

AAUW

THE INSIGHTER

OCTOBER 2020

VOLUME 85, NUMBER 2

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THE NEXT NEWSLETTER SHOULD ARRIVE BY THE 1ST OF NOVEMBER. IF YOU HEAR OF A MEMBER THAT HAS NOT RECEIVED ONE, PLEASE CALL DENA TRAINA AT 209.777.5227



WEBSITE

Through this time when the Coronavirus is keeping us apart, it is even more important for our website to be a place where we can connect. Please visit our website <https://merced-ca.aauw.net/> regularly for information about Zoom programs and activities.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



DEAR FELLOW AAUW MEMBERS,

I don't know about you, but I'm feeling a bit like a survivor lately. Think about all we have been through (in just the last month): record-breaking heat, devastating wildfires and resulting horrible air quality, a continued and ever more deadly pandemic, highly contentious political campaigns, and now, the death of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Regardless of your politics, I hope we can all agree that Justice Ginsburg was one phenomenal woman. I have heard her described as a "tiny giant". She does leave enormous shoes to fill. She was a woman of incredible courage, unmistakable intelligence, and a strong sense of fairness—a true trailblazer. We owe so many of our rights as women to her tireless efforts on our behalf. I feel the best way to honor her legacy is by voting.

Speaking of voting, our October program is about just that. Mark your calendars for Thursday, October 1 at 4:00 P.M. We will be having a Zoom conversation with Barbara Levy, the Merced County Registrar of Voters. Many thanks to those who were able to attend our September program with Dr. Kristynn Sullivan, Supervising Epidemiologist for Merced County. What an informative hour! Dr. Sullivan shared information regarding our county's statistics, explained the Governor's color-coded tier system, and dispelled many rumors. She also answered some excellent questions presented by our members. If you missed it, you can find the recording of our meeting on our website. (See Page 3)

As we transition from summer to autumn, I hope we all can spend more time outside (air quality permitting) enjoying the beauty and the bounty of nature. I've smiled at needing a sweatshirt on recent morning walks. Wishing you all a joyful month. Reach out, call a friend or drop a note to someone who might be lonely or isolated. Remember, "Connection is protection".

Stay well,
Ruth Wax



SORRY YOU MISSED THE SEPTEMBER PROGRAM? IT IS NOT TOO LATE.

AAUW DEDICATES FIRST ZOOM MEETING TO COVID-19 IN MERCED COMMUNITY

On September 9th, AAUW members logged onto Zoom to hear from Dr. Kristynn Sullivan, Epidemiologist for Merced County. Dr. Sullivan has many responsibilities including collecting and issuing the data on COVID-19 cases in Merced County, the mobile testing sites, investigations of COVID-19 outbreaks and accreditation. Interesting fact: Merced County is the first county in the San Joaquin Valley to achieve accreditation of its Public Health Department.

Dr. Sullivan described the Governor's new four-color tier system and how Merced County—which is in the bottom tier—can move up which will allow for the easing of restrictions on gatherings, schools, etc. Dr. Sullivan stressed the importance of having our number of cases, especially positive cases, reduced so that we can move up a tier. To do so, she encouraged the practices we know, but don't always follow: wearing masks, not participating in large gatherings, social distancing. She especially urged the listeners to avoid large gatherings which

have been responsible for much of the virus transmission.

One of the best parts of the meeting was the opportunity for participants to ask Dr. Sullivan questions. She answered questions about vaccines, flu shots (get one!), testing and on and on.

Want to see what you missed? There is a recording of the meeting located on the AAUW website. Check it out here!

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/Kxr3gd3NOFABE2VAyz0TQ9PAI8iBRU015XDcJiTqol5RXGIGgeBedSacRmrLB5y1.Ub9sagu-A2qtUP_4

Passcode: %S8#g#P4

“You should never view your challenges as a disadvantage. Instead, it's important for you to understand that your experience facing and overcoming adversity is actually one of your biggest advantages.”

Michelle Obama, Former First Lady of the United States



VOTING IN MERCED COUNTY

Special Zoom Program with Barbara Levy, County Assessor – Registrar of Voters

October 1, 2020 at 4:00 pm.

Topic: November Election

Time: October 1, 2020 04:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Mark your calendars! Thanks to the tireless efforts of Sue Chappell, we were able to secure Barbara Levy, the County Registrar of Voters for a Zoom event.

Look forward to a discussion about voting in November such as: what is the deadline to register in the upcoming election?; when to expect your Vote by Mail Ballot; Voter Assistance Centers, and ballot drop boxes (for those that prefer not to send by USPS).

Topic: AAUW VOTING PROGRAM

Time: Oct 1, 2020 04:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8224372966?pwd=UUF0OXREdmdjNWw1UVkwRk52S1JEZz09>

Meeting ID: 822 437 2966

Passcode: Testing

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,8224372966#,,,,,0#,,286874# US (San Jose)

+12532158782,,8224372966#,,,,,0#,,286874# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

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+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 822 437 2966

Passcode: 286874

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8224372966?pwd=UUF0OXREdmdjNWw1UVkwRk52S1JEZz09>



SECTIONS

Sections continue to be a vital part of our organization. Many of our sections are meeting via video-conferencing and can accept more members now because there are no constraints on the number of people that can fit in one's home, so consider signing up for more groups! We would love to see you. Write or call Becky Tietjen to join a section at (559) 909-1520 or frautietjen@yahoo.com

Adopt-a-Highway: Chair - Colleen Eisberg 725-9082 eisberg@sbcglobal.net

Become a part of the group of volunteers who clean up the AAUW stretch of Hwy.140 on the way to Mariposa. The group goes out early on a Saturday morning four times a year. Watch your newsletter or email for times and dates.

Almost Gourmet: Chair - Karen Wallace 722-5289 the.wallaces@comcast.com

Couples gather for four dinners a year. This group is closed.

Book Section 1: Chair - Linda Douglas 769-2616 imdouglas@hotmail.com

Meets the first Monday of the month at 2:00 p.m. from October through May at a member's home. Members read a fiction or non-fiction book of their choice and different reviewers share a favorite book each month. Once a year we do a group read. This group is closed.

Book Section 2: Chair - Needed

Currently there are no openings in the other book sections. This is your opportunity to start a new section! Meeting time and day of the month - to be determined. We will help you get this group up and running.

Book Section 3: Chair - Sharon Wainwright sharonlwa@comcast.net

Members meet the first Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. all year at a member's home and enjoy brunch or snacks. We select a book to read and one person leads the discussion. All are encouraged to read the book and participate in the discussion. This group is closed. **Currently meeting via ZOOM**

Book Section 4 (Evening Book Group): Chair Dee Near 723-9007 neard@comcast.net

Meets the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at a member's home. This group has been meeting for 20 years. Everyone reads the same book and discusses it. A wide variety of genres are read. All are welcome. This section meets August through May. **Since we are meeting via ZOOM, everyone is welcome.**

Bridge Couples: Chair - Carol Hamm 383-4705 cjhamm@comcast.net

Meets the second Friday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Subs are welcome. This section meets from October through May. Regulars and subs are welcome. **Suspended pending a vaccine/participant comfort level. New members are welcome.**

Bridge Singles: Chair - Julia Larson 722-2628

Meets the third Monday of the month at 1:00 p.m. The group rotates between members' homes. Dessert is offered. Subs are welcome. This section meets October through May.

Bunko: Chair - Cheryl Burke - 726-8481 cdinesburke@gmail.com

Meets the fourth Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. There is a lot of lively interaction for the 12 members of this group. Subs are welcome. This section

meets September through May with no meeting in December. **Suspended through Covid**

Chocoholics: Chair - Diana Alexander 388-9690 dianaalex51@sbcglobal.net

Meets the third Wednesday of the month at members' homes at 7:00p.m. from October through May. Members should be prepared to either host or co-host one meeting per year. They prepare a special chocolate dish for the event. **New members welcome. They have been zooming.**

Dining for Women: Chair - Jane Guerra 723-0384 nickandjane@guerra.net

Meets the first Monday of the month at 6:00p.m. at a member's home for a potluck dinner. Money is donated in the amount that would have been spent on a restaurant dinner to the organization featured each month. The mission is to empower women and girls living in extreme poverty by funding programs that foster good health, education, and economic self-sufficiency. Members become educated to various needs of women living in poverty around the world and participate in collective giving to make a positive difference. This group meets September through June. Members are asked to host or co-host one dinner. **Meeting via Zoom during Covid. New members are welcome.**

Knitting and Crocheting: Chair - Dena Traina 777-5227 traina.dena@gmail.com

Meets the second Wednesday of the month at a member's home between 6:00-8:00 p.m. Beginners and experienced knitters/crocheters are welcome. Refreshments provided. This section meets all year. **We will be meeting via ZOOM. New members are welcome.**

Lunch Bunch: Chair - Connie Brons 385-3837 conniebrons@yahoo.com

Meets the fourth Thursday of the month at 1:00 p.m. at various restaurants. Members are notified by email as to the location. Be sure to RSVP by contacting Connie to ensure a reservation. This section meets all year round. **Suspended due to Covid. New members are welcome.**

Quasi-Epicures: Chair - Holly Zacharias 722-4428 hwzacharias@gmail.com

Members are notified by email to dine out at a local restaurant and see a play at Playhouse Merced on Saturday evenings. This section meets October through May or June. **On hold because of Covid**

Sierra Trekkers: Chair - Judy Smith 777-5345 sierratrekker@comcast.net

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month all at 7:00 p.m. at various members' homes (except in December). The September planning meeting maps out the tentative dates for hikes during the year. Hikes usually occur once per month. The emphasis is on hiking - - some easy, some moderate & occasionally a more strenuous trail. Weather permitting, a snowshoe hike in the winter months can be planned. The group occasionally travels for overnight /weekend adventures. One longer trip is scheduled each a year to one of our national parks.

Theater Goers: Chair - Robyn Farnsworth 382-0548 yaya4three@gmail.com

Members will see 5-6 plays during the year on Sunday afternoons. This section meets August through May. **Will start up again as soon as theater schedule is published. New members are welcome**

Wine and Cheese: Chair - Colleen Eisberg 725-9082 eisberg@sbcglobal.net Meets the last Friday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at various members' homes. The hostess and co-hostess determine the theme and prepare a selection of cheese and hors d'oeuvres. Spouses are welcome. This section meets September through May with no meeting in November or December



MEMBER NEWS



Sharon Spinardi: Our deepest condolences on the death of her husband Rich Gipson. He will be missed very much in our community.

Pauline Cuchna: Best wishes for a speedy recovery for her husband Mike who recently underwent open heart surgery.

Jane Lawrence: Jane's husband recently underwent a single lung transplant at Stanford. At the printing of this newsletter he is in ICU but doing well.

Dena Traina: Dena just got back from volunteering at the Creek Fire. She served as a Safety Assessment Program volunteer looking at residences to make sure they could be safely inhabited. Look forward to a presentation of this effort in the months to come.

If you have any news about an AAUW member, please feel free to contact Dena, our newsletter editor; or Ruth, our president.

COVID-19: A CONTINUING THREAT

As we enter another season during the pandemic, it's worth reiterating that AAUW's top priority is keeping our members safe. Please continue to pay close attention to your governor and mayor for specific instructions. Some general advice and information:

We urge affiliates to host gatherings virtually for the foreseeable future. For outreach with **any** physical component — such as AAUW Greensboro's drive-through voter registration pictured here — ensure you're complying with public health guidance. Note how the branch leaders in the photo are keeping socially distant, masked and outdoors to minimize risk.

AAUW National will not return to in-person work or events until at least 2021. But we're as dedicated as always to advancing equity for all. You can help us serve you better by directing any matters requiring our attention to connect@aauw.org rather than calling or mailing.



Fundraising and advocacy are more important than ever. Heading into a pivotal election, we're working hard to expand voter access and ensure equity shapes next year's national agenda. For those able to [donate](#) during this challenging time, giving online will allow your dollars to go the furthest, fastest. And we encourage branches to get creative with virtual fundraising.

“Voting is the most precious right of every citizen, and we have a moral obligation to ensure the integrity of the process.” *Hillary Clinton*

AAUW TAKES A STAND



- Prop 14 – Stem Cell Research (access to quality health care)
- Prop 15 – Property Taxes (funding for education)
- Prop 16 – Affirmative Action (educational opportunity; social justice)
- Prop 17 – Voting for Parolees (expansion of voting rights)
- Prop 18 – Voting at 17 (encourages voting)
- Prop 21 – Rent Control (affordable housing)
- Prop 25 – Cash Bail (social & economic justice)

AAUW ADVOCATES FOR PROTECTING THE POSTAL SERVICE & OUR DEMOCRACY

Enough is enough—the U.S Senate must act to protect the U.S. Postal Service & our democracy.

Our democracy works when everyone can fully participate – but the pandemic is limiting what we can do safely. The need for mail-in voting has never before been more important than it is today to ensure a safe, fair and accessible election. But access to vote by mail is simply not enough for the tens of millions of Americans expected to vote. We must ensure the U.S. Postal Service can meet the demands of our COVID-driven reality.

The Speaker of the House recalled members from summer recess to vote on the bipartisan Delivering for America Act. Passed in the evening hours of August 22, the bill would prohibit the U.S. Postal Service from implementing any changes to operations or level of service provided until the COVID-19 pandemic has ended. The bill also would provide the \$25 billion requested by the U.S. Postal Service in July, to make up for pandemic-related losses. The House did their job in passing the Delivering for America Act. It’s now in the hands of the Senate to do their job as well.

We cannot afford to wait – [tell your Senators](#) to protect the U.S. Postal Service and ensure a safe, fair and accessible 2020 Election for all!



OUR SUPPORTERS

HYPNOTHERAPY AND COUNSELING
For Positive Changes



529 W. 19th Street
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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



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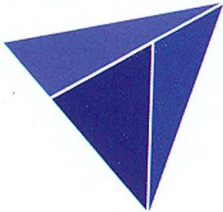


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Chef William Decker presents



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Menu on Facebook

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Custom Designing • Jewelry Repair
We buy and sell Gold and Silver

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Atwater, CA 95301
(209) 358-6022



CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

MERCED COUNTY



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Jim Connor, Learn to Read
jconnor@LearnToReadOnline.org
<https://learntoreadonline.org/>

American Association of University Women

Merced Branch Membership 2020-2021

Please complete and submit the entire form (even if you are an honorary life member) and return with your dues. This is necessary to ensure that you are listed accurately with National, in the directory and on newsletter mailings. **Deadline was June 30 but please still join us and add the late fee to your membership dues.**

Make your check payable to Merced AAUW and mail to:

Anita Parker, 2814 San Juan Court, Merced, CA 95340.

Please note: Failure to renew will exclude you from section participation in 2020-2021.

Is your contact information listed correctly in the AAUW Directory? Yes ___ No ___

Please note corrections below.

___ *My contact information is not in the Directory, please include as listed.*

MEMBER INFORMATION

Name:

Last Name, First Name

Middle Initial

Address:

Street

City

Zip

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Cell Phone

Email:

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Regular Branch Member **\$88**

(Assoc. \$59 (\$56 which is tax deductible), State \$20, Branch \$9)

Honorary Life Member **\$0**

(No Fees)

Association Life Member **\$29**

(Assoc. \$0, State \$20, Branch \$9)

Scholarship Donation \$ _____

Science Camp donation \$ _____

Late Fee (after July 1) \$2

Date _____ Check # _____ Amount \$ _____

Members starting after directory was printed:

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