

# AAUW

## THE INSIGHTER

FEBRUARY 2021

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Our Supporters



THE NEXT NEWSLETTER SHOULD ARRIVE BY THE 1<sup>ST</sup> OF MARCH. 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 hope 2021 has gotten off to a good start for you! This was an historic week for our nation. Regardless of your politics, we finally have a female Vice President. As an extra dose of pride, Kamala Harris is from our home state. We wish her well as she tackles a myriad of challenges along with our new president.

Our January Travelogue was excellent. Thanks to Kathleen Hull for a fantastic virtual tour of her 12-day, 81-mile backpacking trip in the Sierra. We were treated to maps and many photographs of the spectacular and scenic Lewis Creek area, as we lived vicariously through Kathleen's trip with her brother. She has been an avid hiker and backpacker since the age of 10, thanks to her family, and, especially her dad, who took her on many such trips. At the end of her presentation, Kathleen shared a fun surprise. In 1981, she and Judy Edwina Smith were both working for the Forest Service in the Sierra National Forest. She has a photo of both in their "gear" from that shared experience.

On a personal note, I hope you and your loved ones continue to be healthy and take all the safety precautions that are being advised. My husband and I were fortunate enough to get our first vaccine this past week and look forward to receiving our second dose next month. It was "a shot in the arm" in terms of optimism and hope for better days ahead. I know we are all anxious to return to "normal" and meet in person with friends and family. We need each other!

Our group doesn't usually have a program in February, but we will use that month to plan ahead for our new slate of officers for the 2021-2022 year. If you would like to serve on our board or know someone who you think might, please let me know. The two open positions are Treasurer and President-Elect. We will let you know when we have solidified plans for our March program. Until then, stay well.

Respectfully submitted, Ruth Wax

## SORRY YOU MISSED THE JANUARY TRAVELOGUE? IT IS NOT TOO LATE.



A huge thank you to Kathleen Hull for her excellent presentation last night. We had 27 members join us as she shared her 12-day, 81-mile hike in the

Sierra. We were also joined by Kendra Gerstenberg, one of our scholarship recipients, who is interested in a career in forestry. In case you missed it, below is the program link. If you watch it, stay till the end as there is a surprise photo which is shown above. Kathleen is second from left and Judy is second from right. The other folks (Joe Mundy, Jill Fisher, Audrey Kirk) were fellow crew members during that 1981 field season.

Share recording:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/EzruEqnLxBIMsMMqDXrUYv4qG0BIXWHm\\_JvQI2JGuGw7aFAKnupPwipDpS3hcaoi.jLZK0ocUDhnzcRDA](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/EzruEqnLxBIMsMMqDXrUYv4qG0BIXWHm_JvQI2JGuGw7aFAKnupPwipDpS3hcaoi.jLZK0ocUDhnzcRDA)

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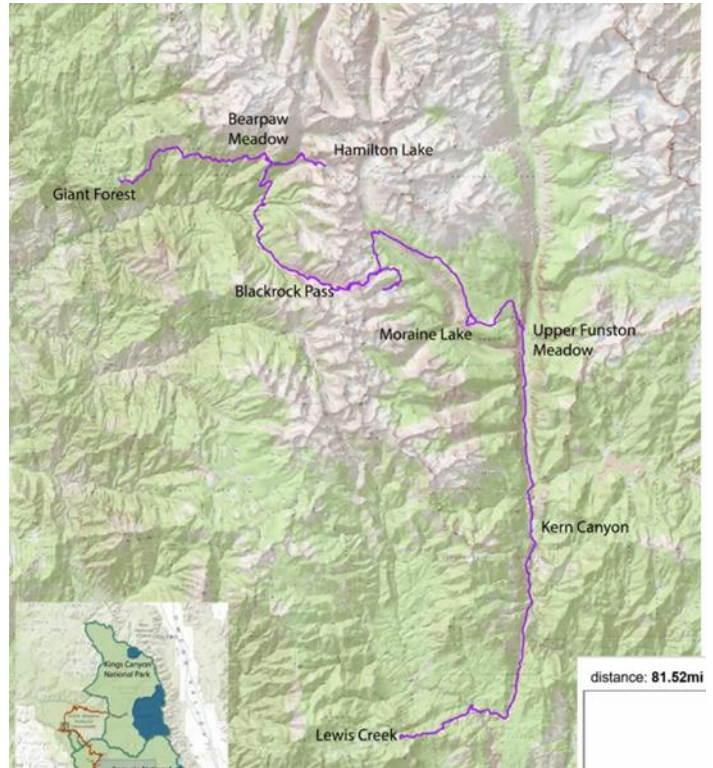


Figure 1-1 - Kathleen's 81-mile hike

“A walk in nature walks the soul back home.”

Jessica Leigh Mattern



## FEBRUARY PROGRAM

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# No February Program but Join the READ WOKE Program!

The READ WOKE Community Partners invite you to the African American Voices Book Discussion Webinar Feb. 11.

The webinar will be facilitated by Mrs. Mary Ellis, LWVMC and Dr. Al Rogers, MCSD. The book we will be discussing is *Between the word and me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates. Details of the webinar are shown below.

Please share this invitation with your organizations. Attached is the Updated List of Webinar Dates and Book Titles for discussion.

When: Feb 11, 2021 02:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Topic: READ WOKE: AFRICAN AMERICAN VOICES - BETWEEN THE WORLD AND ME BY COATES.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88411637258?pwd=azY3c1R3VUICQ3hJYjhPWDBGafFwdz09>

Passcode: 901174

Or iPhone one-tap :

US: +16699009128,,88411637258#,,,,\*901174# or +12532158782,,88411637258#,,,,\*901174#

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 669 900 9128 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 558 8656 or +1 301 715 8592

Webinar ID: 884 1163 7258

Passcode: 901174



## MARCH PROGRAM

Looking forward to the March program? – Sarah Lim will be speaking on Women's History in Merced County. March 8, 2021 at 5:00 pm



## 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](mailto: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 [sharonlw@comcast.net](mailto: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](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**

**Chocoholics:** 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 [jane@guerraville.com](mailto: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](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

Any member news you feel like sharing? Forward to Dena Traina at [traina.dena@gmail.com](mailto:traina.dena@gmail.com)

### Kay Caligiuri

Kathleen (Kay) Mary Caligiuri: October 2, 1927 - December 21, 2020

Kathleen was born in Duluth, Minnesota. She was raised in Hibbing, Minnesota from the age of three and made many lifelong friends there.

The family moved to Los Angeles where Kathleen graduated from UCLA and began teaching for LA City Schools. 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.

Kay was preceded in death by her husband of 53 years, John O. Caligiuri and her parents, Earl and Jean McDonald.

She is survived by sons John, Jim, Jeff (Karen) and daughter Mary, grandsons Gabe (Tish) and Dylan, and 7 great grandchildren.

### Leone Mc Laughlin



Leone Sherwin (nee McLaughlin) was born at home on the outskirts of Eugene, Oregon on January 12, 1920. She was the youngest of three with two older brothers. When she was a toddler the family moved to Tennant, a logging community in northern California. This was a company town with 100 homes, all exactly alike. There was a school, a church, general store, nurse's station, and dorm for the single loggers. Leone grew up in the woods and remarked that she guessed they were poor but didn't know it as everyone lived in the same circumstances. Though brought up in the backwoods, her mother, a teacher, and her father made sure their home was always full of literature and music. Graduating high school with a class of 3 students insured that Leone had many opportunities to be involved in every activity and gave her the confidence to enroll at San Jose State.

In her senior year of college World War II started. She remembers entire fraternities enlisting the day after Pearl Harbor was bombed. Blackouts were common and she was lucky enough to have a walk-in closet with a light in it where she and her roommates could sit on the floor and study. After graduating she returned to northern California and began teaching in McCloud. There was no housing available so she, along with 6 other new young teachers, all rented rooms in the McCloud hotel. They had a blast!

Seeking a little more adventure, the following year she set off on a train with a friend to find a new job and landed in Oxnard. It seemed an ideal place to teach as there was a very large naval port there with lots of sailors!! She soon hooked up with a handsome young man from San Luis Obispo.

At the end of the war, they were married and she began her life in San Luis where she would live for 55 years. Her father would come to San Luis to build their home which they would live in until moving to Merced in 1999. Leone and her husband, Roy, would be active in many community organizations, especially those that did projects to help those in need and to better the community. She had two children, Danny and Jane, and always was involved in their activities, from Boy Scouts to Rainbow.

She would return to teaching when her children were in elementary school and teach for 24 years. She and Roy loved to travel and managed to visit all the continents except Antarctica. A favorite trip was the one they took to Africa on their own where they attended a wedding in Zambia and experienced many beautiful and unique places.

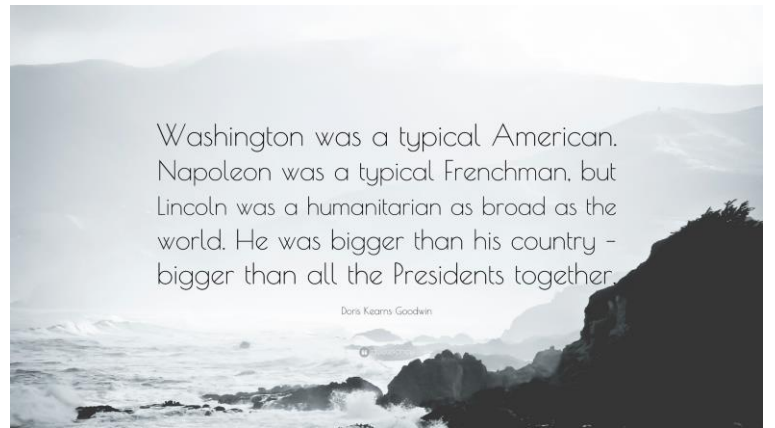
Roy's declining health brought them to Merced in 1999 to be close to daughter, Jane. Though arriving in a new town at 79, Leone came with exuberance and a positive attitude and immediately became involved in her church, AAUW and PEO. Through her family and these organizations, she met many wonderful new friends who have helped to make her life joyful and meaningful. This January she celebrated her 101st birthday with a drive by parade. She was thrilled and sends out a big thank you to all her participated.



## 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:

**No Section News this Month. Send your news to Dena Traina for publication!**



“Whatever title or Office we may be privileged to hold, it is what we do that defines who we are. . . .Each of us must decide what kind of person we want to be. What kind of legacy that we want to pass on.”

Queen Rania Al Abdullan of Jordan



In the words of famed American poet Walt Whitman (you were awake in your high school English class, right?), “If you done it, it ain’t bragging.” So we’re giving you a chance to tell us about what you’ve done without shamelessly bragging. This year, two **Branch Activity of the**

**Year Awards** will be given to stellar branch activities that are novel, inspirational and promote AAUW’s mission and image. Details are [on the web](#). And in case you want to know what you slept through, Walt Whitman’s most famous poems are [also](#).

**WHY JOIN AAUW?**

Some branch members got to play 20 Questions with AAUW California’s newly hired marketing consulting firm, Dowitcher DESIGNS.



Focus groups answered questions about why they joined, why they stay (or might not) and their perception of AAUW’s image and role.

Apparently, most of the participants had all the answers. Look for reports and action plans in

the future (oh boy, reports and action plans!).

Webinar: February 24, 2021at 7 pm

Big branch? Little branch? It doesn’t matter! Your branch can be successful! Thriving branches display characteristics that can be adapted to any size branch and in any type of locale. This webinar will provide attendees with guidelines to analyze if their branch is thriving. It will explore characteristics of successful branches, including leadership, membership retention, growth and engagement, and finally communication. In addition to learning what these characteristics mean, you’ll hear examples of how they are put to work in successful branches.

All the presenters for this webinar, most of whom are AAUW California Directors, have deep experience with branches throughout the state in varying types of locales. Those participating include: Elaine Johnson, Carol Holzgrafe, Crystal Stebbins and Sharyn Siebert. In addition, our AAUW California office manager Julika Barrett is a presenter, with input from Janice Lee, AAUW California Nominations Chair. Each has unique input that should be helpful and enlightening.

Registration is required.

Click [HERE](#) to register.

**BUILD COMMUNITY AND CAMPUS RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH WORK SMART.**

Webinar: March 22, 2021at 7 pm

Join a panel of experts to learn the importance of negotiating your salary and benefits when asking for equal pay, a raise or new position.

Registration is required.


Click [HERE](#) to register.

“When day comes, we ask ourselves where can we find light in this never-ending shade?”

Opening line from her inauguration poem - Amanda Gorman



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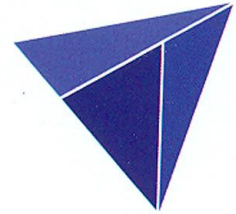
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