

AAUW

THE INSIGHTER

NOVEMBER 2021

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Membership Application



THE NEXT NEWSLETTER SHOULD ARRIVE BY THE 1ST DECEMBER. IF YOU HEAR OF A MEMBER WHO HAS NOT RECEIVED ONE, PLEASE CALL DENA TRAINA AT 209.777.5227

AAUW ACCEPTS MEMBERS YEAR-ROUND. WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR ALL OF OUR MEMBERS AND HOPE YOU WILL CONTINUE BEING PART OF THIS GREAT ORGANIZATION. APPLICATION ON PAGE 9. THANKS!



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,

Dear Members,

I want to thank all of you who attended our Wine at the Vista event in early October. The turnout was tremendous, the setting and weather were lovely, and we had lots of guests in attendance.

In addition to presenting Ruth Wax with her Past President's Pin, and in keeping with this year's theme of *Bloom in our Community*, our program focused on the proposed Mary Hoffman Teen Center at the Merced Library. Kenra Bragonier, an AAUW and Friends of Library member, talked about Mary and the importance of the teen center the Friends are working to create at the Library. I am so pleased by the generosity of AAUW members as over \$1600 was raised that evening towards this project! Many of you signed up to receive updates on the Teen Center so stay tuned for opportunities to advocate with the Merced County Board of Supervisors to fund construction of the Teen Center. Again, thank you!

The Board and I would like to challenge each AAUW section to talk about ways the members can bring our theme of *Bloom in our Community* to life. Given the creativity of our members, I am confident that each section can identify a way that it can contribute to the continued development of Merced whether it be focusing on children's literacy, homelessness, food insecurity, whatever. If you get stuck, please do not hesitate to contact me! I am always full of ideas.

Our next program is our annual Holiday Tea scheduled for Sunday, December 12th from 3:00-5:00 at Bette Woolstenhulme's home. Please watch for more details in the coming weeks. In addition, the Board will be meeting soon to plan our spring programs which will be in-person as well as on Zoom.

November is the month when we are reminded to be thankful. I'm very thankful for AAUW and its service to our Merced community for over 60 years. I also am thankful for all the women throughout the decades and into the present who have contributed their time, leadership skills and service to keep this organization flourishing. I wish you all a family-filled holiday. I look forward to seeing you in December and in 2022.

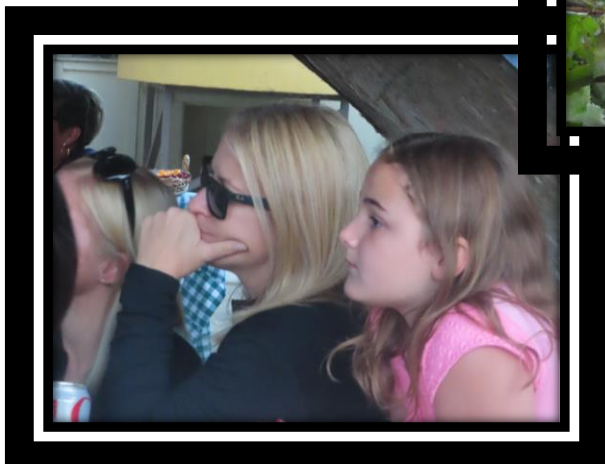
Respectfully submitted, **Jane Lawrence**



Hello!

If you were unable to join us at for the meeting at the Vista, you missed a good one!

We were honoring Mary Hofmann. Many of you knew Mary Hofmann, a teacher 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. Her family able to come to our event where we raised \$1600 for the teen center at the library. This will be a place where teens can study, work on a project with other teens or just relax and read a book. If you didn't have an opportunity to contribute, it is not too late. Contact Kenra Bragonier.





NOVEMBER PROGRAM

No program for November! Sorry that we will miss you this month but December will be our Holiday Tea and as you all know that is a delightful event. Bette has graciously agreed to allow us to have the event at her house. Thanks Bette

Our next program is:

HOLIDAY TEA!

When: Sunday, December 12th from 3:00 – 5:00

Where: Bette Woolstenhulme's Home

2694 Piedmont Drive, Merced

Who: AAUW Members and Guests

Cost: \$10 and guests are free

Members with last names beginning with the letters M-Z bring finger food, desserts, or hors d'oeuvres.

Board members will be serving you tea and coffee.



Science Camp Needs Your Assistance!

Plans are underway to offer our Science Camp for 4th and 5th grade girls starting in January. The Committee is hard at work and has gotten great support from MCOE and Merced City Schools. If all goes well, we will kick the camp off with an orientation on Friday, January 7th.'

There are two ways you can be of help!

First, we still need volunteers to help support the instructors. This involves helping to set up the room before the first session in the morning, clean up after the second session in the afternoon and assisting the instructor(s) with any of their activities. If you have a Saturday free in January or February, please contact Joanna Browning at browning1645@comcast.net

Second, the Committee had kept the cost of the Science Camp at \$40 so as to not discourage participation. We also have some girls who ask for scholarship assistance. Like everything, our expenses are rising. Any and all contributions to the Science Camp would be welcome! If you would like to make a donation to support the Science Camp, please contact Megan Anderson at quiltdragon@yahoo.com

Thanks! The Science Camp Committee



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

No member news this month. If you know how former or current members are doing, please let Newsletter



SECTION NEWS

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.



Bunko.....

Cheryl Burke

The Bunko group is meeting again in person. How nice is that.



NEW MEMBERS

Vicki Bandoni

1550 E. Cardella Road

Merced, C 95340

Home: 209-722-0123 Cell:209-617-9994

vickibandoni@gmail.com

Geraldine (Geri) Freer

481 St. Kevin Court

Merced, CA 95348

Home:209-723-0177 Cell: 323-936-9043

gefrees481@gmail.com

Leigh-Ann Thornhill

P.O. Box 2631 Merced, CA 95344

Cell: 209-261-8476

ladrama@hotmail.com



“The best way to show my gratitude is to accept everything, even my problems, with joy..”

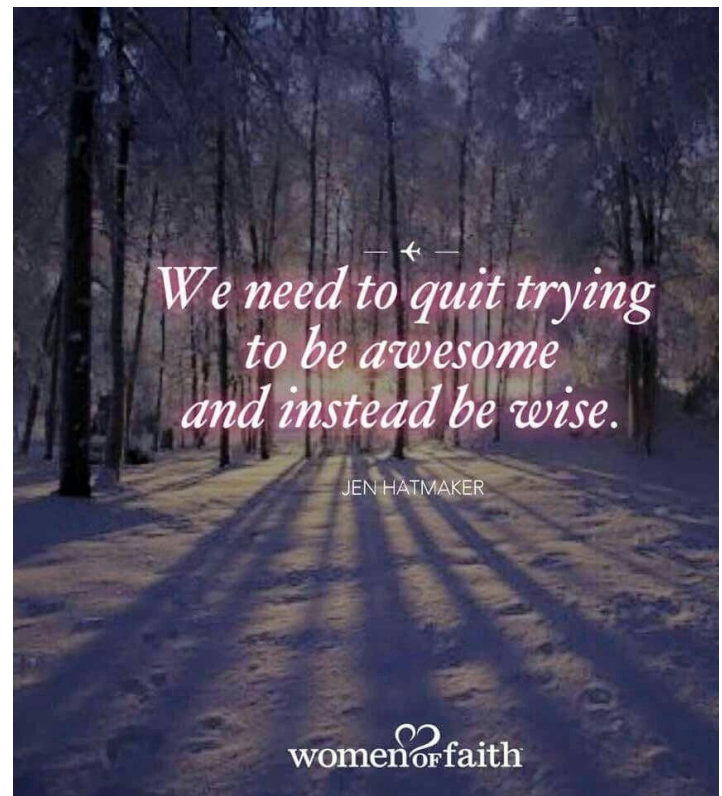
St. Theresa of Calcutta

Engage

- In 2020, women earned 83 cents for every dollar paid to a man, about the same as prior years, according to our recent update to AAUW's signature report, *The Simple Truth About the Gender Pay Gap*. But that doesn't take into account the millions of women who lost or left jobs due to the pandemic. Read more about the devastating impact of COVID-19 on women and the workforce.
- October 21 is Latina Equal Pay Day, which marks how far into this year Latinas must work to make what white, non-Hispanic men were paid for the previous year. It's the last Equal Pay Day of the year because Latinas have the largest gender pay gap to close. On average, Latinas are paid only 57 cents for every dollar paid to white, non-Hispanic men.
- AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund applications are open for two grant programs: the Legal Case Support Grants (deadline November 15) fund cases in state or federal court that address sex discrimination in employment or education and have the potential to set or reinforce precedent for future cases. The Clinic Campus Outreach Grants (deadline December 1) are available to law school clinical programs in California and New York that address legal claims regarding gender equity, particularly in the realms of education and employment.
- AAUW signed on with 60 civil and human rights organizations in a letter to Congress supporting the Women's Health Protection Act. This legislation would protect the rights of pregnant people to access abortion care. We also joined more than 70 organizations in an amicus brief to the U.S. Supreme Court on the upcoming *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* case, which has the potential to seriously challenge *Roe v. Wade*.

- AAUW joined letters on the Build Back Better Act to Congress in support of establishing a universal paid leave program, temporarily expanding the child tax credit, and making permanent the earned income tax credit.

- Stay engaged this fall and sign up with our Two-Minute Activist tool! You can also check out our letters, comments, testimony and legal briefs to learn more about AAUW's positions and advocacy efforts 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.




“The more one does and sees and feels, the more one is able to do, and the more genuine may be one’s appreciation of fundamental things like home, and love, and understanding companionship.” –

Amelia Earhart


OUR SUPPORTERS

HYPNOTHERAPY AND COUNSELING
For Positive Changes



Dr. Constance J Brons, Ed.D., R.N.
Am. Bd. Hypnotherapy ASH #13670
Am. Bd. for Certified Counselors #49343
CA Bd. of Reg. Nursing #260306

conniebrons@yahoo.com
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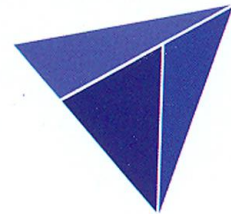
209-617-5226
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WWW.WALSHCASSADYWALSH.COM



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

Chef William Decker present



JOY OF THE SOUTH

Take Out / Catering
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1513 W. Main Street, Merced
Menu on Facebook

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Custom Designing • Jewelry Repair
We buy and sell Gold and Silver

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



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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 # _____

Late Fee \$2
(after July 1)

AMOUNT \$ _____