

AAUW

THE INSIGHTER

MARCH 2022

VOLUME 86, NUMBER 6

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

 PG. 2

President's Message

 PG. 3

February Recap and Puzzle

 PG. 4

March Program

 PG. 5

Sections

 PG. 6

Member and Section News

 PG. 7

Science Camp

 PG. 8

Around the State and Nation

 PG. 9

Membership Form

 PG. 10

Our Supporters



THE NEXT NEWSLETTER SHOULD ARRIVE BY THE 1ST APRIL. IF YOU HEAR OF A MEMBER WHO HAS NOT RECEIVED ONE, PLEASE CALL DENA TRAINA AT 209.777.5227. SORRY I WAS LATE THIS MONTH!

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,

How did it get to be March already? Another year is zooming by. And, speaking of Zoom I hope you were able to join us for our February program when former member Gigi Marr Mitchell zoomed in from Australia and gave a very interesting talk about life in Australia. Many of you know Gigi from her years of living in Merced and she and her family moved to Australia just as the pandemic started. Gigi spoke about learning to live in another country, showed pictures of the area where she is living and talked about some of the differences between the US and Australia. She also showed us some of the knitting projects that she has been working on. And she announced at the end of her talk that she was donating a beautiful shawl she made to AAUW in the hopes that we could sell it at a fundraiser and make some money for our organization. If you didn't hear Gigi's talk, you can find it on our website.

Our next program is Tuesday, March 22 from 6:00-7:30 PM in the Gracey Room of the Merced County Library at 2100 "O" Street. The topic is "Women in Action: The Paradise and Creek Fires and How Engineers Have Responded". Dena Traina, a past president of AAUW, will present on her involvement in the Paradise and Creek fires. As a civil engineer, Dena was one of several engineers from our area who were Safety Assessment professionals. She will provide context for the fires and the state of our infrastructure, and what engineers are recommending we can do to adapt to the changing landscape. This presentation is jointly sponsored by AAUW and the League of Women Voters. RSVPs are recommended at MERCEDAAUW@gmail.com

If you see, Joanna Browning please thank her for her dedication and hard work on Science Camp. It was very important to us all that we hold Science Camp this year, but we were unsure if it would be possible given the continued pandemic. I was lucky enough to attend several sessions and was so impressed by the dedication of our teachers, volunteers and students and their mothers. At the last session, Joanna asked the girls and their mothers to complete an evaluation and tell us which was their favorite session. I loved it when one of the mothers told me that her daughter so loved the physics session that physics was all they talked about in their home the following week! MCOE and the Merced Schools were integral to the success of the Science Camp.

After Dena's presentation in March, I hope you will make every effort to come to our last program of the year, our Spring Brunch, on Saturday, May 14th at the Merced Country Club. Watch for more details on email and our website.

I look forward to seeing you in March and May!

Best, Jane Lawrence President



FEBRUARY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Travelling to Australia

Presented by Gigi Mitchell

Gigi presented on her experiences moving to Australia and shared many interesting facts that many of us might not realize. Did you know that:

1. Australia's land mass is 85% of the continental US while the population is about 8%?
2. That besides the Great Barrier Reef there is a famous yacht race – The Sydney Hobart Yacht Race?
3. There is a major desert in the interior with a million camels?
4. The Ghan railway is like the Orient express?
5. There is a major wine region in the south west part of Australia?
6. The Olympics will be in Australia in 2032



Wildlife abounds. Gigi showed lots of pictures of wildlife at her house from possums to birds and their snake Sam. Sam hangs out at their chalet. The snake finds a way to get into the chalet every year. There are a lot of insects including a green bee that loves the purple wisteria.

Things that surprised Gigi was that she thought she spoke English but it definitely is not the same as the Australians speak. Besides the word differences there are also differences such as the expectation that directions that a person would give you are correct. Lots more on the recording!

Link to the recording below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/6pu4Asfcw5bWSrFjHefhNbBDqBj2cf4D4XItHIY6qZXjqB21hotXwanh2qiDz18.ftSuskbSDOQKoMMW>

(Passcode: 5\$hrYv5)



im - for personal use only - reproduction is prohibited

"Spring: A lovely reminder of how beautiful change can be."

Anonymous



Women in Action

When: Tuesday, March 22, 2022
from 6:00-7:00 PM

Where: Gracey Room, Merced
County Library

Who: Dena Traina

Title: Women in Action: The
Paradise and Creek Fires and
how Engineers have responded

March Program: March 22nd

Our next gathering will be on Tuesday, March 22, from 6:00-7:00 PM in the Gracey Room of the Merced County Library at 2100 "O" Street. The topic is "Women in Action: The Paradise and Creek Fires and How Engineers Have Responded". Dena Traina, a past president of AAUW, will present on her involvement in the Paradise and Creek fires. As a civil engineer, Dena was one of several engineers from our area who were Safety Assessment professionals. She will provide context for the fires and the state of our infrastructure, and what engineers are recommending we can do to adapt to the changing landscape. This presentation is jointly sponsored by AAUW and the League of Women Voters. RSVPs are recommended at MERCEDAAUW@gmail.com



Sadly, fire is an ever-present danger in our State given the drought conditions throughout much of California. Come and learn more about how to protect your home!



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.**

Together Women Rise: 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

Our dear member and Past President Sandy Clemons passed away. Joan Dallas has also passed away.

“Where flowers boom so does hope”
Lady Bird Johnson



SECTION NEWS

Bunko.....

Cheryl Burke

One of the longtime AAUW groups is Bunko!

The Bunko group has 12 members who form three tables of 4 each. We roll dice and keep score with a partner! Someone can Bunko if they have three dice of the number of the game such as 3 dice with each having 6 dots during the game requiring the number 6. You will hear lots of fun, screaming, and laughing when someone throws a Bunko! For this past December, we chose as our community outreach a community charity of our choice.

We meet the fourth Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Members take turns hosting the fun. The hostess and/or a partner provide the goodies, dessert and drinks for the evening. While our membership is full at this time, we always need ladies to substitute for a member who cannot attend the evening. Members put \$10 into a bowl toward the winners for the evening. Substitute ladies do the same and can win just like everyone else. If you are interested in being on our sub list for this year, please call Cheryl Burke, at 209-726-8481.



Sierra Trekkers.....

Connie Brons

The Sierra Trekkers had a fun hike February 19th, a hike on in Merced from Olive Ave. to Yosemite Ave. on the new Parkway Section under construction. What gorgeous vistas we had featuring the fruit blossoms in full bloom in the ag land.

If you wish to join The Trekkers, please call our head hiker, Judy E. Smith at 209-777- 5345

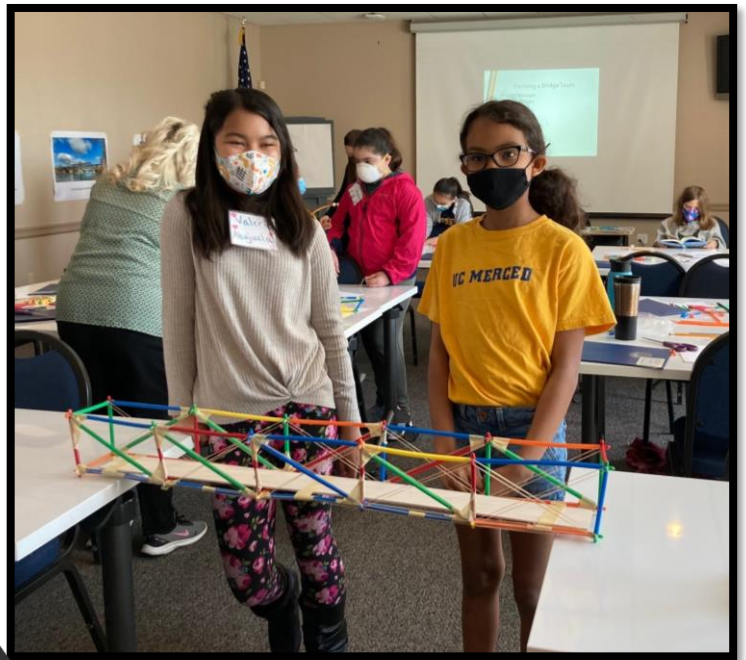




SCIENCE CAMP NEWS

February concluded another busy month for the American Association of University Women's Science Camp for Merced's fourth and fifth grade girls. Each of the girls attend the camp with their mother or another adult. This session was held at the Merced City School's STEAM Center located at Ada Givens School. We are so grateful that Merced City Schools has allowed us to use the center.

The last session was Engineering. The students learned the basics of Engineering and what types of jobs engineers can do. They got to build a bridge for their client to take people to their island resort.



Women Making History

Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson makes history as the first Black woman nominated to the Supreme Court of the United States.

This nomination is a long-overdue step towards a Supreme Court that better reflects the country it serves. When judges and justices come from diverse backgrounds, their decisions and rulings are more likely to reflect a variety of outlooks and perspectives. What's more, public trust in our judiciary increases when people see jurists who look like them, understand their issues and care about their needs.

AAUW supports Judge Jackson. Now the U.S. Senate must swiftly and unanimously confirm her.

Judge Jackson's nomination represents a historic milestone that will impact our nation for generations to come. She has stellar qualifications and a sound judicial temperament that has earned her broad, bipartisan support. Her confirmation would not only bring the first Black woman to the highest court in the land but would also be the first time in the Supreme Court's 233-year history that four women are serving simultaneously, achieving near gender equity on the nine-person bench.

Equal Pay Day

March 15 is Equal Pay Day 2022, the date that marks how far into the new year all women must work to reach what all men were paid the previous year. Join AAUW in raising awareness about the damaging realities of the gender pay gap and the necessity of passing the Paycheck Fairness Act!

Status of Women Event

Join AAUW on March 16 for our 66th UN Commission on the Status of Women parallel event—an expert panel discussion about gender and work, the double burden and expectations of women's paid and unpaid work, and solutions that support equity and success in the workforce. .

[Register here](#) today

March is National Women's History Month

50 YEARS OF TITLE IX – WE DID IT!

The Santa Clara County IBC will host a Zoom event celebrating 50 years of Title IX success on March 19th, from noon to 1 pm. Click [HERE](#) to register.

Fighting for Pay Equity – A Federal Road Map

In 2019, median annual earnings in the U.S. for men working full time, year-round were \$57,456, compared to just \$47,299 for women, according to the most recent census data. That means women were paid just 82% of men's earnings – a gap of 18%. The gap narrowed over the past half-century, but progress has stalled in recent years. Our federal equal pay laws need an update and agencies can do more to ensure women bring home the pay they have rightfully earned.

(Editor's Note. Please take a look at this link. Where women are the closest to men in our state, both are making close to a poverty wage. [show pdf.php \(aauw.org\)](#))

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
(209) 631-8758



VON GOODIN, DDS

830 WEST OLIVE AVENUE PH: 209-384-3434
 MERCED, CA 95348 FAX: 209-384-8262
www.vongoodin.com

LE JARDINIÈRE

Ruth Wax
Master Gardener

- Consulting/Designing
- Planting/Pruning/Fertilizing

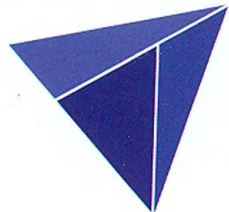
209-617-5226
ruthjwax@gmail.com



W C W Solutions Inc.
We Get It Done


Susan E. Walsh, Ed.D.
Partner

SusanWalsh@WalshCassadyWalsh.com
 209 756-1473
WWW.WALSHCASSADYWALSH.COM



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

Chef William Decker presen



JOY OF THE SOUTH

Take Out / Catering
 209 446-8321
 1513 W. Main Street, Merced
 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
 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
<https://learntoreadonline.org/>