

AAUW

THE INSIGHTER

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Our Supporters



THE NEXT NEWSLETTER SHOULD ARRIVE BY THE 1ST OF FEBRUARY. 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,

As 2020 comes to an end, I have been reflecting on all the challenges we have survived. I don't think I need to enumerate. Some of us have had personal health challenges as well, and I admire you and applaud you for coming out the other end healthy! One of my favorite sayings is, "Happiness is someone to love, something to do, and something to look forward to". I look forward to a new year of better times where we can meet in person, frequent local businesses, and return to "normal", whatever that may look like.

Now that the vaccine is beginning to be distributed and administered, I feel a genuine sense of hope on the horizon. As our tiny quarantine area begins to expand, I eagerly anticipate spending more in person time with friends and family, as well as outside in nature enjoying and appreciating all the beauty of our community, our state, our nation, and the world at large.

Since we must remain armchair travelers a bit longer, we have a special treat for you in January. Our own Kathleen Hull will be sharing experiences from her numerous hikes in the High Sierra. So, mark your calendar for January 21, 2021 at 5:30 PM. Hope you can join us for what promises to be an interesting and informative evening...no boots, binoculars, or Aleve necessary!

My sincere wishes that your holidays, which may not have been filled with the customary joys, were filled with abundant joy, nonetheless. Whatever and however you celebrated, I hope your heart was filled with gratitude, kindness, and hope.

Respectfully submitted, Ruth Wax

SORRY YOU MISSED THE DECEMBER HOLIDAY TEA? IT IS NOT TOO LATE.

AAUW DECEMBER ZOOM MEETING TO CATCH UP WITH YOUR AAUW FRIENDS



A huge apology to all who tried valiantly to join our Virtual Tea yesterday. The **board meeting** zoom link was accidentally sent out instead of the one for the tea. Thanks go out to Belinda Braunstein, Dena Traina, and many others who recognized the problem and helped to rectify it. We were able to salvage our get-together and over 25 members attended. In addition to getting an update on everyone's lives, we also learned about several worthy places where we can make a donation. Those we discussed are:

CASA: Associate Director Karen Smith shared information and facts about this excellent resource for Foster Youth

- Web link: mercedcasa.org
- By phone – simply call (209) 722-2272.
- By mail with a check to CASA of Merced County, 2824 Park Avenue, Suite A, Merced, CA 95348

KOPS FOR KIDS: Community Liaison Eugene Drummond told of the urgent need for toys and gift cards for children ages 0-12 (yes, ZERO!) The need is especially great for kids over the age of 10. He stressed that a gift card is most appreciated (Target, Walmart, etc.) You may drop things off at the main Police Station at 21st and M or any fire station. Please put gift cards in envelopes so they don't get lost. Distribution is THIS Saturday, so please donate before then.

FOOD PANTRY/CLOTHING DRIVE: The United Methodist Church of Merced does a weekly food distribution and is currently helping over 1600 families weekly! They are also collecting new coats for the Homeless and Foster Youth of our community.

You may donate by:

1. Calling the church office at: (209) 722-5777. Leave a message if Adam Durbin doesn't answer.
2. Mail a donation (made out to UMC Merced with the notation "Food Pantry" or "Coat Drive") 899 Yosemite Parkway Merced 95340
3. Donate through their website: umcmerced.org

“We could never learn to be brave and patient, if there were only joy in the world.”

Helen Keller



A TRAVELOGUE LIKE NONE BEFORE!

AAUW Merced would not be the same without our Travelogue. This year we will be going virtual with the travelogue for the first time ever. Sound like it is not possible? Well it is! Hiking without the effort – YES. Unlimited attendees – YES

Come join Dr. Kathleen Hull for an interesting talk on her adventures in the Sierra.

Topic: Hiking in the Sierra

Time: January 21, 2020 05:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89776247838>



WHERE WOULD YOU GO?

Bring your desired designation to our January Travelogue and we can dream together.



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 sharonlw@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 raina.dena@gmail.com From our own Dee Near:

From our AAUW friend Susan Walsh:

The Friends and the Merced County Library are sponsoring a ZOOM program:

Merced County's Largest Book Club: The Read Woke Challenge

Speakers Susan Walsh (FOMCL Director) and Amy Taylor (County Librarian) will introduce this Merced County community-driven initiative. Everyone is welcome. Learn who is involved, why it matters to our county, what events will take place, and how to participate.

Thursday, January 7th, at 2:00 pm

For the Zoom link, email: friendsofmercedcountylibrary@gmail.com

Dee Near is about to be a grandmother. We look forward to seeing lots of fun baby pictures.

Several of you have asked about Jane Lawrence's husband, Pope. Pope and Jane are back home and are adjusting to their new normal. He is feeling great, golfing, walking and like the rest of us, wearing a mask. There will be trips to Stanford every couple of weeks to check on his progress.

And now a bit of sad news, our friend Kay Caligiuri passed away on December 21, 2020. She and John O. Caligiuri married in 1952 and moved to Merced in 1963. Kathleen taught at Charles Wright School in Merced where she met her long time lunch bunch friends.

Family gatherings and holidays were always fun times for Kathleen and she enjoyed traveling hiking, reading and being with friends. Services will be private



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.

Dining for Women Group – The section is continuing to meet on videoconferencing.



“If I were asked to give what I consider the single most useful bit of advice for all humanity, it would be this: Expect trouble as an inevitable part of life, and when it comes, hold your head high. Look it squarely in the eye, and say, ‘I will be bigger than you. You cannot defeat me.’ Then, repeat to yourself the most comforting words of all, ‘This too will pass.’”

Ann Landers

CHECK OUT AAUW'S NEW DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION RESOURCES



Our new Diversity, Equity & Inclusion toolkit includes dozens of resources to help AAUW members and others to celebrate their differences and incorporate inclusive practices into their everyday lives. These tools can help you lead branch workshops and further your own learning. There are sections defining key terms and concepts, exploring dimensions of diversity, and giving advice on how to start difficult conversations.

The toolkit was developed by AAUW's Inclusion & Equity Committee, which is led by Committee Chair Dr. Lisette Garcia and AAUW Chief Administrative Officer Sheila Amo. For more information, watch our recent webinar about how to engage with these resources, and stay tuned for more how-to sessions in 2021. Follow-up webinars will be scheduled in February and April. Meanwhile, if you have questions, please contact the Inclusion & Equity Committee at diversity@aauw.org.

COMING SOON: AAUW ART CONTEST

Are you a passionate painter? Skillful sketch artist? Phenomenal photographer? Get ready to show off your talent by submitting to our 12th annual art contest! We're accepting entries January 6 through February 3, so mark your calendar. And if you're more critic than artist, get set to vote on the best entries starting Feb. 10. Link below

[Art Contest Opens](#)

AAUW FIGHTS FOR PROTECTION OF PREGNANT WORKERS

Because she excelled at her job, Chelsey Glasson advanced steadily in her career—until she spoke out about the egregious pregnancy discrimination she saw and then experienced herself.

Her boss made frequent remarks about a team member being “...likely pregnant... again” and “overly emotional when pregnant.” When she reported the behavior, her manager started interviewing people to replace her. And that was just the beginning.

When Glasson announced she herself was pregnant, her boss forced her to transfer to another team. The retaliation worsened when she experienced a complication requiring early maternity leave. No woman should have to suffer the stress of discrimination during pregnancy – or ever.

But, thanks to supporters like you, Glasson is fighting back—in court. This summer, AAUW adopted her case, which is now in the Superior Court of Washington State.





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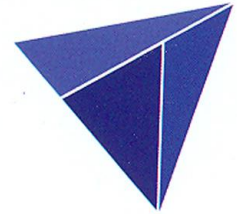
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