

AAUW

THE INSIGHTER

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THE NEXT NEWSLETTER SHOULD ARRIVE BY THE 1ST OF OCT. IF YOU HEAR OF A MEMBER WHO HAS NOT RECEIVED ONE, ALSO IF YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE THAT NEEDS A PRINTED VERSION PLEASE CALL DENA TRAINA AT 209.777.5227.



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. We have two outdoor events planned already. So please come and please visit our website <https://merced-ca.aauw.net/> regularly for information about Zoom programs and activities.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome fellow university women to AAUW 2022-2023. This year I have picked, as a theme, “Women in Power”. It is time we took our power back. I want to study powerful women, hear from them, learn about them, and be inspired for our work ahead.

What does a powerful woman look like? How do we know a woman is powerful? I have been pondering these questions since taking on the job of president. Certainly, it is a way of being, like unstoppable, persistent, courageous, or determined. Sometimes we call them “Leaders”

The most remarkable, powerful woman I have known was a coworker at Modesto Junior College. She had a Ph.D. in Psychology and was teaching Psych 01. And she was paralyzed from the waist down and used a very old wheelchair, not one of those electric ones. She pushed herself. In 1980 buildings were not very accessible and her students would meet her in the parking lot and help her up the curb. She was a fantastic role model for the students, since in those days we didn't see disabled people a lot.

How had she succeeded? How come she was in a wheelchair? She would always tell her story. She was in a car

accident in 1937 when she was a senior in college at the University of Wisconsin, hit by a drunk driver on her way home to Buffalo for Christmas break. When her father got the call, they told him she was dead and would he please come to identify her. She was not the woman in the morgue. The doctor told him that there was another woman from the accident who was upstairs in critical condition who had broken her back and would soon be dying. This turned out to be his daughter and despite the doctor's prediction she kept living.

Her father finally took her home to Buffalo to recover in a makeshift hospital bed in the living room. She never died but lay for ten years as an invalid. She couldn't go on living like this, so she told her mother she was going to wheelchair school to learn to care for herself, drive a car and get her college degree. When she enrolled in the University of Buffalo, she changed her major to psychology and started over. After obtaining her master's degree at Buffalo, she enrolled at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor to get her Ph.D. While in her internship in Memphis Tennessee, she met her husband who was in his last year of residency in Pathology. They married and were pregnant in 3 months. Surely, she would die now, as no paralyzed woman had ever given birth. She finished her Ph.D. lying in bed with her newborn beside her.

He wanted to practice medicine in Hawaii, so off they went, baby on her lap, despite her parents and the airlines disapproval. Remarkably, she had four more children. She was 45 years old when she had her last child, a boy with Down Syndrome. They had to move back to the mainland to get him services. She was named by the Stanislaus County Association for Retarded Children to be the district director of the California Council for Retarded Children. She also worked for the Modesto Family Service Agency, as a counselor, and at the State hospital.

If you haven't already guessed, this persistent, courageous, determined woman was my mother, Dorothy Chappell, 1916-1986. She taught me everything I know about being powerful.

Best, Sue Chappell, MA Child Development



MAY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

BRUNCH AT THE MERCED GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

What a lovely brunch at Merced Golf's Clubhouse. The weather was gorgeous, and it was delightful to be at the swearing in ceremony for the new officers.

2022-2023 AAUW BOARD and Committees

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



A future member was in attendance, Ms. Elizabeth Miller, granddaughter of our very own newsletter editor Dena Traina. It appears that she did not think the program was quite as exciting as her grandmother.



Sue Chappell our 2022-23 President and Past President Jane Lawrence were in attendance and are ready to start the new year.



There is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish."
Michelle Obama



AAUW Fall Brunch!

You will not want to miss the first AAUW event of the year: our Fall Brunch. We are very pleased that Diana Jimenez, new Superintendent of the Merced City Schools, will be our guest speaker!

Jimenez is a longtime educator who most recently served as Superintendent of Winters Joint Unified School District. She served as a lead grant writer and received the James B. McClatchy Foundation Growing Strong Learners Grant in the amount of \$600,000. During her tenure, voters passed Measure W, a \$19-million bond. In 2014 she was awarded Stanislaus-Tuolumne Section FFA Administrator of the Year and won Teacher of the Year in 2010. She has a master's degree in educational leadership and is in the process of getting a doctorate in education and organizational leadership



When: Saturday, September 10th from 10-Noon

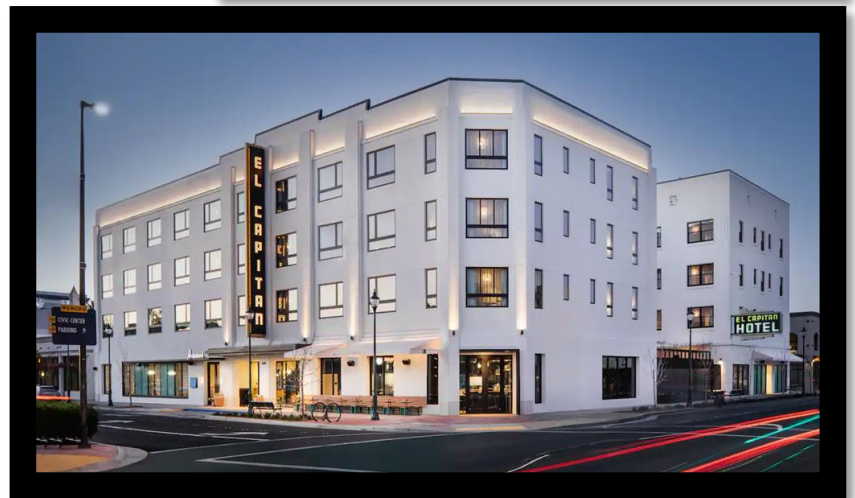
Where: El Capitan Hotel, 609 W Main Street, Merced

Who: AAUW Members and Guests

Why: Let's gather and enjoy visiting with old friends!

How: Please RSVP by Monday, September 5th at MercedAAUW@gmail.com or call [Jane Lawrence at 209-658-4490](tel:209-658-4490). Thanks to those who have already RSVP'd.

Cost: \$20 per person.



Also, while you have your calendars out, please put down Tuesday, October 18th at 5:30 for AAUW's Wine Tasting at the Vista. This is another outdoor event that you won't want to miss!



SECTIONS

Members of these interest sections meet in the home of the hostess for that month. Some sections also have co-hostesses. When signing up for a section, consider being an active participant by volunteering to host or co-host a meeting.

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**

Chocololics: 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.**

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.**

Play 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**

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.

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.**

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

Hello,

My mother was an enthusiastic member of AAUW. I believe my parents played bridge with various groups up until the last few years. She might have belonged to a book group as well. She encouraged her daughters to belong to AAUW, so my sister Ellen and I belong (Madera, Nevada County branches).

I'm sending along her obituary. She was an amazing woman—liberated and independent but in her own non-offensive, gentle way. After having 6 children, she told my father—who was content for her to be a housewife—that she wouldn't be fulfilled until she finished her college degree and had a teaching career.

We are having a Celebration of Life on Saturday, October 29 around 11am at the Atwater Women's Club. If anyone is interested in attending, please encourage them to call Bob Weaver at 209/358-6878.

Thank you.

-Mari Weaver

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/modestobee/name/etta-weaver-obituary?n=etta-weaver&pid=202340569>

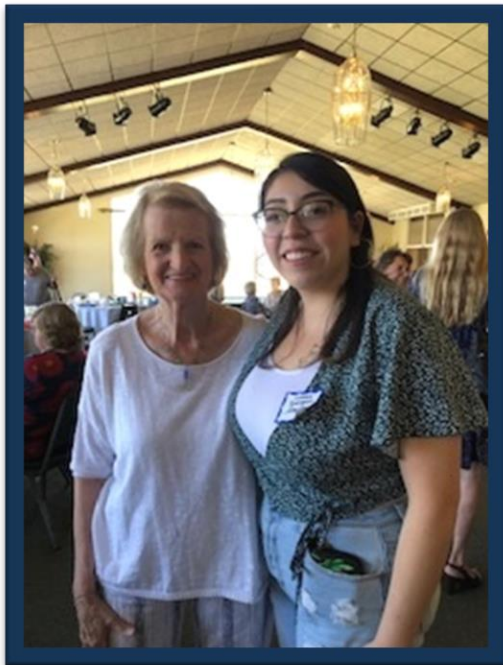


“You had the power all along,
my dear.”

Glinda



SCHOLARSHIP NEWS



IVANNA RODRIGUEZ RAMIREZ was able to attend the May Brunch and spend time with Pauline who serves as the scholarship chair. Ivanna 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.

Ivanna's goal is to complete her bachelor's degree and Single-Subject Credential to bring her passion for mathematics to future generations of high school students.



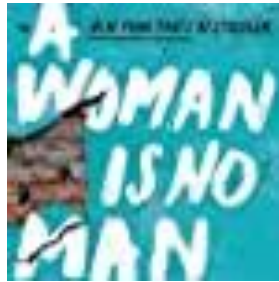
SECTION NEWS

Book Section 4 Reading List for 2022-2023.....

Dee Near

Oct. 27

A Woman is No Man by Etaf Rum



Tomorrow, tomorrow, & tomorrow by Gabrielle Zevin

Nov 17

Gone: A Girl, A Violin, a Life Unstrung by Min Kym

Jan 26

Horse by Geraldine Brooks

Feb 23

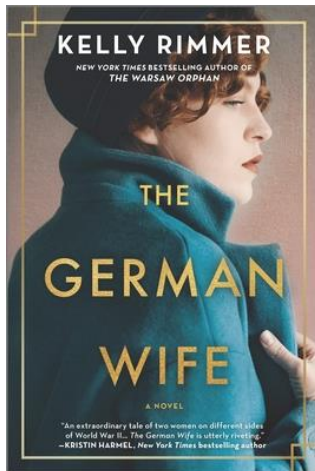
When the Elephants Dance by Tess U Holthe

Mar 23

The Leopard is Loose by Stephen Harrigan

April 27

German Wife by Kelly Rimmer



May 25

Bittersweet by Susan Cain

Knitting and Crocheting.....

Dena Traina

The knitting and crocheting Section has continued to meet in person these last few months. I am happy to say that we have not had any mishaps with this decision. In June we attended the fair to see the entries that Megan Anderson had knitted. She really stole the show. Here is Megan showing the rest of the group a small sampling of her recent socks!





OUR SUPPORTERS

We are starting the year fresh with opportunities for our supporters. Please call Dena Traina at 209.777.5227 if you are interested in being an avid supporter of AAUW.

A black rectangular graphic with white text and colorful accents. The text is arranged in a vertical stack of words, with one letter in each word highlighted in a different color. The words are: STRONG (S, T, R, O, N, G), WITTY (W, I, T, T, Y), SMART (S, M, A, R, T), BRILLIANT (B, R, I, L, L, I, A, N, T), PROUD (P, R, O, U, D), MODERN (M, O, D, E, R, N), WILD (W, I, L, D), CREATIVE (C, R, E, A, T, I, V, E), BRAVE (B, R, A, V, E).

STRONG
WITTY
SMART
BRILLIANT
PROUD
MODERN
WILD
CREATIVE
BRAVE