

AAUW

THE INSIGHTER

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PG. 2

President's Message

PG. 3

November Program Recap

PG. 4

December 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 1ST OF JANUARY. 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,

At the risk of being redundant, I hope you are all remaining safe and healthy. As “pandemic fatigue” worsens, it’s only natural to be tempted to ignore safety guidelines. My advice—DON’T! Progress is being made toward a vaccine, but in the meantime, let’s do our part!

Recently, I read that practicing gratitude is most helpful in alleviating stress. Another way to look at it is, the best way to forget your troubles is to help someone else with theirs! Well, AAUW members, you’re in luck, because that is the focus of our December Virtual Tea. We certainly plan to have fun and share goodies, but there will also be a purpose to our gathering in December.

Please save this date:

Monday, December 14 from 5:00 PM-6:00 PM

Via Zoom (invitation to follow)

RSVP by December 7 to have surprise goodies delivered to your door to enjoy during our get together. You certainly can join us on the 14th without an RSVP, however, we need to know how many treats to provide, so the early bird gets the proverbial worm.

We will have several members provide details about donations to some of the many worthy charities/nonprofits in our area. We are all so fortunate to have a roof over our heads, enough food to eat, warm clothing for winter, etc. Not everyone is this lucky, so, let’s spread some joy this holiday season. I hope to see you on December 14, if not before.

Respectfully submitted, Ruth Wax



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

AAUW NOVEMBER ZOOM MEETING TO ADDRESS LITERACY IN MERCED COUNTY



On November 19th, AAUW members logged onto Zoom to hear Susan Walsh discuss literacy in Merced County. Dr. Walsh described the state of literacy in the County.

Did you know that about 2 in 5 cannot read?

\$225 billion each year

is the cost to the US economy.

Students that are not proficient by 3rd grade are 4 times more likely to leave high school without a diploma.

Do you know that 18-25% of 8th graders do not go on to high school?

75% of state prisoners in California did not complete high school.

What can you do?

If you want to know more, check it out here.

Meeting Recording:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/CfHTICmYT11FmzLZUFdMpuSQAAPvSvFKwplyuBLMeBaETFcpuhPY18s3Tkyrrii.O-iGmrgH18YQLvko>

Access Passcode: D?4@b5oL



“Reading, literacy and learning are fundamentally important to establishing strong and stable democracies. Visit your local public library and expand your mind.”

Jennifer Ritchie Payette



CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY SEASON

AAUW Merced would not be the same without our Holiday Tea. This year we will be going virtual with the tea for the first time ever. Sound like it is not possible? Well the Board is serving you again this year. They will be making cookies and delivering them to you in a safe social distancing way. **All you need to do is RSVP by December 7th to Ruth Wax at ruthjwax@gmail.com or call (209) 617-5226.**

Topic: AAUW VIRTUAL TEA

Time: Dec 14, 2020 05:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8224372966?pwd=NkRGeFIOVTV1MVR6ZDVoQ0ZLNhKUT09>

Meeting ID: 822 437 2966

Passcode: 929436

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,8224372966#,,,,,0#,,929436# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 822 437 2966

Passcode: 929436

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kpE004U1V>



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 jane@guerraville.com

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

Any member news you feel like sharing? Forward to Dena Traina at traina.dena@gmail.com From our own Dee Near:

UMW's 90th Annual Bazaar Goes Virtual
Shop online and then pick up in person.

www.auctria.com/auction/UMW-Holiday-Bazaar

Sale Dates: November 22-29
Pick Up: December 5, 2020
9am-3pm
At United Methodist Church
of Merced

You must pre order and pre pay for the items, then come pick them up on that Saturday. If something happens for pickup, I can deliver the items another day, after the bazaar.

The United Methodist Church is also holding weekly food giveaways in cooperation with the Merced County Food Bank. Each Thursday from noon to 2:30 p.m. anyone can drive through and receive a box of fresh fruit and vegetables as long as the Farmer to Family federal program continues. The church also provides staples such as pasta and cereal once a month on Thursday.

If anyone can **help** on Thursdays, please come down! You will need gloves and a mask. Work begins about 8:30 a.m. and lasts until at least 3:30 p.m. If you can only help part of the time, we will be happy to see you. It does involve physical labor. Dorothy Yandell and I work almost every week . If you cannot work, donations of food staples are welcome - canned vegetables, pasta, cereal, spaghetti sauce or a monetary donation to the United Methodist Church of Merced, [899 Yosemite Parkway, Merced 95340](tel:2097225777). Call 209 722 5777 if you have questions.



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:

Board. Your Board has been working diligently to try and provide fun and informative programming during the pandemic. Hopefully you have enjoyed the programs. Please let us know so we can continue to include programs that you are interested in. Of course, we are meeting via Zoom and so we thought we would share a little screen shot that you might enjoy.



Knitting, Crocheting and Textile Group – The section is continuing to meet on videoconferencing. Our projects are still progressing, some slowly and some more quickly. Each month the group meets and this month we were able to watch a video on dyeing yarn. It was very interesting to see how you can take walnut hulls, marigolds, and other plants that we have around us and make them into beautiful yarn. One project that was completed this month will be a present for Christmas – and American Doll dress. Not perfect but the doll won't care.



AAUW HELPS US WITH TIPS AND TRICKS IN THIS PANDEMIC ENVIRONMENT

Do people think you're still wearing your Halloween mask when they see you on Zoom? You might want to get a few tips on lighting, makeup, background, etc. for the many AAUW meetings you attend.



Tip 1 – Keep camera at eye level or above.

Tip 2 – Look at the camera.

You can put a sticker next to the camera to remind you to look there.

Tip 3 – Sound like a pro.

A separate microphone works the best but if you have to use the computer, get the computer close to you.

Tip 4 – Correct your lighting

Add a warm light behind your camera or put an open window behind your camera. Do not have an overhead light above you.

Tip 5 - Background Check

Check out your background.

Tip 6 – Hair and Makeup

Don't overdo it but don't forget it either.

Tip 7 – Wardrobe

Don't overdo it either but put on a nice blouse with casual pants. Keep jewelry simple and non-moving

Tip 8 – Language

If it is a professional call, keep it professional.

Looking your best on Zoom

You can look great even though you're still wearing your kitty-cat flannel pajama bottoms. Here are a couple of sample YouTube videos.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JhoFwGaVEEE>

AAUW 5 IDEAS FOR VIRTUAL FUNDRAISING

We understand that programming and fundraising will need to be different this year, but we can't give up hope. In fact, AAUW needs your help more than ever to advance equity during this challenging time. Here are some creative ideas for how to leverage online platforms.

1. Virtual Walk or "No Run Run"

Encourage members to keep active safely, by walking outside or on their treadmills. Miles can be logged with health monitoring apps on smartphones and watches. You can even solicit sponsorships and registrations. Afterwards, celebrate your highest achievers through a Zoom party.

2. Online Auctions

Silent auctions are very popular for branch fundraising, and moving these online can make the events even easier. You would collect items in advance, publicize your start and end dates, and market the event through your website and newsletter. You can set up a page for all the items to be reviewed and bid upon.

3. Virtual Cooking Lesson or Wine Tasting

Do you have any members who are gourmets or gourmands with connections to a local restaurant? Consider holding a cooking lesson, where you identify a recipe with easily attained ingredients. Charge your attendees to sit in as they are guided on how to prepare a delicious meal.

Similarly, you could encourage members to purchase a bottle (or more!) of wine for a guided virtual wine tasting. Or even combine both ideas for a unique pairing experience.

4. Guided Tour

Garden and home tours can be a good source of ticket sales and fundraising. While the pandemic precludes a large in-person tour, you can still collect a fee to stream a virtual tour of any interesting space you may have access to.


5. Product Sales

There are many industrious AAUW members among your branches who may have more time on their hands now than they did before. We've seen many cases where members are making masks and other unique items for online purchase. If the items also feature AAUW branding, you're further spreading awareness of our organization in your community!



OUR SUPPORTERS

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For Positive Changes



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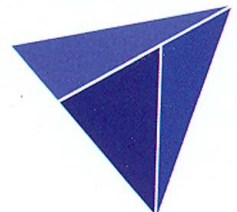
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Jim Connor, Learn to Read
jconnor@LearnToReadOnline.org
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