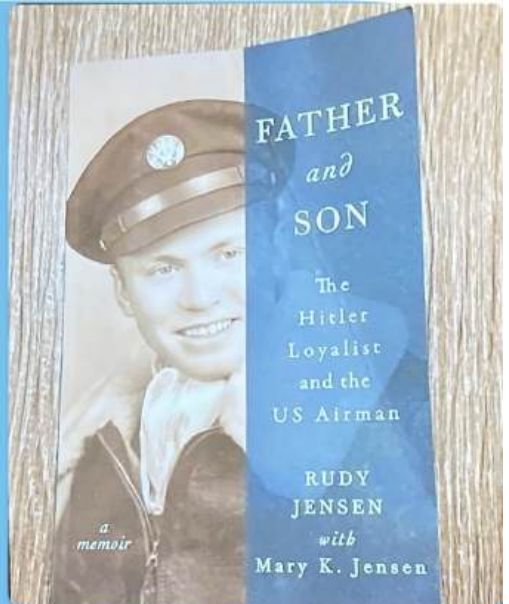
Bring a treat, play trivia bee, and enjoy the holiday camaraderie with other AAUW members from Chico and Paradise. We'll have music, adult beverages, non-alcoholic drinks, and door prizes too!



We will be supporting **Catalyst Domestic Violence Services** once again to help women and children who have experienced violence in the home. Bring your **unwrapped** gift or donation to the party.

CONGRATUATIONS, MARY JENSEN!

Mary Jensen with helpers Helen Gesick and Margaret Swick, recently shared a preview of her latest book, *Father and Son*, a memoir of her late husband Rudy Jensen. The vintage restored photographs, readings from the book and personal anecdotes were enjoyed by a packed room of friends at Mary's residence.



The book is available on Amazon.

Helen Gesick, Margaret Swick, Mary Jensen

Membership News - cont'd

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 share our content, the more likely potential new members will see it on their feeds.



ART BOUTIQUE

Put your holiday shopping dollars to work at this fundraiser for the Chico AAUW scholarship programs.



Saturday, December 6 (10 am-4 pm)

Sunday, December 7 (noon-4 pm)

**The Bell Home, 12555 Meridian Road, Chico,
off Hwy 32 going west from Chico**

Buy fine quality art and handmade goods from local artists at the refurbished home of a pioneer farming family. Enjoy holiday beverages and treats while supporting scholarships for local women and girls.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE ART BOUTIQUE

Proceeds from this fundraiser support not only our scholarship programs but also local women artists who sell their art and handmade goods at this fun event. The Boutique can only succeed with help of AAUW members who help with selling wreaths, welcoming guests, packing purchases, taking payments, and keeping track of sales.

Shifts are 3 hours. If you can help on Dec 6 from 10 to 1 or from 1 to 4 or on Dec 7 from noon to 3, contact Jana Lawton by phone or email.

HOLIDAY SWAGS FOR TECH TREK

This holiday season, Paradise AAUW will sell colorful evergreen decorations like the one pictured here to raise money for our Tech Trek scholarships at \$25 each. There are two ways to purchase.

1. Pick one out at the Holiday Sale at the Art Boutique on December 6-7.
2. Pre-order before Thanksgiving by texting Mary Huntsinger. She will tell you ribbon color options. We will deliver the swag(s) to you after Thanksgiving.

Thank you for your support for our Tech Trek girls!



Membership News - cont'd

HOLIDAY WREATH-MAKING

Saturday, November 29, starting at 10 am

**Joanne Reid's driveway
1970 Bidwell Ave**

Supplies to bring:

- Wire wreath frame
- Paddle of green floral wire
- Wire/floral clippers
- Folding table (if you have one!)
- Garbage bag full of cut greenery to share
- Ribbon/bells/holiday wreath adornments
- A friend!
- No experience needed!

RSVP Joanne Reid



Help Us Recruit!

If you know people who might want to become a member of our branch, invite them to a meeting and/or pass on contact information to aauwchico@gmail.com and we will follow up.

Help us keep our member directory up to date. If you have had a change of address, change of email address, or change of telephone number, send your new information to aauwchico@gmail.com. We will also forward this information to members so their directories will be up to date too.

My neighbors and I have been making our own holiday wreaths for years. Last year, we made an extra 20 wreaths and sold them at the Art Boutique fundraiser and raised quite a bit of money for AAUW. This year, I am encouraging each and every one of you to come make your own holiday wreath or table centerpiece (and maybe one to sell). It's really easy and a lot of fun!

Joanne



Membership News - cont'd

2025-2026 CSUC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

We have received the name of our CSUC Scholarship recipient! She is a math major in the credential program who would like to become a math teacher. Her name is Lena Allbouani from Syria. She sounded delightful during my telephone conversation with her and I look forward to meeting her in person.

Michelle Rasmussen and I will meet with her on November 11. Her story and a photo will appear in the December *Grapevine* newsletter. We have also invited her to an upcoming monthly meeting.

CSUC Scholarship Needs Donations

Donations for the 2026-2027 Scholarship Fund are due by December 8, 2025. (The funds for the following year are always due at the University the December of the prior year.) The Scholarship Committee would be most grateful to receive a check in any amount from our members. Because this check is tax deductible, please make out your check to

University Foundation-CSUC, Chico

Write "AAUW Scholarship" in the memo line

and mail your check to **Severance Dolan, AAUW Treasurer**

Jan Britton

Tech Trek Alumnae Group



To help us move forward with establishing a new Tech Trek Alumnae Group (TTAG), our team is applying for a \$500 micro-grant from CA AAUW to help with expenses such as an easel pad of paper, markers, food, swag, banner, and social activities. Goals of TTAG include building relationships, developing leadership and networking skills, exploring STEM, and supporting student educational and career paths.

We recruited some potential members at the September AAUW brunch and through email. So far, we have 13 students that have expressed interest, plus two local alum that are currently in college and enthusiastic about being mentors. There are also a few parents and AAUW members that said they would be willing to help out with future planning and transportation. If you are interested in becoming involved with TTAG, please email [here](#).

A second round of email and text messages will be sent to Chico Tech Trek Alum currently in grades 8-12 to invite them to a planning meeting/social event on Sunday, Nov 30. Pizza will be provided for lunch, potential TTAG officers will be identified, and tentative events will be discussed for the spring semester. We are excited about establishing partnerships with CSU Chico, Butte College, and professional women in our community with careers in STEM. Additional social events such as visiting the Chico Community Observatory in Upper Park and ice skating in Downtown Chico will be fun ways for the girls to get to know each other better and support local venues.

Debbie Rosenow

Public Policy

Following AAUW CA's Legislative package (some good, some not so good), we have

SB 418—*Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society*. Would prohibit a health service provider from denying coverage for services based on race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex or gender preference/identity/intersex traits, and pregnancy. **Result: vetoed by Governor.**

SB 771—co-sponsored by AAUW. Will clarify existing law to ensure that social media content that incites attacks or violent behavior against a specific community is actionable. **Result: vetoed by Governor.**

SB 669—would require the Dept. of Public Health to establish a five-year pilot project to allow critical access and individual and small system rural hospitals to establish standby perinatal medical services. **Result: Signed by Governor.** (We don't know what effect this will have on Glenn County's recent hospital closure.)

SB 520—would establish a fund to establish the California-based master's degree nurse-midwifery education program. **Result: Signed by the Governor.**

You can find more information on these bills and other bills of concern to AAUW California members by clicking

[AAUW Branch Tools](#), then **Public Policy** (near the top), then **2025 Bill Tracker** (next to the Statute of Liberty). You will see detail on 47 bills.

Ever wonder what other branches outside our area are doing for events supporting AAUW's mission/public policy structure? Here are a few outstanding ones.

- **Monterey Bay** invited Morgan Hill resident and former Ambassador to Ukraine, Stephen Pifer, to speak. After a 25-year diplomatic career, Mr. Pifer is currently a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution's Center on the United States and Europe. His wife, Marilyn Pifer, is a Morgan Hill branch member.
- **Silicon Valley** (formerly Palo Alto and Los Altos/Mountain View) hosted journalist Emily Bazelon on "Reproductive Rights: Where Do We Go from Here?"
- **Benicia/Vallejo** held several events to educate new and continuing voters on issues and to encourage voting.
- **Santa Cruz** raised awareness on human trafficking and another on "Empowering Women's Voices."
- **AAUW National** recently produced a webinar called "Defending Equity in Education: Equity Rollbacks and Curriculum Bans." To watch the recording (highly recommended), enter "AAUW.org webinars" in your search engine's search box. You will have a number of different webinars from which to choose.

Carol Holzgrafe

Line one: "NOT so good" replaces "no so good" SB771 "will clarify" not "will clarifying" AAUW National - ... "To watch the recording (highly recommended) enter [NOT "by entering"]

Public Policy

Need AAUW information? Here's how to find it

About AAUW California: Go to aauw-ca.org to discover toolkits for president, treasurer, and other board positions; the list of exceedingly helpful webinars (really, check it out), everything there is to know about Tech Trek, the state calendar, public policy positions, and much more.

It's easy:

1. Click on [Branch Tools](#) (at the very top of the home page).
2. Choose from the descriptive pictures. Behind each picture you will find several pages, links, and more, to lead you to more details. This is a well-organized and well-run website we should all use. Spend a little time poking around its corners. You will be glad you did.

About AAUW National: An Insider Tip just for you—The fastest way to find information about the National program is to start your search from a search engine such as Google, Bing, Duck Duck Go, and Safari. In the search box, enter what you are looking for followed by “*aauw.org*.” For example, information on the Five-Star Program, a snapshot of your personal membership information (you must be logged in with your password for this), or AAUW's mission statement.

AAUW staff and leaders spend a lot of time trying to give us what we need. AAUW, truly, is a fundamentally valuable organization, working for its members, its states, and the nation—including, of course, the well-being of women and girls.

Carol Holzgrafe

Public Policy

EXPANDING YOUR AAUW HORIZONS



AAUW CA has a huge influence on our National program. We are the largest region with the most members and an active, creative, enthusiastic elected board of directors. Each board position includes a role in a committee to help effect new ideas. Branch Development— (generally membership), finance, public policy, Governance (do you like bylaws?), and, for the computer enthusiast, the Web Team to name a few.

I have been on a number of committees and have led several and enthusiastically encourage you to consider joining one. The commitment is usually just one Zoom session a month. You would work with people new to you, perhaps with different social or career backgrounds. I find these new friends and colleagues invigorating and lots of fun to hang around with.

AAUW Chico has been vastly under-represented in helping AAUW CA do its job improving the lives of our neighbors. Please consider joining our merry bands. Together we can make an important difference.

Carol Holzgrafe

Interest Groups for Fun ... and Learning

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



LES FLÂNEURS

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 3rd Wed, Nov 19 @ 5:30 pm at a new (to us) vibe-filled place. Non-alcoholic drinks always available. Please **RSVP**, bring friends, visiting relatives, and new prospective members.

OUT TO BRUNCH

Mary Huntsinger (call/text for location and to make a reservation). Meets 2nd Thur, Nov 13 @ 10:30 am at the Roost, 817 Main St. **Paradise and Chico branch members welcome!**

WOMEN'S MICROFINANCE

Jana Lawton (call for more information). Semi-annual meetings.

WORDSMITHS

Jana Lawton (call for more information). Meets Sun, Nov 9 @ 2 pm, hosted by Lily Laughlin. **All writers welcome!**

FOREIGN POLICY DISCUSSION

Jeannie Trizzino (text for more information). Meets 4th Mon, Nov 24 @ 6:30 pm. **New members welcome!**

EVENING BOOK DISCUSSION

Elaine Schlinger (text for more information). Meets 2nd Wed, Nov 12 @ 7 pm in a member's home.

ETHNIC WRITERS BOOK DISCUSSION

Severance Dolan (email for more information). Meets 4th Wed, Nov 26 @ 10 am. Will discuss *The Leavers* by Lisa Ko. Please contact Severance for location. **New members welcome!**

FRIDAY BOOK DISCUSSION

Severance Dolan (email for more information). Meets 4th Fri, Nov 24 @ 10 am in Woodoak condominium clubhouse. We will discuss *The Likeness* by Tana French. **New members welcome!**

NONFICTION BOOK DISCUSSION

Carol Krok (email for more information). Meets 1st Fri, @ 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, Nov 19 @ 3 pm, at a member's home. Will discuss *A Man Lay Dead* by Ngaio Marsh. **New members welcome!**

BRIDGE

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

