

AAUW

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Our Supporters



THE NEXT NEWLETTER SHOULD ARRIVE BY THE 1ST OF APRIL 1ST. 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. It appears there may be light at the end of the tunnel. Stay safe and please visit our website <https://merced-ca.aauw.net/> regularly for information about Zoom programs and activities.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



DEAR FELLOW AAUW MEMBERS,

“Hope is on the horizon!” I heard this on NPR the other day and it summed up my feelings perfectly after receiving my second Covid vaccine. I hope you have been as fortunate as well. It truly does feel like there is a light at the end of the proverbial tunnel and it is beginning to shine brighter and more beautiful every day.

Spring is traditionally a season of rebirth and renewal. I find the blooming trees and shrubs around town so uplifting. A recent trip to the Merced Wildlife Refuge also brought much joy...just listening to the thousands of snow geese honking brought a smile to my face. If you haven't been there recently (or ever), I highly recommend it as an easy drive and a safe, serene place to spend some time in nature.

Your board has been diligently planning our programs for the remainder of the year. In March, since it is Women's History month, we will have Sarah Lim, the Director of the Merced County Courthouse Museum, as our featured speaker. She will be sharing information about noted women in our county and some of their achievements. Look for the Zoom link below.

April 12th will be our next program and we will be hosting Stephanie Dietz, Merced's new City Manager, as our speaker. She will discuss the city's response to the Covid crisis and give us the latest statistics regarding the pandemic. We will also hear about the many exciting new projects under development around Merced. So, mark your calendars for yet another dynamic presentation by a woman in a leadership role.

We are hoping to have an excellent program in May and June as well. Our fervent hope is that we might be able to congregate in person by then. Please stay tuned for further details. Until then, let's continue to find strength and joy in one another. Hope to see you March 8th at 5:00 PM for our program.

Respectfully submitted, Ruth Wax



ENJOYMENT IN FEBRUARY

There were no programs in February but hopefully you were able to get out the wildlife refuge to see the lovely birds! If not, here you go!



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

Jessica Leigh Mattern



Women of Merced with Sarah Lim!



MARCH PROGRAM

Sarah Lim will be speaking on Women's History in Merced County. AAUW members have been influential in Merced County since its early years. Sarah has tracked down one of those early leaders and many other fascinating women.

March 8, 2021 at 5:00 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8224372966>

Meeting ID: 822 437 2966

One tap mobile

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Meeting ID: 822 437 2966

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8224372966>



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**

Chocololics: 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



SECTION NEWS

The sections have been quiet this month. I know you are meeting - want to share what you have read (or eaten)?



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The nominating committee has been working on developing the slate of officers for next year. A big thanks to Kim McAuley, Carol Hamm, and Better Woolstenhulme for taking on that effort. Next month we will have the ballot for you to vote on the officers for 2021-2. We have most of the positions filled on the slate but if anyone is interested in serving on the Board, please call one of the nominating committee members and let them know.



"Don't sit down
and wait for the
opportunities to
come...

**GET UP AND
MAKE THEM!**

-Madam C.J. Walker

"Good friends help you find important things when you have lost them . . . your smile, your hope, and your courage."

Doe Zantamata

Upcoming Webinar

In Conversation with Dr. Shanna Benjamin:

“Half in Shadow: The Life and Legacy of Nellie Y. McKay”

Thursday, March 4th 5:00 PM ET

Description: Join us for an informative and engaging conversation with AAUW fellowships alumna Shanna Benjamin, Ph.D, Educator and Scholar, to discuss her upcoming book, *Half in Shadow: The Life and Legacy of Nellie Y. McKay*, which will be published in April. Dr. Benjamin is a biographer and scholar who studies the literature, lives, and archives of Black women. She has published scholarly works on African American literature and Black women's intellectual history in African American Review, MELUS, a/b: Auto/Biography, Studies in American Fiction, and PMLA.

[Register Now](#)

Oh, sorry, did you actually WANT an inspirational quote about the future? Here's one that's even Tech Trecky:

“We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.” – Franklin D. Roosevelt

YOUR VOTE NEEDED

To degree or not to degree? That is the question. (Well, it's a mangled version of the question.)



This spring, AAUW members will be asked to decide if the education requirement for membership should be eliminated. That's meaty stuff. The national website is loaded with material explaining the AAUW Board of Directors' proposal and you can even watch a recording of a town hall on the topic. The open comment period is now over, but you can weigh in with your Yay or Nay on the national election ballot from 4/7 – 5/17.

LOBBY DAY – YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

WHY JOIN AAUW?



An internet search will return 3,971 quotations about the future. We will not repeat them all here because we like you. The only statement about the future we're interested in is that AAUW California has launched a new task force called “Tech Trek of the

Future.” Using input from state leaders, camp directors, branch coordinators, and others, this team will dream of what future Tech Trek camps could look like and sketch out a roadmap to get there.

Your kids don't listen to you. Your significant other doesn't listen to you. Your dog doesn't listen to you. And cats don't listen to anybody. But maybe your local legislators will! Bend their ear(s) on virtual Lobby Day, March 24th, and advocate for the issues AAUW cares about. To be a part of it, click [HERE](#),



“Yikes!” you say with trembling voice, “What do I tell said legislators?” We KNEW you'd ask that. Click [HERE](#) for the required training webinar on March 22nd.

“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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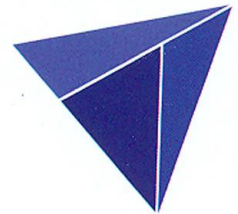
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Partner

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