

# AAUW

## THE INSIGHTER

NOVEMBER 2020

VOLUME 85, NUMBER 3

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PG. 2

President's Message

PG. 3

October Program Recap

PG. 4

November Program

PG. 5

Sections

PG. 6

Member and Section News

PG. 7

Around the State and Nation

PG. 8

Our Supporters

PG. 9

Directory Additions



THE NEXT NEWSLETTER SHOULD ARRIVE BY THE 1<sup>ST</sup> OF DECEMBER. 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 cannot believe we are more than halfway through October! Although sometimes the days seem to drag, the weeks and months certainly do fly by! I hope you are continuing to stay safe and healthy, even though we are probably all getting quite weary of our social limitations. For most of us, COVID-19 has been a definite inconvenience, but there are certainly many for whom this has been a very serious problem. Many people have lost a job, or much worse, a loved one. The inconvenience of not being able to hug someone who is dear to us or see them

As November approaches, I think we all hope to see friends and family at Thanksgiving. After seven long months of isolation, however, this is no time to let down our guard. Let's remain vigilant and stay as safe as possible. Hopefully, we all remember the wise advice from Dr. Sullivan in September when she reminded us of the importance of social distancing, washing our hands, and wearing a mask. More recently, Dr. Fauci reiterated these same sound words

I believe it's safe to say that another vital issue on most peoples' minds right now is the presidential election. Voting in 2020 is like so many other things we have been forced to do this year...unprecedented and nothing at all like normal times. Thanks to Barbara Levey, our County Registrar of Voters, we received much helpful and vitally important information at our Zoom meeting earlier this month.

November's program will focus on Children's Literacy. We are fortunate to have one of our own members, Susan Walsh, as our presenter. We hope you can join us on November 19 as Susan, a former librarian and early adopter of the "Little Free Libraries", will offer many useful tips and words of advice on ways to get more books into the hands of children in our community. Details of this program are in this newsletter. I look forward to seeing you at our Zoom program. In the meantime, stay strong, stay smart, stay safe!

Respectfully submitted, Ruth Wax





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

### AAUW OCTOBER ZOOM MEETING TO ADDRESS VOTING IN MERCED COUNTY



On October 1st, AAUW members logged onto Zoom to hear from Barbara Levy, Registrar, discuss voting in Merced County. Ms. Levy described how this year is different than other years.

Meeting Recording:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/7PL7gFh0ldAb4WCnwKgzzb00A6XMhJ2JWTwk8fWK7JVn5\\_03VDqJ9jL98jhZfZK2.wxUJxOrQfdLpl9gp](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/7PL7gFh0ldAb4WCnwKgzzb00A6XMhJ2JWTwk8fWK7JVn5_03VDqJ9jL98jhZfZK2.wxUJxOrQfdLpl9gp)

Access Passcode: 7t2b!bjn

Did you know that our ballots were printed in Washington State?

Did you know that there are voter assistance stations?

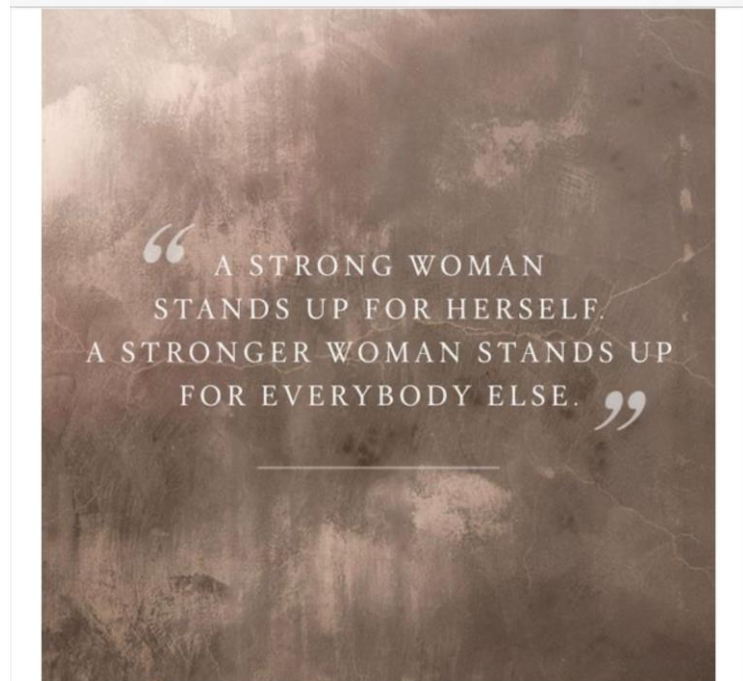
Where are the voter drop-off sites?

How do you track your ballot to see where it is in the process?

All of this and more was discussed during the very informative meeting and the best thing is that it was recorded.

One of the best parts of the meeting was the opportunity for participants to ask Ms. Levy questions.

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



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



## LITERACY IN MERCED COUNTY

Special Zoom Program with Dr. Susan Walsh – Literacy Advocate

Topic: Literacy

Time: **NOVEMBER 19TH – 5:00 PM** Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Do you know the percentage of students in Merced County Schools proficient at grade level reading?

Are English language arts test scores in Merced County Schools getting better or worse?

What does literacy mean to our families, to our children and the economic status of our county?

Have you heard about Read WOKE? 1000 Books Before Kindergarten?

Little Free Libraries? The Merced County Library Summer Reading Program? Learn to Read Online? Read and Succeed?

How do we play a role in improving literacy in our community?

Susan Walsh is an educator, librarian, and library advocate, as well as a decades-long member of AAUW. Join us as she talks about one of the most important educational, social, and economic challenges in our county: literacy.

Topic: LITERACY BY DR. SUSAN WALSH

Time: **NOVEMBER 19TH – 5:00 PM**

Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85876991397?pwd=OEJtYmMzZUN5QjBMWXphZS9laWIZQT09>

Meeting ID: 858 7699 1397

Passcode: 671885

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,85876991397#,,,,,0#,,671885# US (San Jose)

+13462487799,,85876991397#,,,,,0#,,671885# US (Houston)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 822 437 2966

Passcode: 286874

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kbE4tUX8t>



## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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**

**Chocololics:** Chair - Diana Alexander 388-9690 [dianaalex51@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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

**Pauline Cuchna:** Pauline's husband Mike is on the mend. Word has it that there was a recent sighting of Mike on the Sunrise Rotary Meeting!



## SECTION NEWS

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:

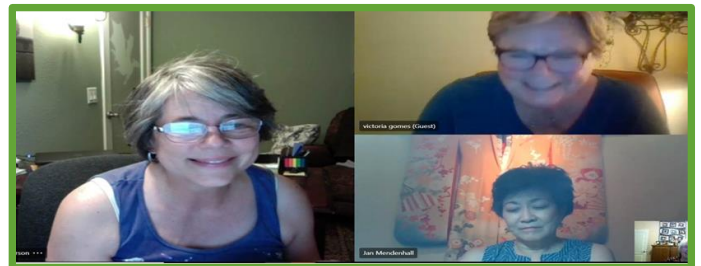
**Book Group Section III.** Thanks to the supportive tech help from Linda Lucas, our Book Group, Section III, started using Zoom in July. Working through a bit of a learning curve, we have all become quite proficient. We've had as many as 15 members attending and our lowest was our first meeting with nine. We engage in a large amount of 'non-book' time to keep caught up with each other's lives and that of our extended families before we begin discussing our book. Each month, our members offer suggestions for future books and that is what I want to share today. During this time of limited socializing, a good book becomes a good friend. Here are a few titles that we've been reading and a few others that have been suggested:

- The Library Book – about the burning and restoration of the L.A. City Library, in 1986 – but also about the history of libraries in our country.
- The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek – Rural Kentucky and the history of library books delivered on horse and mule by single women braving the rugged mountain trails
- My Lovely Wife in the Psych Ward – how does a family cope with mental illness and hang on to it's love and maintain its structure.
- The Women of the Copper Country – Women leading a strike in the Calumet Mining Company town near the frozen shores of Lake Superior in 1913.
- The Vanishing Half – Two twin sisters, one passing as white, lead different lives in a racial world.

**Jane Lawrence:** Jane's husband Pope whom some of you might know from his excellent wooden bowls, is one month out from his lung transplant and we are pleased to let you know that he is doing fabulously. A couple more months in Palo Alto and he will be home. If you would like their contact information, please give Dena Traina a call.

- A Long Petal of the Sea – Isabel Allende's latest – From Franco's Spanish Civil War to life in Chile under Pinochet – a history lesson and a lesson on love and survival.

We hope one of these may appeal to you and offer a path away from the confusing world we find ourselves in today. Book suggestions from others is always welcome. Good Reading to you all.



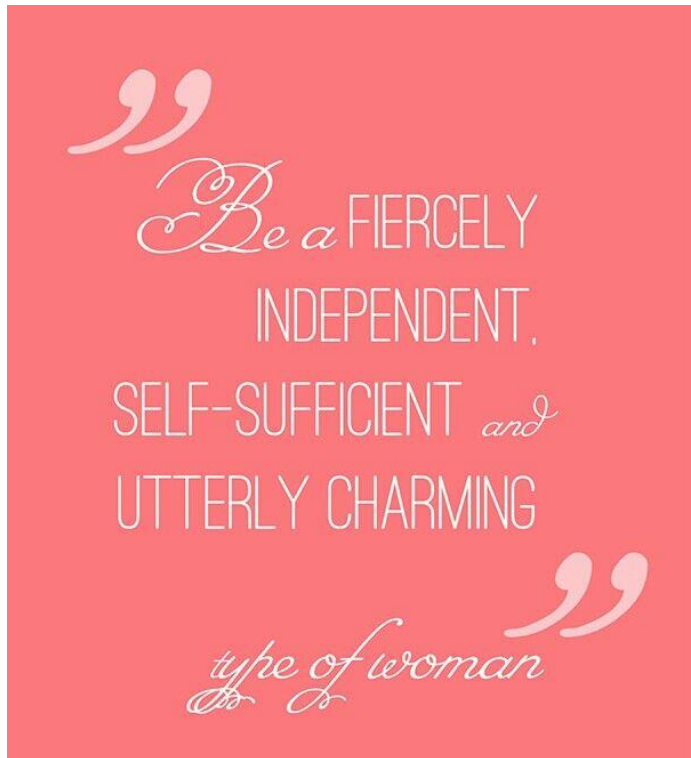
**Knitting, Crocheting and Textile Group** – The section is continuing to meet on videoconferencing. Our projects are still progressing, some slowly and some more quickly. It is nice to catch up every month and see how the group is doing, with virtual fundraising.

**Book Group Section 4** – No photos of Book Section 4 zooming, but we have been meeting at our regular time the fourth Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. Kelly Bentz has a paid zoom account so our discussions can last longer than 40 minutes! Our September read was the novel Abigail by Magda Szabo. Set in Hungary during the Second World War it tells the story of a teenage girl sent to a strict religious boarding school by her father in order to keep her safe. Everyone enjoyed reading it. Our October read will be Dancing with Bees by Brigit Strawbridge Howard. That discussion will be held Oct. 22. We are open to more members since we can fit many people in our virtual living room! Contact Dee Near. [Neard@comcast.net](mailto:Neard@comcast.net) if you wish to join.



## AAUW ESTABLISHING PRIORITIES

AAUW is in the process of establishing priorities for the organization moving forward. The officers recently received a questionnaire asking if the current policies should be kept, revised or deleted. Here is a sampling of those priorities.



### **Priority A – To achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women**

- Pay equity, fairness in compensation and benefits, and economic justice.
- Equitable access and advancement in employment, through vigorous enforcement of employment anti-discrimination statutes, including age discrimination.
- Policies that support work-life balance, including medical leave, family leave, quality and affordable child and dependent care.

### **Priority B – To support a strong system of high-quality public education**

- Vigorous enforcement of federal Title IX and all other federal and California civil rights laws pertaining to education.
- Protection of programs that meet the needs of girls and women in all levels of education and fields of study, including sexual health education and athletics.

### **Priority C – To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society, AAUW advocates**

- Vigorous enforcement of and full access to civil and constitutional rights, including affirmative action and expanding voting rights
- Self-determination of one's reproductive health decisions
- Universal access to quality, affordable health care and comprehensive family planning services, including expansion of patients' rights

## AAUW WEBINAR

### Latinas and the Pay Gap

**November 17**      [Webinar: Status of Latinas in the U.S.](#)

October 29 is Latina Equal Pay Day. Because of the gender pay gap, Latinas were compensated 55% of what non-Hispanic white men were paid in 2019. That means it takes Latina workers almost an entire extra year of full-time, year-round work to be paid the average annual earnings of white men.

### **Applications for 2021–22 Fellowships and Grants Now Open**


Do you know any women pursuing postgraduate studies, furthering their careers, or working on a program to benefit women and girls? Point them to our [fellowships and grants applications](#). Deadlines run from November to December.





## OUR SUPPORTERS

**HYPNOTHERAPY AND COUNSELING**  
For Positive Changes



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

conniebrons@yahoo.com  
(209) 631-8758



**VON GOODIN, DDS**

830 WEST OLIVE AVENUE      PH: 209-384-3434  
MERCED, CA 95348      FAX: 209-384-8262

[www.vongoodin.com](http://www.vongoodin.com)

**LE JARDINIÈRE**

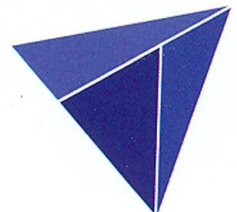
Ruth Wax  
Master Gardener

- Consulting/Designing
- Planting/Pruning/Fertilizing

209-617-5226  
ruthjwax@gmail.com



**W C W Solutions Inc.**  
We Get It Done




**Susan E. Walsh, Ed.D.**  
Partner

SusanWalsh@WalshCassadyWalsh.com  
209 756-1473  
WWW.WALSHCASSADYWALSH.COM

- Organizational Evaluation
- Staff Development
- Stakeholder Facilitation
- Accreditation Management

*Chef William Decker presents*



**JOY OF THE SOUTH**

Take Out / Catering  
209 446-8321  
1513 W. Main Street, Merced  
Menu on Facebook

### 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



**CASA**  
Court Appointed Special Advocates  
**FOR CHILDREN**

---

**MERCED COUNTY**



A new way to provide reading instruction to children: an **online curriculum** with a series of workbooks, a **video lesson** for each page, a **live online reading coach**.

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



Members starting after directory was printed:

Belinda Braunstein  
3558 San Vincent Ave.  
Merced, CA 95348  
383-7547 Cell- 805-341-0284  
[ucmteacher@gmail.com](mailto:ucmteacher@gmail.com)

Carol Kellogg  
2039 Robin Hood Lane  
Merced, CA 95340  
722-9634 Cell- 777-2739  
[carol.kellogg@gmail.com](mailto:carol.kellogg@gmail.com)

Emily Langdon  
2883 Forist Lane  
Merced, CA 95340  
384-3045 Cell 386-3824  
[ctneal01@comcast.net](mailto:ctneal01@comcast.net)

Linda-Anne Rebhun  
1154 Inspiration Point Ct.  
Merced, CA 95340  
725-9557  
[lrebhun@ucmerced.edu](mailto:lrebhun@ucmerced.edu)

Ardene Shaeffer  
1876 Gettysburg Ave.  
Merced, CA 95340  
631-5898  
[qwestie@comcast.net](mailto:qwestie@comcast.net)