

# AAUW

## THE INSIGHTER

SEPTEMBER 2021

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THE NEXT NEWSLETTER SHOULD ARRIVE BY THE 1<sup>ST</sup> OF OCTOBER. 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 CONTINUE BEING PART OF THIS GREAT ORGANIZATION. APPLICATION ON PAGE 9.

### WEBSITE

Though Coronavirus is still with us, most of us are vaccinated and getting out a bit more. The Board will be watching this carefully as we go through the year so 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 our AAUW chapter begins its the seventh decade in Merced County, I am honored to be president during the coming year. We all owe Past President Ruth Wax a heartfelt thanks and a debt of gratitude for being our leader during such a challenging year. Not only did AAUW continue to function by offering a series of well attended Zoom programs, but we also found ways to creatively hold two of our signature events: our holiday tea where we delivered tea bags and cookies to members and a very fun virtual fashion show in the spring. Ruth's positive attitude, can do spirit and graciousness kept our Board and organization moving forward.

Our theme last year, appropriately, was: Bloom Where You are Planted. The Board at its summer planning session selected as this year's theme: Bloom in Our Community. Our hope was that the pandemic would recede and AAUW members could emerge and once again be of service to Merced County. Our theme is partially captured in the picture above which is of the lovely tiles that grace sections of Bob Hart Square. This year's theme also will be actualized in a number of ways including at our Fall Brunch where Vernetta Doty from UC Merced's Center for Community Engagement will speak about how UC students are serving the community and how we can be of support to them. In addition, the Board and I would like to challenge each section to think about what it might do to contribute to our community. There will be more about this idea in next month's newsletter.

The Board has planned a series of activities for the coming year. Most are outside and some will be on Zoom. This fall, our first two events—the Fall Brunch and Wine at the Vista—will be held outside. Please know that the Board is monitoring the pandemic carefully and we will adhere to county, state and CDC guidelines. Our priority is to keep our members safe and healthy so that AAUW can serve the Merced community for another 60 years.

As time allows, please participate in AAUW sponsored activities and bring a friend or two with you! We will not be charging guests this year as we hope to encourage others to learn more about AAUW and join our organization.

I look forward to seeing you during the coming year. Respectfully submitted,

*Jane Lawrence*

## MAY PROGRAM RECAP

Hello!

If you were unable to join us via Zoom in May, here is the recording of our meeting and our Virtual Fashion Show. A huge thank you to our three lovely models Holly Zacharias, Ann Andersen, and Jane Guerra. You all looked beautiful and stylish. It made me want to go shopping! Speaking of which, our three boutiques have generously offered a discount to our members. Helen and Louise and Kelli's are offering a 10% discount on any full priced merchandise, and Christina's is offering 25% off of full priced items for one week (sorry this has expired). We hope you will be able to visit one of these fine businesses and find some new pieces for the coming months, as well as help our economy by shopping locally.

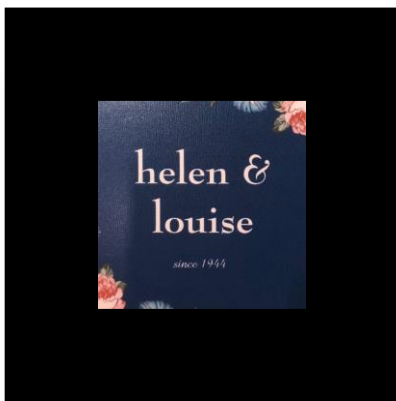
Topic: Fashion Show

Date: May 27, 2021 04:47 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Copy the link below to share this recording with viewers:  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/Sr2rpGnyp4kaToZ0QAZ6MmRKvKa8t43GQualVe1tdANKfGmA4mLYQYsuYf6tp7Q.qgmEXmP\\_hiVPY73](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/Sr2rpGnyp4kaToZ0QAZ6MmRKvKa8t43GQualVe1tdANKfGmA4mLYQYsuYf6tp7Q.qgmEXmP_hiVPY73) Passcode: yJhEOX!v

As I said on Zoom, it has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your president this past year. We certainly were not without our challenges, but the rewards were great. Jane Lawrence will be taking over as our new president, and she will be sharing our upcoming plans as soon as we have finalized them. I wish each and every one of you a summer filled with delight, joy, and good health! Remember to keep on blooming!

Ruth Wax



### Ways to Impact Your Community Every Day

Make It A Habit To Respect All People

Dedicate a Complete Day to Help Out a Friend in Her Aspirations and Goals

Make It A Habit To Perform Random Acts of Kindness



## SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

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### SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

Dear AAUW Members,

Start your fall off right by attending the AAUW Fall Brunch!

When: Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup> from 9-11

Where: Kim McAuley's home, 800 Rambler Road, Merced

Who: AAUW Members and Guests

Why: After a year of Zoom meetings, lets gather outside and see many old friends!

How: Please RSVP for yourself and guests by Monday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at [MercedAAUW@gmail.com](mailto:MercedAAUW@gmail.com)

Cost: \$10 for members and please bring a guest or two for free.

Program: Our theme this year is: Bloom in our Community! After a pandemic year and now the Delta variant, we're hoping that we'll have the opportunity to emerge and serve our community. Vernetta Doty, Director of the Community Engagement Center at UC Merced, will be our special guest.

Also, while you have your calendars out, please put down Thursday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 for AAUW's Wine Tasting at the Vista. This is another outdoor event that you won't want to miss!

Jane Lawrence

President, 2021-22





## 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. **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

No member news this month!



## SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

AAUW Merced Branch is proud to announce the two scholarship recipients for the 2021-22 academic year. Both women are transferring from Merced College to four-year institutions. They each will receive \$1,000.



## SECTION NEWS

### Knit One, Purl Two and Yarn Over.....

Past President Dena Traina started AAUW's Knitting and Crocheting Section three years ago to bring together members who enjoy making handmade objects using knitting needles and/or crochet hooks. Our group welcomes those who have been knitting and crocheting for years and newbies who don't know how to cast on much less understand how to read a knitting pattern.

We gather every month at one of the members' houses for a light dinner and then knitting and crocheting. Each member usually brings what she has been working on during the intervening month to show off to the group. Often an experienced member will give a talk about some aspect of knitting and crocheting to help our members continue to deepen their learning.

Our group has made and donated angel blankets to a local hospital as well as baskets of handmade boy and girl baby clothes to CASA for one of their fundraisers.

All talent levels are very welcome! If you have questions or would like to be notified about our meeting dates/times, please email Dena at [traina.dena@gmail.com](mailto:traina.dena@gmail.com)

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."

– Coretta Scott King

**SOCHEATA HOUR** plans to attend UC Merced majoring in Computer Science and Engineering. She was born in the developing country of Cambodia, which relies heavily on tourism for income. The difficulties of living in a developing country, where healthcare, education, and technology were unsophisticated, created a massive obstacle in her educational progress. Socheata wanted to have equal opportunities in education and use those opportunities and knowledge to help move her family and country away from poverty and make them proud because they believed in her. She applied to the Cambodian government, to attend college in the United States and was selected among five candidates to study here based upon her previous success in school. Socheata came to the United States in 2019 to attend Merced College pursuing a Computer Science Degree. She graduated with honors with three transfer degrees in computer science, math, and physics. Socheata was involved in leadership roles and community activities as a member of AGS (Alpha Gamma Sigma) and the Computer Science club. She has maintained a 4.0 GPA

**DENISE BEATRICE PAPILOTA** plans to attend UC Davis majoring in Neurobiology, Physiology, and Human Behavior with a career objective of Physician Assistant. She has currently enrolled with a local medical assistant program to obtain her certification this summer and will be able to start gaining patient care experience hours for graduate school. Denise and her family arrived from the Philippines in 2008 at the age of 5 striving for the American Dream. Rather than just chance, she realized the American Dream comes from sacrifice and hard work. In high school, she took several AP classes and graduated valedictorian honor, being in the top 3 of her graduating class. At Merced College, Denise was involved in community and extracurricular activities such as, 2nd singles tennis player and a dedicated officer in bands and various clubs such as Key Club and Science Club. She has maintained a 3.8 GPA.

## FROM NATIONAL AND CA AAUW

Get in on the ground floor. Help frame AAUW California's big plans for next year as a committee or workgroup member. Do what you care about. Meet others with your passions. Polish your skills or learn new ones. Grow with us.

Big job? Small job? We're sure to have opportunities that fit YOU.

Click [HERE](#) for descriptions of available committees and workgroups and a link to the application.

Be part of the action!

Dianne Owens  
AAUW California President

## 2021-2022: THE YEAR OF M&MS!

### MARKETING AND MEMBERSHIP ARE OUR GOALS! •

We have embraced the goal of increasing AAUW's visibility and reach (Marketing!) which should help your branches grow (Membership!). Thanks to the recommendations of a marketing consulting firm, we have a roadmap to M&Ms! That means more peeps for you to do AAUW things with!

We have established four marketing workgroups to get started. Each will be chaired by a member of the state Leadership Team.

- Working Age Recruitment Workgroup - To investigate how to attract that unicorn younger population.
- Retirement Age Recruitment Workgroup - To think of ways to engage individuals who are at or approaching the "now what?" age.

- University and Organization Collaboration Workgroup -To expose more college students to AAUW and look for other organizations to collaborate Social Media Workgroup - To rev up our social media to engage different populations with.

But what about all our other state committees and the work they do: Speech Trek, Tech Trek, AAUW Fund, Public Policy, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and all the others? Don't worry! We will continue to do All. Those. Things. And expect more of the Oscar-worthy-battered-popcorn-allowed webinars that you stayed awake for too.

The only thing our workgroups and committees need are volunteers who want to learn and grow through AAUW. Yep, that means YOU!

Go [HERE](#) and see what these groups do, what opportunities they offer and how much (or little) time is needed.

Editor Note: All deadlines are past. Recommend calling to see if there are any opportunities still available.

## Upcoming Convention

Since we're still transitioning out of COVID life, we're planning something a little different. Stay tuned for details about an UNconvention(al) event to be held Saturday, April 23, 2022 via Zoom. It will be an adventure!


"Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much"

- Helen Keller



## OUR SUPPORTERS

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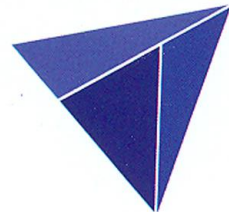
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**MERCED COUNTY**



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  
<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.

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## 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_