

**American Association of University Women
Merced Branch**



THE INSIGHTER

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

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President's Message



Today was the last day of Science Camp. I wish that all of you could have been there. Sometimes you think, are we making a difference? Is this effort worth it? Can we keep affording to put on this camp? Well I have to tell you that today I got the answer to those questions. There is no way we can ever give this up! And you say why?

One mother came up to us after the camp was over to talk to us. She wanted to thank us for putting this on. She described how her daughter had changed over the course of the class. She said that she thought the orientation would be about proper behavior during camp and quickly realized that it was not. At the beginning of the orientation tour the girls were lagging behind and weren't participating. As the camp went on what she described was amazing.



She talked about how their entire conversations had changed. They would leave the camp and drive away and her daughter was noticing all kinds of things in a scientific way that she had never noticed before. She noticed the excitement that each of us showed on our faces as we talked about subjects that we were presenting. Her daughter's conversations with her grandmother had even changed. By the end of the camp, she was asking questions and actively participating in everything we were doing. She also reflected on how she wished that her mother had shown her that there were things like this possible.

So, would I say that we are life changing. Now I KNOW we are.

Without you, this camp would not be possible. To all of the donors, volunteers, presenters and particularly to Joanna Browning, I want to say THANKS!

Join us for the March events – Celebration of the 100th year anniversary of women's right to vote and our day with an author! And if you need a ride to the polling station to vote, give me a call.

Dena Traina AAUW President



AAUW March Program:

Meet Author Bonnie Johnston

On March 28 at 4 p.m. at the Courthouse Museum in the Courtroom, we hear a presentation by *Bonnie Johnston* on writing and how publishing has changed over the years.

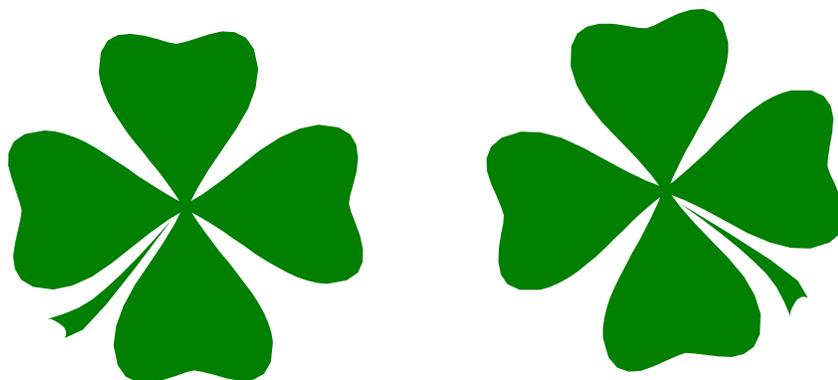
Bonnie Johnston is a member of the Sterling & Stone editorial team and contributor to multiple in-house pen names, with more than two decades experience as a freelance writer and editor.

She teaches authors how to increase the emotional impact of their stories at writessmarternotherharder.teachable.com through courses like *How to Plot a Series that Rocks*, *How to Write Powerhouse Scenes*, and *Story Endings That Satisfy*.

When: Saturday, March 28, at 4 p.m.

Where: Merced Courthouse Museum, Courtroom

What: Author Bonnie Johnston



JOIN AAUW IN CELEBRATING
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

***Beyond Appearance:
Portraits of Merced County Women***
Exhibit Opening at the Courthouse Museum

Merced County Courthouse Museum will open the *"Beyond Appearance: Portraits of Merced County Women"* exhibit on Thursday, March 12 at 5:00 p.m. This year marks the centennial of the 19th Amendment which enfranchised American women.

By studying the portraits of 40 Merced women from the Victorian era to 1920, the exhibit aims to look beyond the appearance of these individuals to learn the stories of their daily struggles. As the driving force behind domestic and social change, they not only showed that "behind every successful man, there is a strong woman" but also underscored their desire for greater gender, social, and political equality.

During the exhibit opening, Dr. Susan Walsh will give a PowerPoint presentation titled "How California Women Won the Vote" at 6:00 p.m. For more information about the exhibit, please contact the Courthouse Museum at 723-2401. Admission to the event is free.

This presentation is co-sponsored by AAUW Merced and the League of Women Voters of Merced County.



AUTHORS COMING TO MERCED...

AUTHOR SERIES Spring 2020



AUTHOR/PHOTOGRAPHER ROBERT DAWSON

February 25, Merced Library, 6:30 pm

"Library Road Trip: Photographing Knowledge"

Dawson's photographic essay books include *The Public Library* and *The Great Central Valley: California's Heartland*. Copies of *The Public Library* will be available for sale and for signing by the author.

Organized by University of California, Merced, and co-sponsored by the Merced County Library and the Friends of the Merced County Library.



February-March **HINTON VISIT PREPARATIONS**

The organizers will hold a **COMMON READ** in conjunction with the visit of the next author, Mr. Anthony Ray Hinton. The University of California, Merced and the Merced County Library will give away at least 500 copies of Mr. Hinton's book FREE beginning on March 2nd. Then they will organize faculty-led community **discussions of the book** during some of the library evening hours at several branches.

AUTHOR STEPHANIE LASKA

March 14, Merced Library, 2:00 pm

A USA Today bestselling author, Stephanie Laska has published several books about her experience losing 140 pounds following a keto-inspired diet. Her books include *Dirty, Lazy Keto: Getting Started*, and the *Dirty, Lazy Keto Cookbook*.

Organized by the Merced County Library and the Friends of the Merced County Library.

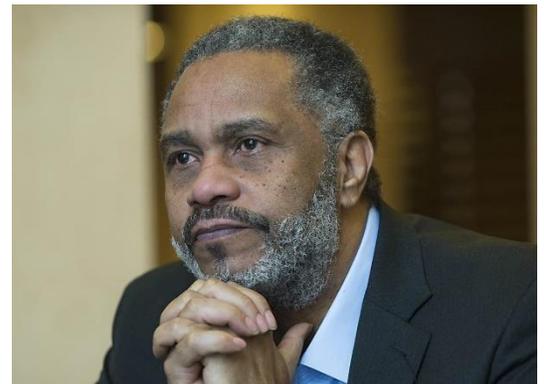
AUTHOR ANTHONY RAY HINTON

April 28, Merced Library, 4:30-6:00 pm

Merced Library will host a book signing.

April 28, Merced Theatre, 7:00 pm

Mr. Hinton spent 30 years on death row in Alabama before being exonerated and released. His memoir, *The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row*, has received national praise and was selected for the Oprah Winfrey Book Club.



Organized by the Friends of the Merced County Library, the University of California Merced, and the Merced County Library. Co-sponsors include Community Foundation of Merced County, the Merced County NAACP, and the Atwater-Merced Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Organized by the Friends of the Merced County Library and the Merced County Library.

MORE INFORMATION ON THE ANTHONY RAY HINTON VISIT

From the Friends of the Merced County Library Newsletter...

The Friends of the Merced County Library, the UC Merced Center for the Humanities, and the Merced County Library are pleased to announce that author Anthony Ray Hinton will visit Merced.

Mr. Hinton's book will be the focus of a "community read," and free copies of his book will be available at every branch of the Merced County Library and at the UC Center for the Humanities starting March 2nd. Library card holders can request a free copy at local branches while supplies last. Additionally, community book discussions will be held at 6:30 pm at several branches from March 24th through April 22nd. The discussions will be led by UC faculty and informed community members, and anyone interested in Mr. Hinton's book are welcome.

Ask at the County Library or ask a Friend of the Merced County Library to share their newsletter for details.

The community read and subsequent book discussions culminate on April 28th with a book signing by Mr. Hinton from 4:30-6:00 p.m. at Merced Library, followed by his keynote address at the Merced Theater at 7:00 p.m., doors open at 6:30 p.m. The theater event is free, but a ticket is required for admission. Tickets will be available starting April 2nd at the Merced County Library, the Merced Theatre, the Merced Multicultural Arts Center, and the UC Center for the Humanities.

Co-sponsors of Mr. Hinton's visit and the community read include the School of Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts at UC Merced, the Community Foundation of Merced County, the Merced County NAACP, and the Atwater-Merced Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Through the combined efforts of the Friends, the Library, UC Merced, and these organizations, this sequence of events will bring together many community members, put a nationally acclaimed book into their hands, and offer them the opportunity to meet an author who has surmounted the direst of circumstances.



The New Book Section Has Started

And there is room for more readers. Group members decided the books read will include fiction and non-fiction genres. Our first book is *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek*. We will be discussing this book and choosing the next books to read at our next meeting, March 3, at 4 p.m. at 1715 Mondo Drive, Merced. Call 209 756-1473 for information.

MORE PHOTOS OF SCIENCE CAMP





**Happy 100th Birthday
Leona Sherwin!**

TAKE TIME TO VOTE

March 3 is the date of the 2020 Primary Election. This election is not only for partisan national and state nominees, it is also the election for supervisorial districts and bonds and initiatives.



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