

**American Association of University Women
Merced Branch**



THE INSIGHTER

**Dena Traina, President
Susan Walsh, Editor**

**December 2019
Volume 84, Number 4
Merced-ca.aauw.net**



President's Message

Happy Holidays! Here we are at the Holiday season and I have already attended two holiday events: my grandson's first choral concert and the Merced Symphony's Holiday Pop's Concert. These were reminders to be thankful for the things and people we have around us. One of the songs Nathan sang had a line about being thankful that a stranger allowed them to change lanes while driving in the car. Now isn't that a nice thought. I am thankful for all of you. To one of our lifetime members, Olivia King that left me the nicest voice mail message thanking our efforts. Olivia, thank you! You made my day.

I am really looking forward to the rest of the year. As you recall, we set out to continue the theme from last year – being involved and giving back to the community. The knitting/crocheting section has been working very hard on this mission and we are nearing the end of our effort for this year. A colleague of mine's wife passed away and he wanted to give her yarn to our group. We decided to do something in her memory so when we found out she was involved in Hospice we asked my colleague to connect us with the group. We thought we would be knitting prayer shawls or something like that, but they requested Angel Baby Blankets. This was very difficult for many of us. But the group was amazing and has crafted about 15 blankets. We are ready to present them to Hospice. If any of you are interested in going to Fresno for the presentation, please let me know.



Also, right around the corner is our Christmas Tea. I am looking forward to seeing all of you. Come browse books depicting our history and enjoy the company of your friends.

Dena Traina AAUW President

*You Are Invited To
The Annual Holiday Tea*



*Please join us for this AAMW Tradition.
We will be sharing our AAMW History Scrapbooks.*

December 8. Sunday. 3 – 5 p.m. 2694 Piedmont Dr., Merced

Members with last names beginning with A - L
bring finger food, desserts, or hors d'oeuvres.

Finger food only please.



**Merced Branch AAUW
2019-2020 Elected Officers**

President

Dena Traina

Vice President Elect

Ruth Wax

Program Vice Presidents

Kim McAuley Chris Cook Joanne Abraham

Membership Vice President

Anita Parker

Treasurer

Carol Landers

Secretary

Emily Archer

EF/LAF

Pauline Cuchna



PROPOSED PROGRAM CALENDAR

December 8 3 – 5 p.m.	<u>Annual Holiday Tea</u> 2694 Piedmont Drive, Merced
January 14, 2020 7 p.m. Seating is limited.	Travelogue on Cuba By Carol Whitehill 2913 Whitegate Dr., Merced Reservations MUST be made with Kim McAuley.
March Date TBA	<u>Women’s Author</u>
May Date TBA	<u>Art Show / Spring Brunch</u>



NEWS FROM THE LUNCH BUNCH

Our Lunch Bunch ladies had a fun time for a lunch at the Thai Star Restaurant in Merced on Thurs. Nov. 21st. We had a good turnout in spite of lots of scheduling challenges due to holiday preparations and travel at this busy time of the year. The roasted duck menu entre was delicious, crispy on the outside and moist on the inside. The Pad Thai dish was a classic dish, not to be overlooked.

We will have our next meeting on Thurs. January 23, 2020 at the Pheasant Run Golf Club Restaurant at 1 pm and carpooling will be preferred. Please call or text Connie if you are interested in attending and starting the new year '20 with a little travel to Chowchilla for lunch. Connie Brons at 209 631 8758.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Julie Parker

2625 E.N. Bear Creek Drive Merced, CA 95340
209-724-0970 juliepparker@comcast.net

Cathy Hofmann

1214 Catalina Drive Merced, CA 95348
209-631-9589 chofmann101@gmail.com

Phaedra Hofmann

1214 Catalina Drive Merced, CA 95348
209-628-4535 phaedrahofmann@gmail.com

NEWS FROM SIERRA TREKKERS

We had a wonderful day hiking the South Grove of the Calaveras Big Trees State Park.



Several Trekkers participated in the Turkey Trot. Pat and [Karen Heinz Levesque Arnold](#) came in first in their divisions, and Heather came in second.



NEW BOOK SECTION STARTING IN LATE JANUARY

All of the current AAUW Book Sections are full. Susan Walsh has volunteered to lead a new book section. If you are interested in joining the new Book Section, contact Susan at drsusanwalsh@yahoo.com

So far, she has heard from Dorothy Y., Susan F., Karen A., Elizabeth W. Please let her know the days of the week / general times you might be available.

The reading list will be determined at the first meeting (TBA), so bring your ideas.
From national AAUW

How the Wage Gap Hurts Women in Retirement By: [Mary Hickey](#)

November 04, 2019

The gender pay gap, which begins as soon women enter the workforce and grows throughout their working life, continues to disadvantage women during their retirement years, according to a new analysis by the American Association of University Women.

The analysis is included in the [2019 update to AAUW's annual report, *The Simple Truth About the Gender Pay Gap*](#), which found:

- Women collect only about 80 percent of what men do in Social Security benefits, a result of the fact that women have earned less than men throughout their life, and therefore have paid less into the Social Security system.
- Women's pension income is only 76 percent of that collected by men.
- Women's overall retirement income, which includes Social Security, pension, interest and dividend income and other sources of income, is only 70 percent of men's retirement income.

“The gender pay gap leaves women economically insecure at a most vulnerable time in life,” said Kim Churches, AAUW's Chief Executive Officer. “A wage gap is unacceptable at any stage of life, but in retirement, it feels particularly egregious. We need to double down on our efforts to close that gap to ensure that women can be as economically secure as their male counterparts, no matter what their age.”

The *Simple Truth* update is based on newly released data from the data U.S. Census Bureau. The new numbers show that 2018, women received just 82 cents for every dollar paid to a man. Women of color often face a wider gap: Compared to white men, Black women make 62 cents on the dollar, and Latinas make 54 cents on the dollar.

AAUW is taking a multi-pronged approach to closing the gender pay gap. On a federal level, AAUW is advocating for the House of Representatives-approved [Paycheck Fairness Act](#). And at the state and local levels, it is working to strengthen and pass new laws promoting equal pay. AAUW is also working with employers to improve practices and to proactively seek out ways to close the gender pay gap, including increasing salary transparency.

Additionally, AAUW works directly with women, training them in leadership and negotiation skills so they can maximize their earning potential. AAUW has teamed up with major cities, including New York, Boston, San Francisco and others, to offer in-person salary negotiation trainings. It also offers [Work Smart Online](#) a **free one-hour course** designed to train women in salary negotiation.

**THANK YOU TO OUR ADVERTISERS FOR
YOUR SUPPORT**



VON GOODIN DDS INC.
Personalized Dental Care

VON GOODIN, DDS

830 WEST OLIVE AVENUE
MERCED, CA 95348

PH: 209-384-3434
FAX: 209-384-8262

www.vongoodin.com

Scott Middleton

209 259-7130 work
209 720-8175 cell
663 Chandon Drive
Merced Ca 95348

MIDDLETON

Handyman Services



Eye2Eye Photostudio
Friedhelm Golz

P: 209 724-0787

C: 209 446-8673

frgolz@yahoo.com

www.eye2eyestudio.com



The Original Bon Ton Cafe in Bear Valley Cajun & Creole. Southern. Barbecue.

7347 Highway North, Bear Valley

209 377-8338

Open Wednesday - Sunday

10 a.m. - 7 p.m.



William Decker, Chef

The Goldsmith

Unique Jewelry • Vintage Pieces
Custom Designing • Jewelry Repair
We buy and sell Gold and Silver

Nick Guerra

1828 Bellevue Rd.
Atwater, CA 95301
(209) 358-6022

HYPNOTHERAPY AND COUNSELING

For Positive Changes



529 W. 19th Street

Merced, CA 95340

conniebrons@yahoo.com

Dr. Constance J Brons, Ed.D., R.N.

Am. Bd. Hypnotherapy ABH #13670
Am. Bd. for Certified Counselors #49343
CA Bd. of Reg. Nursing #260306

(209) 388-1140

phone or fax