

AAUW

THE INSIGHTER

OCTOBER 2021

VOLUME 86, NUMBER 2

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Membership Application



THE NEXT NEWSLETTER SHOULD ARRIVE BY THE 1ST NOVEMBER. 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,

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the Fall Brunch held in Kim McAuley's lovely backyard! For many of us the best part was seeing old friends, many of whom we had not seen in-person for months because of the pandemic. We also got to meet some new people, including one of our scholarship recipients, a charming young woman from Cambodia who is majoring in computer science at UC Merced. I want to once again thank Kim for all of her hard work on the brunch and for being such a gracious host.

At the brunch, I spoke briefly about our theme for the year: Bloom in Our Community. The Board and I hope that AAUW as an organization and each section will think about ways to be of service to our community as we hopefully emerge from the pandemic. Our brunch speaker Vernetta Doty, Director of UC Merced Community Engagement Center, spoke about some of the projects that UC students are engaged in and how AAUW might be of support. I was pleased to see many of you talking with her about ways you can work together.

Our next program, Wine Tasting at Vista Ranch, will be **outside** on Thursday, October 7th from 5:30-7:30. In lieu of asking you to bring a children's book, we are asking you to donate to the Mary Hofmann Teen Center at the Merced Library. Many of you knew Mary Hofmann, a librarian and long-time Merced resident. The Friends of the Library are fundraising to create a dedicated space in the Merced Library that would be named in honor of Mary and serve the special needs of Merced middle and high school students. Kenra Bragonier, an AAUW and Friends of the Library member, will speak at the Vista about plans for the Mary Hofmann Teen Center.

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!

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 at the Vista.

Respectfully submitted, *Jane Lawrence*



SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

Hello!

If you were unable to join us at for the Fall Brunch, here are a few pictures to show you what you missed. A huge thank you to our host, Kim McAuley. The McAuley's house was beautiful as always and Kim and Mark are so generous to let us use their backyard (and kitchen).

Our speaker Vernetta Doty , Director of UC Merced Community Engagement Center, endured the heat and let us know all of the wonderful things that the Community Engagement Center has underway for this year. The students are really giving back to the community in so many ways. She also let us know that if we care interested in helping the center, to please give them a call. Many of our members are present and former educators and the center needs people to instruct the students on how to do tutoring effectively. So give back and give them a call!





OCTOBER PROGRAM

Dear AAUW Members,

Our next program is:

Wine Tasting at the Vista Ranch!

When: Thursday, October 7th from 5:30-7:30

Where: **Outside** at Vista Ranch, 7326 East HWY 140

Who: AAUW Members and Guests

How: RSVP by October 1st to MercedAAUW@gmail.com

Cost: \$10 and guests are free; Wine \$7 a glass. Beer and non-alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase.

Traditionally, literacy has been our focus in the fall and we have asked members to bring children's books with them to the Vista. This year our focus is still on literacy, but with a twist.

In lieu of bringing a book, we are asking you to consider donating to the Mary Hofmann Teen Center at the Merced Library. Many of you knew Mary Hofmann, a librarian and long-time Merced resident. The Friends of the Library are fundraising to create a dedicated space in the Merced Library that would be named in honor of Mary and serve the special needs of Merced middle and high school students.

Kenra Bragonier, AAUW and Friends of the Library Member, will speak during our short program about the Mary Hofmann Teen Center. We hope you will support this very worthy project.

We also are very pleased that three of our most popular Zoom speakers last year, Kristynn Sullivan (Chief Epidemiologist for Merced County), Stephanie Dietz (Merced City Manager) and Sarah Lim (Director, Merced Courthouse Museum) will be joining us. Please come and meet them in person!

We look forward to seeing you on October 7th at the Vista. Once again, we will be meeting outside.





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. Cal Trans has approved resumption of our highway cleaning projects.

Almost Gourmet: Chair – Karen Wallace 722-5289 the.wallaces@comcast.com

Couples gather for four dinners a year. This group is closed. Currently meeting outdoors.

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. **We have not been meeting due to Covid. Hopefully we can start up again after the first of the year.**

Book Section 2: Chair – **This is a new section in need of a chairperson and members. All are welcome!**

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. **We are accepting new members.**

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**

Chocoholics: Chair – Diana Alexander 658-1647 dianaalex51@gmail.com

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. **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. **First meeting since pandemic is Thursday, Sept 23 at Toni's Courtyard Café at 11.15 a.m.**

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. **Currently suspended due to Covid**



MEMBER NEWS

Jane Lawrence: Jane has much to celebrate. Not only is she our new president but her husband has just hit the 1-year anniversary of his lung transplant. Congratulations Jane.

Trekkers.....

Connie Brons

The Sierra Trekkers hiking group met for a 2 mile walk right here in Merced last Saturday morning Sept 18th starting at the Dog Park on Yosemite Ave. It was a glorious day for a walk along the Rascal Creek bike path.



SCIENCE CAMP UPDATE

Joanna Browning and Jane Lawrence

We are happy to announce that the Science Camp Committee is hard at work on the 2022 Science Camp for 4th and 5th grade girls. As you know, we had to cancel last year's Science Camp because of the pandemic. This year, we're moving ahead hoping that we'll be able to once again introduce girls to a range of STEM fields. We will, adhere, of course, to the guidance of the school districts and CDC regarding the pandemic and will postpone the Camp again if required.

Thanks to great support from MCOE and the Merced City Schools the Science Camp will be held in the classrooms, including the STEAM Center, from both organizations. We hope to return to UC Merced in future years.

The Committee decided to keep the fee for the Camp the same (only \$40) to encourage low-income students to apply. The fee, however, barely covers our costs so any financial support from AAUW members would be greatly appreciated.

In the months ahead, we will keep you updated on the Science Camp as we could not offer this great program without our members who serve as speakers, volunteers and supporters.

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

Coretta Scott King



Things to Know

In the opinion of the fair judges (Oh look! A play on words!), the Best of Show Award will be presented to the Long Beach Branch for studying the long-term impact of its STEM Career Conference on underserved eighth-grade girls. By tracking the attendees into high school and comparing them with a similar group that did not participate, the report “*Energizing Potential*” concluded that the program, put simply, worked! Read the [whole story](#). It was worth the wait to get this inspiring report. Not so for the molding brownies in the baking competition.



Things to Do

Our webinars are back and they’re better than the pig races. Get your cotton candy (if you must) and grab a seat in the grandstands.

9/30/21 7 PM

Host a Speech Trek Contest! Everything you need to know to plan and run one

[Click to Register](#)



THE NOT-SO-SIMPLE TRUTH ABOUT THE LATEST PAY GAP DATA

Last week, the U.S. Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics released data indicating that, in 2020, women were paid 83 cents for every dollar paid to men. While the numbers show that the gender pay gap closed slightly, this data point is highly misleading. That’s because the millions of women who lost their jobs during the pandemic weren’t included in the calculation of the wage discrepancy.

Countless women left the workforce completely to deal with child care, homeschooling and other domestic responsibilities. Women of color, low-wage workers and mothers lost jobs at considerably higher rates than other groups. In truth, the pandemic has been an economic disaster for women. Read our statement about the latest data and access our updated report.

Applications Open for 2022-23 Fellows and Grantees


We’re pleased to announce that the application period for AAUW Fellowships and Grants is open for the 2022-23 academic year. Follow in the footsteps of award-winning authors, scientists, scholars and trailblazers by applying for educational funding through AAUW. Deadlines run from November to December 2021. [Help spread](#)

“One of the most important things you can do on this earth is to let people know they are not alone.” – Shannon L. Alder



OUR SUPPORTERS

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Dr. Constance J Brons, Ed.D., R.N.

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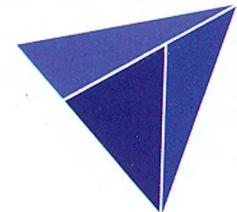
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American Association of University Women
Merced Branch Membership Renewal 2021-2022
(Deadline June 30, 2021)

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

Honorary Life Member \$0
(No Fee)

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

Late Fee \$2
(after July 1)

Scholarship Donation \$ _____

Science Camp Donation \$ _____

DATE _____ CHECK # _____

AMOUNT \$ _____