

AAUW

THE INSIGHTER

MAY 2021

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

As April has flown by, I am filled with gratitude at the freedom to be able to leave my home safely. Dennis and I had a wonderful ten-day getaway, and I am so thankful to Jane Lawrence for stepping in and leading our wonderful program. Thanks also to Linda Lucas for facilitating the zoom invitation. We had another very engaging program with Stephanie Dietz, our first female City Manager! Merced is truly a “City on the Rise” as we tackle the many challenges which the previous year has thrown our way! We are fortunate to have such a dynamic, intelligent, enthusiastic leader.

Another great moment in April was when our Dining for Women section met in person for the first time in over a year. Linda Lucas was our gracious host and nine of us were thrilled to be in each other’s presence...there were even several hugs!

Looking ahead to May, our program is coming together nicely. We have secured all our models for the first ever AAUW Virtual Fashion Show. Stay tuned for a date for this meeting as schedules are coordinated and outfits are selected. We hope you can all join us as it promises to be a fun-filled springtime event.

As many places of business in Merced County begin to re-open, I hope you will be able to support our local stores, restaurants and other independent businesses to help them after what was undoubtedly a very difficult year. “Shop locally” has never been a more important slogan!

We are still hoping for an in-person meeting in June to close out our year. Details will follow as soon as they are solidified. Please remember to pay your dues (membership form is included in the newsletter). Stay well, and I hope to see each and every one of you in person very soon!

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Wax

APRIL PROGRAM RECAP

We had a fabulous program with Stephanie Dietz last night! Stephanie shared a lot of information about what



is happening in the City. So please take a look at the recording so you can enjoy the information she shared. After the presentation, she also addressed a very important topic. What do you do about all of those old

batteries? Please do not throw them in the trash – instead here is the solution to pollution!

In California batteries are not disposed of, they are considered to be a household hazardous waste and a potential fire hazard for our drivers and the landfill and need to be recycled.

Recycling options depend on the type of battery.

Regular Alkaline (or one time use) batteries are accepted at the landfill scale house year around for recycling.

Rechargeable batteries can be recycled at Lowe's or Home Depot and at the landfill.

Car batteries or lead acid batteries can usually go to recycling centers or point-of-purchase, they have a core fee that can be refunded.

If a resident does not want to go out to the landfill, there are mail options they can use for a fee.

And now the link to the recording

Topic: AAUW PROGRAM – Stephanie Dietz

Time was 5:00 pm

Date: Apr 12, 2021 05:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Copy the link below to share this recording with viewers:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/G4C4qpCQsuPx0iZQilrTy2Ofb56SpZ47wVKJA8_SaEKNBghqQMH-H-u06gXgZ7kxj.81HFDb1zhOCPli7T Passcode: #AQWu.49

"The best place to cry is in a mother's arms."

Jodie Picoult



Fashion Show!

MAY PROGRAM

Fashion show – Highlighting Christina’s, Helen and Louise and Kelli’s

You might be saying, how are we going to do this virtually? Well thanks to our great program committee we are busy videoing the show and editing it. So, it is taking a bit longer than a regular show would so stay tuned and we will be sending out another announcement with the exact date and time. In the meantime, please continue to support our local businesses.





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

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



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

Knitting and Crocheting

The knitting and crocheting section will be meeting in person this month at Jan Mendenhall's house. May 12th at 6:00 pm
Please email Jan with you RSVP. Jan.mendenhall@gmail.com



"I believe the choice to become a mother is the choice to become the greatest spiritual teacher there is". Oprah

FROM NATIONAL AAUW

May 5th is the date that mothers have to work into 2021 to finally reach the pay fathers took home last year.

As we mark both Mom's Equal Pay Day and Mother's Day itself this week, we honor that all moms are essential. The COVID-19 crisis has exacerbated economic inequalities we've long known to be a harm to women, and the impact flows to their families. One in four women reported leaving the workforce for lack of child care during the pandemic, and 1.5 million mothers are reported to still be missing from the workforce.

While May 5th represents moms on average, the racial disparity present between working moms deserves notice. Compared to every dollar made by white, non-Hispanic fathers:

- Latina mothers are paid \$0.46.
- Native American mothers are paid \$0.50.
- Black mothers are paid \$0.52.
- White, non-Hispanic mothers are paid \$0.71.
- Asian American and Pacific Islander mothers are paid \$0.90.

All workplace discrimination is dangerous and hurts our nation's workers and families. Here is where you come in. Today, we ask you to take two immediate actions on behalf of mothers and pregnant workers:

1. Ensure equal pay for equal work. The Paycheck Fairness Act would update and strengthen the Equal Pay Act of 1963 and help close the gender pay gap for everyone.
2. Protect pregnant workers. The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act would require reasonable health accommodations and provide protections against workplace discrimination for mothers and all pregnant workers.

Mothers and pregnant workers cannot wait. Congress must now move both of these bills forward to ensure all women and workers have the tools they need to challenge discrimination and all employers have the incentives and supports they need to comply with the law. To make equality a reality, we need you.

Mark both Mom's Equal Pay Day and Mother's Day by protecting working moms and all pregnant workers — act now!

EXECUTIVE AND AGENCY ACTIONS

The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights announced on April 6 that it will conduct a comprehensive review of the Department's regulations implementing Title IX. This will include gathering public input on the issue of sexual harassment in school environments. It also announced efforts to make it easier for eligible students to get their educational loans forgiven under the Total and Permanent Disability (TPD) discharge program.

In addition, President Biden signed several important executive actions.

- On March 31, he signed "A Proclamation on National Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Month, 2021" to honor sexual assault survivors and recommit to creating a society where all people have an opportunity to thrive without fear of abuse or assault.
- That same day, he signed "A Proclamation on Transgender Day of Visibility, 2021," which recognizes the generations of struggle, activism and courage that have brought our country closer to full equality for transgender and gender non-binary people in the United States.
- On March 24, President Biden signed "A Proclamation on National Equal Pay Day, 2021," reaffirming the administration's commitment to ensuring equal pay for low-wage workers, working families, and all women.




"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

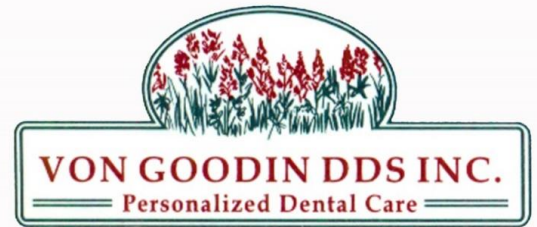
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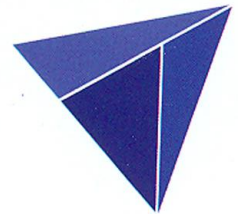
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- Organizational Evaluation
- Staff Development
- Stakeholder Facilitation
- Accreditation Management

Chef William Decker presents



JOY OF THE SOUTH

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209 446-8321

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Menu on Facebook

The Goldsmith

Unique Jewelry • Vintage Pieces
Custom Designing • Jewelry Repair
We buy and sell Gold and Silver

Nick Guerra
1828 Bellevue Rd.
Atwater, CA 95301
(209) 358-6022



CASA
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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
<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 # _____

AMOUNT \$ _____

Late Fee \$2
(after July 1)