

AAUW

THE INSIGHTER

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

 PG. 2

President's Message

 PG. 3

March Recap and Puzzle

 PG. 4

March Program

 PG. 5

Sections

 PG. 6

Scholarships and Section News

 PG. 7

Section News

 PG. 8

Around the State and Nation

 PG. 9

Membership Form

 PG. 10

Our Supporters



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



April? Already? Even the weather can't decide what month we're in. Recently, it was over 90 degrees and today it is cloudy and in the 60s, but spring has arrived in the Valley and I love the longer days, the blooming flowers and temperatures not yet in the 100s.

A big thanks to Dena Traina for her outstanding talk on March 22nd about her experiences at the Paradise and Creek fires! We had a nice crowd at the Merced Library and there were members who zoomed in to listen to Dena talk about climate change, safe construction and the impact of fire on structures. Thanks to the League of Women Voters for co-sponsoring Dena's talk.

Prior to the presentation, the group voted on next year's AAUW Board. A list of the new officers and committee chairs is in the newsletter. The new Board will be installed officially at our Spring Brunch which will be held on Saturday, May 14th at the Merced Country Club. Again, there is more information on the Brunch in this newsletter.

In last month's newsletter, I mentioned that Gigi Mitchell who zoomed in during February and talked about her life in Australia donated to AAUW one of her beautiful handmade shawls. Working with the Merced Symphony it was auctioned off recently to benefit both groups. I was so pleased that former president and active Trekker Judy Smith purchased it!

I hope you will make every effort to attend the Spring Brunch. The Board is planning a fun, but short program and it will be our last official event for the year.

I look forward to seeing you in May at the Brunch!

Best,

Jane Lawrence



MARCH PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Women in Action: The Paradise and Creek Fires

Presented by Dena Traina

Dena talked about the Perfect Storm of Climate Change with aging infrastructure and inadequate funding. With green house gases rising, global surface temperatures going up and mean sea level above its historic levels, there are many things that we are having to adapt to as a nation and a world.

Even in Merced the likelihood of your house flooding in the next 15 years is about 10 % higher than it is today. She knows, hard to believe when we are in the middle of a drought. But that is one of the things with climate change is there are large swings in the weather patterns. Most of California is predicted to have heavier rain events in the next 15 years. So you can protect your house by doing things like cleaning your gutters, installing sealants and coating on the exterior of your house, capture rain in rain barrels and make sure your property drains away from your house.

The fire risk from climate change is also going up in California. There are new rules about Defensible Space and the sale of homes that now need to be complied with. You can do lots of things to protect your property from ignition resistant construction, enclosing under your eaves, creating a defensible space and many others.

American Society of Civil Engineers rates California's infrastructure as a C-. There are bridges within our neighborhood that are rated in poor condition. The infrastructure bill that passed will barely touch the number of repairs that need to be made to keep our infrastructure safe.

Topic: AAUW Merced - March Meeting
Start Time: Mar 22, 2022 05:12 PM

Meeting Recording:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/4Tt2Rzb8yG8iW5gp0UkiK90q_iDOHMb4j4uDQ0POJ1bzynTDt-yj2rbTszu1deLW.y2e6LEmZhYD8e7ud





AAUW Spring Brunch

WHEN: Saturday, May 14th
WHERE: Merced Golf & Country Club
6333 Golf Road, Merced
TIME: 10:00 AM- Noon
COST: \$25 for members, please bring a guest for free!



RSVP: MercedAAUW@gmail.com no later than May 6th.

QUESTIONS: Contact Jane Lawrence at jlawrence@ucmerced.edu

We will install next year’s officers and review what was accomplished this year with a special focus on our very successful Science Camp. This is an event not to miss!

2022-2023 AAUW BOARD

- President Sue Chappell
- Vice President Open
- Past President Jane Lawrence
- Secretary Kathleen McElwain
- Treasurer Megan Anderson
- Memberships Dee Near
- Science Camp Joanna Browning
- Website Kathleen Hull
- Newsletter Dena Traina
- Scholarships Pauline Cuchna
- Programs Ruth Wax, Carolyn Vara, Jane Lawrence
- Interest Sections Becky Tietjen

"Being a mother is learning about strengths you didn't know you had and dealing with fears you never knew existed."



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**



SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

The AAUW Merced Branch is proud to announce the scholarship recipient winner for the 2022-23 academic year ~ **IVANNA RODRIGUEZ RAMIREZ**. She is transferring from Merced College to a four-year institution. She will receive \$2,000.

IVANNA RODRIGUEZ RAMIREZ plans to attend and has been accepted at San Jose State University majoring in Mathematics.

After her father died when she just 10, life was very difficult for Ivanna. Because he was so supportive of her academically, it became her goal to make him proud.

In high school, she received the position of Drum Major for the high school band. In this leadership position, she helped incoming students transition to a higher level of musicianship. This experience inspired her to pursue teaching as a career.

Coming to Merced College as a first-generation student with no guide to lead her toward success was difficult for her until she received the help of the EOPS program.

Ivanna's extracurricular activities include Musicians Club, ASMC, AGS, and PTK Honor Society. She also completed 25 hours of community service activities.

Ivanna was awarded the Spanish Seal of Biliteracy, Most Valuable Performer in band competitions, and the AP Scholar award.

Ivanna's goal is to complete her bachelor's degree and Single-Subject Credential to bring her passion for mathematics to the next generations of learning in the high school system.

She has maintained a 3.9 GPA.



SECTION NEWS

Lunch Bunch.....

Connie Brons

Our Merced Lunch Bunch ladies had a wonderful lunch at Ravello's Restaurant in Merced on Thursday, April 27. Outdoor dining was also a plus.

If you wish to join us, call Connie at 209 631 8758. We meet the last Thursday of the month at 11:30am.





SECTION NEWS (CONTINUED)

Adopt a Highway.....

Colleen Eisberg

AAUW's Adopt-a-Highway team out on a cloudy overcast day



Together Women Rise.....

Jane Guerra



WHAT IS HAPPENING

In Washington, D.C.?

Our CEO, Gloria Blackwell, continues to be invited to many events and meets regularly with other non-profit leaders that support our mission. She is committed to letting the world know about AAUW.

- AAUW continues the effort to support the Supreme Court appointment of Judge Katanji Brown Jackson.
- Members who donate \$5,000/yr or more will be honored at a Champions for Women and Girls event on April 13th.
- There have been two AAUW training sessions to help members navigate the new Community Hub. Links to the two will be available soon. To get started you can click [HERE](#) for instructions and several tutorials. For further help or questions contact connect@aauw.org.

AAUW FUND

Lynne Batchelor, Secretary, AAUW Fund Committee Chair, aauwfund@aauw-ca.org

Thank you to everyone for your tremendous efforts this year to raise money for AAUW Fund and congratulations on the wonderful results of just over \$494,000 contributed by California individuals and branches. The Top Ten branches in total contributions, the Top Ten branches in per capita contributions, and our State Named Gift Honoree will be revealed at the Annual Event, so be sure to register and get in on the excitement!

All workplace discrimination is dangerous and hurts our nation's workers and families.

Nearly a full year ago, the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (PWFA) passed the House of Representatives in a bipartisan 315-101 vote. Despite overwhelming support, this critical piece of legislation continues to stall in the U.S. Senate. Pregnant workers cannot wait another day.

Upcoming Webinar

Exploring Tough Policy Issues through an AAUW Lens: The Student Debt Crisis

Tuesday, May 3, 2022, 4 p.m. ET

Join AAUW's Public Policy team as they and guest speakers explore the realities and possible misconceptions about student debt.

Women hold around two-thirds of the country's \$1.7 trillion of student debt, according to AAUW's report, *Deeper in Debt: Women and Student Loans*. Because of the gender pay gap, they have less income with which to repay their loans. Student debt erodes economic security and is particularly burdensome for women of color. Our panelists will discuss their research and efforts to help borrowers and halt abuses by the student loan industry.

Panelists include **Katherine Welbeck**, director of advocacy from the Student Borrower Protection Center, and **Natalia Abrams**, president and founder of the Student Debt Crisis Center.

[REGISTER NOW](#)



American Association of University Women
Merced Branch Membership Renewal 2022-2023
(Deadline June 30, 2022)

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:
Dee Near, 1004 Half Dome 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 \$95
(Assoc. \$62 (\$59 is tax deductible)
State \$20, Branch \$13

Scholarship Donation \$ _____

Honorary Life Member \$0
(No Fee)

Science Camp Donation \$ _____

Association Life Member \$33
(Assoc. \$0, State \$20, Branch \$13)

DATE _____ CHECK # _____


Late Fee \$2
(after July 1)

AMOUNT \$ _____



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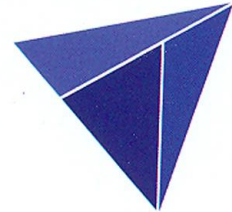
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