

# AAUW

## THE INSIGHTER

APRIL 2021

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THE NEXT NEWLETTER SHOULD ARRIVE BY THE 1<sup>ST</sup> OF MAY. IF YOU HEAR OF A MEMBER THAT HAS NOT RECEIVED ONE, PLEASE CALL DENA TRAINA AT 209.777.5227

IT'S MEMBERSHIP TIME AGAIN. WE ARE SO GREATFUL FOR ALL OF OUR MEMBERS AND HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US AGAIN NEXT YEAR. APPLICATION ON PAGE 9. THANKS!

### 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,

I don't know about you, but I seem to have a new "spring" in my step...pun intended! Rainfall, warmer days, colorful gardens, and serenading birds all have combined to lift my spirits, and, I hope, yours as well. So many people I know have already had both their vaccinations, and it is allowing us to make plans to see loved ones in person! To that point, Dennis and I are traveling to Southern California after Easter to see friends and family. Since our vacation conflicts with our next program (April 12), the wonderful Jane Lawrence, our President-Elect, has agreed to host the Zoom meeting. I am so grateful to Jane who is a busy woman without this additional obligation. Our program will be with Stephanie Dietz, our new city manager, who will fill us in on the latest Covid-19 information and provide updates about the various projects going on in our fair city. Please mark your calendars for Monday, April 12th at 5:00 PM! Watch for the zoom link to arrive soon in your inbox.

A special thank you to the 28 members who were able to attend our March program with Sarah Lim, Director of the County Museum. Sarah presented an interesting power point entitled, "Beyond Appearance", which spotlighted Merced County women from 1855-1920, prior to the passage of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote. Her topics included The Farmer's Wife, Housekeepers, Women in Fashion, Education and Social Movements. We met Mary McCorry—Kathleen Crookham's grandmother! Sarah also introduced us to Mary Robinson, a charter member of our AAUW branch who graduated UC Berkeley in 1909 where she played on the women's basketball team! It was another fascinating and informative program.

Planning ahead for May, we are hosting a virtual fashion show! In an effort to support our local businesses, we will have fashions from Christina's Boutique, Kelli's, as well as Helen and Louise. If you would like to model some of the latest styles, please contact one of our Program Committee members below:

Sue Chappell 777-6766, Ann Ahmadi 626-9027, Ashley McComb Thanadabout 761-7873

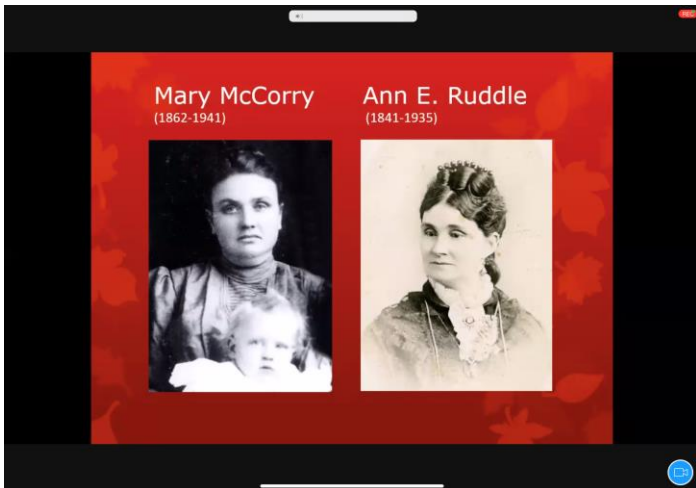
We are going to pre-film our models at the stores (at their convenience) and then run the video on Monday, May 12 at 5:00 PM. You won't want to miss this as we have some delightful surprises in store for you! We are hoping to have an in-person meeting in June.

Stay well and I truly hope we will all be seeing one another soon! Respectfully submitted, Ruth Wax

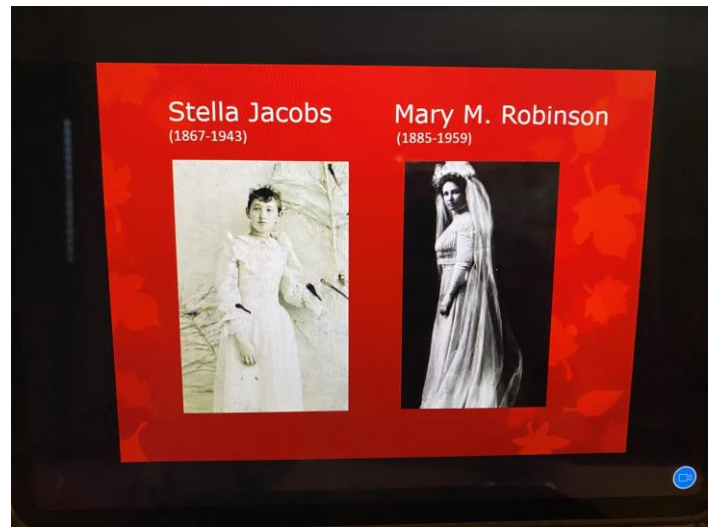
## MARCH PROGRAM RECAP



We had a fabulous program with Sarah Lim last night! She shared a vast amount of information about the pioneer women of Merced County. We even got a glimpse into the life of our fellow member Kathleen Crookham's grandmother, Mary McCorry.



Sarah also introduced us to Mary Robinson, who, in 1937, helped found our Merced Chapter of AAUW. She graduated UC Berkeley in 1909 (!) and was a member of the women's basketball team!



Thanks to the 26 members who were able to attend. If you missed it, use the link below to watch the recording. It lasts about 45 minutes. You can fast forward through the first five minutes or so when people are logging on.

Topic: Ruth Wax's Personal Meeting Room  
Date: Mar 8, 2021 04:51 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Click here to view your recording (this link can be used only by the host):

[https://us02web.zoom.us/recording/detail?meeting\\_id=wnidyIPFSt6AfbIfX%2BhvNw%3D%3D](https://us02web.zoom.us/recording/detail?meeting_id=wnidyIPFSt6AfbIfX%2BhvNw%3D%3D)

Copy the link below to share this recording with viewers:  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/bhSnoh1nOBwwlgWNCgP6L1GM2zVo\\_4p-6oTI\\_k8xtyaSveL\\_h5S4QgEFKDMwdtGq.SFjvVqDWdolyVSeI](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/bhSnoh1nOBwwlgWNCgP6L1GM2zVo_4p-6oTI_k8xtyaSveL_h5S4QgEFKDMwdtGq.SFjvVqDWdolyVSeI) Passcode: G3.3YYnP

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

Jessica Leigh Mattern



# Woman Leader of Merced!

## APRIL PROGRAM



Stephanie Dietz – Merced City Manager

April 12, 2021 at 5:00 pm

Stephanie Dietz was selected for the position of City Manager and appointed to the position on November 16, 2020. She manages the operational functions within the City that includes Police, Fire, Public Works, Parks and Recreation, Economic Development, Engineering, Development Services, Informational Technology, Human Resources and the Office of the City Clerk.

Ms. Dietz has served as the Assistant City Manager for four years and is intimately familiar with the workings of the City and the community.

She holds a Bachelor’s degree from Fresno State and a Master’s from National University.

Please join us in April to hear how she will approach these challenging times which will require all of us to find innovative ways to sustain the local economy. Come hear what is happening in the City!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85893291054>

**Meeting ID: 858 9329 1054**

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,85893291054# US (San Jose)

+12532158782,,85893291054# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 858 9329 1054

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kdHcqNUz00>





## 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 [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 [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

Susan Lee's husband, Jeff Lee passed away on March 16, 2021, at the age of 73. He served many of us with excellent eye care. Our sincere thanks to him and our best wishes to his family.

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



## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Your proposed slate of officers:

President: Jane Lawrence

Vice President Elect: Open

Program Vice Presidents: Sue Chappell, Ann Ahmadi,  
Open

Membership Vice President: Anita Parker

Treasurer: Megan Anderson

Secretary: Linda Lucas

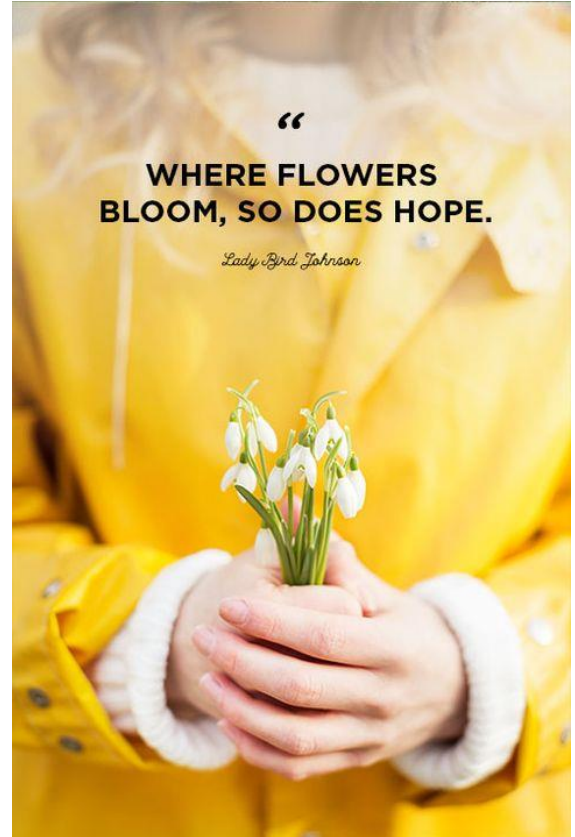
EF/LAF: Pauline Cuchna

We will be working the elections the same way this year as we did last year. If you have any objections to the slate of officers, please let Kim McAuley know.



## SECTION NEWS

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



"Easter is very important to me. It's a second chance."

Reba McEntire

## FROM NATIONAL AAUW

As the 117th Congress takes on the many challenges facing the nation at this historic time, we must ensure that the fight for equitable and safe workplaces is among the top priorities. Your elected officials need to hear from you today:

- **Paycheck Fairness Act:** AAUW has worked for decades to pass this landmark legislation to advance pay equity. The House of Representatives passed the legislation with bipartisan support during the 116th Congress, but it stalled in the Senate. The bill has already been reintroduced in the 117th Congress with broad support, but quick action is needed to get this critical bill to President Biden's desk so he can sign it into law. Take action with the AAUW Paycheck Fairness Act advocacy tool kit today.
- **Raise the Wage Act:** Raising wages has never been more urgent than during the pandemic. Frontline workers—who are disproportionately women of color—are among the most underpaid workers in the country. The continued stagnation of the minimum wage, combined with the COVID-19 crisis, has reinforced and widened racial and gender wage gaps. Ensuring all workers receive a fair wage is a matter of gender and racial justice. Act now to demand Congress raise the minimum wage.
- **FAMILY Act:** Congress took an important step toward emergency paid family leave in the first COVID-19 relief package last year—but those provisions have expired. Without paid leave, caregivers leave the workforce, families struggle to make ends meet, businesses lose valued employees and our economy suffers. In a public health crisis, paid leave saves lives and livelihoods. Engage today to make sure that paid leave never expires.

## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

- With so many pressing policy matters in the news, do you ever wonder where AAUW stands on the critical issues of the day? Check out our letters, comments, testimony and legal briefs to learn more about AAUW's positions and advocacy efforts on economic security, civil rights and education.



- Access the AAUW Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) resources, which share best practices for AAUW members and others. Our goal is for people to incorporate inclusive practices into their branch practices, as well as their personal lives.
- Ensure you engage in every AAUW action in the new year and become a Two-Minute Activist today.
- Watch the latest AAUW policy webinar to learn more about the 2021 public policy priorities and more!

## Upcoming Webinars

Thursday, April 1, 2021 4pm ET

### AAUW National Town Hall on Member Education Requirement

AAUW's annual election will begin on April 7 and run through May 17. We encourage you to attend this member-only Town Hall to learn more about the Board-supported proposed changes to the bylaws that would eliminate the degree requirement and open membership. We will also discuss Get Out the Vote efforts during the COVID pandemic and what you can do to help make sure that members voices and votes are counted. The Town Hall will include breakout groups, which will allow for more specific discussion on the items up for membership vote this spring, as well as GOTV efforts that you can participate in. Please join us!

[Register Now](#)

NOVA program on PBS - Picture A Scientist. This will air Wed. April 14 at 10 p.m. and Sun. April 18 at 1 p.m. and deals with women in science. To learn more, go to

<https://www.pictureascientist.com/>

Brief synopsis:

Picture a Scientist is a 2020 documentary on gender equality inside science. The movie tells the stories of several prominent female researchers, and brings to light the barriers they encountered, including cases of discrimination and harassment.

Even if we cannot be together to watch and discuss, I think our members will want to see this.

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

Opening line from her inauguration poem” - Amanda Gorman



## OUR SUPPORTERS

### HYPNOTHERAPY AND COUNSELING

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Am. Bd. Hypnotherapy ABH #13670  
Am. Bd. for Certified Counselors #49343  
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conniebrons@yahoo.com

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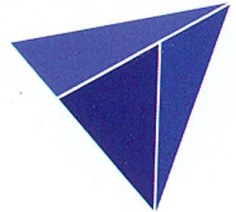
**Susan E. Walsh, Ed.D.**

Partner

[SusanWalsh@WalshCassadyWalsh.com](mailto:SusanWalsh@WalshCassadyWalsh.com)

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*Chef William Decker presents*



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Menu on Facebook

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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](mailto:jconnor@LearnToReadOnline.org)  
<https://learntoreadonline.org/>



American Association of University Women  
Merced Branch Membership Renewal 2021-2022  
(Deadline June 30, 2021)

Please complete and submit the entire form (even if you are an honorary life member) and return with your dues. This is necessary to ensure that you are listed accurately with National, in the directory and on newsletter mailings.

**Make your check payable to Merced AAUW and mail to:  
Anita Parker, 2814 San Juan Court, Merced, CA 95340**

Please note: Failure to renew will exclude you from section participation in 2021-22.

Is your contact information listed in the AAUW Directory?

**YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_**

Please note corrections below.

\_\_\_\_\_ My contact information is not in the Directory. Please include as listed.

---

## MEMBER INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name

First Name

Middle Initial

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Street

City

ZIP

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Regular Branch Member \$88  
(Assoc. \$59 (\$56 which is tax deductible)  
State \$20, Branch \$9

Scholarship Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Honorary Life Member \$0  
(No Fee)

Science Camp Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Association Life Member \$29  
(Assoc. \$0, State \$20, Branch \$9)

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK # \_\_\_\_\_

Late Fee \$2  
(after July 1)

AMOUNT \$ \_\_\_\_\_