

AAUW

THE INSIGHTER

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Our Supporters

October is Women History Month!



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

If you missed the Fall Brunch at El Capitan Courtyard, you missed a good one. It was such a nice day after weeks of over 100 degrees. As my Down Syndrome brother would say, "Oh well, next time." Such a good philosophy to have.

Our AAUW board was very helpful in coaching me what to say, what I forgot to say and made sure all my introductions were appropriate. Thank goodness for team effort. I am pretty sure that powerful women have powerful teams behind them. I want to acknowledge our board members, Jane Lawrence, Dena Traina, Kathleen Hull, Kathleen McElwain, Becky Tietjen, Carolyn Vara, Joanna Browning, who made this event happen. You are my stars.

Our next meeting in a large group will be October 18, 2022 - Wine Tasting at Vista Ranch Cellars at 5:30 p.m. We had such a good time last year, we wanted to do it again. The guest speaker will be the Merced County Librarian, Ann Taylor, to give us an update on the "Teenage Hangout remodel" that we all donated to last year.

As reported by Dee Near, our membership is up to 86+. I am proud to be in AAUW – always wanted to be in the "In Group". We are it. Can't believe I qualified. University Women are powerful women who get things done, make a difference, and have fun. Bring a friend to the next meeting.

My motto for next month, "Health is a function of participation."

Sincerely, Sue Chappell
President



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

Michelle Obama



BRUNCH AT THE EL CAPITAN

Our new Superintendent, Diana Jimenez, Was our guest speaker at the September brunch which was help outdoors at the newly renovated El Capitan. 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-millionbond. 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. Diana spoke about her vision for our scholars. We all look forward to seeing what great things she has to bring to our community.





AAUW Fall Brunch!

You will not want to miss the AAUW event at the Vista Ranch!

Wine Tasting at the Vista Ranch!

When: Tuesday, October 18th from 5:30-7:30

Where: Outside at Vista Ranch, 7326 East HWY 140

Who: AAUW Members and Guests

How: **RSVP by October 11th** to Jane Lawrence at 209-658-4490 or MercedAAUW@gmail.com

Cost: \$15; Wine \$8 a glass. Beer and non-alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase.



As many of you will remember, last October at the Vista AAUW members contributed over \$1600 for the Mary Hoffman Teen Center! This fall, we have asked Kenra Bragonier, AAUW and Friends of the Library Member, to introduce Amy Taylor, Merced County Librarian who will provide an update on the Mary Hoffman Teen Center. Construction has started, but there is still much to be done!

We look forward to seeing you on October 18th at the Vista. For those of you who are interested, remember pumpkins will be for sale!



BEING A HEALTHY WOMAN

ISN'T ABOUT GETTING ON A SCALE OR MEASURING YOUR WAISTLINE. WE NEED TO START FOCUSING ON WHAT MATTERS – ON HOW WE FEEL ABOUT OURSELVES.

Michelle Obama



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 – Kem Shrum 489-8130 kskshrum@yahoo.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 last 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**



Come to the first year anniversary of the Kid's Discovery Station. There are individual tickets as well as sponsorship packages for a table at <http://www.kidsdiscoverystation.org/events>.



Join us for a fun-filled night ! You get the best of both worlds: feel like a kid again exploring cool exhibits while sipping a margarita!

MUSEUM TOURS
FUN ACTIVITIES
AUCTIONS

FOOD & DRINKS
MUSIC
FUN WITH FRIENDS

Buy Tickets at www.kidsdiscoverystation.org/events

Dress code casual. Due to event restrictions the event staff is unable to accommodate children, this is an adults-only event.





SECTION NEWS

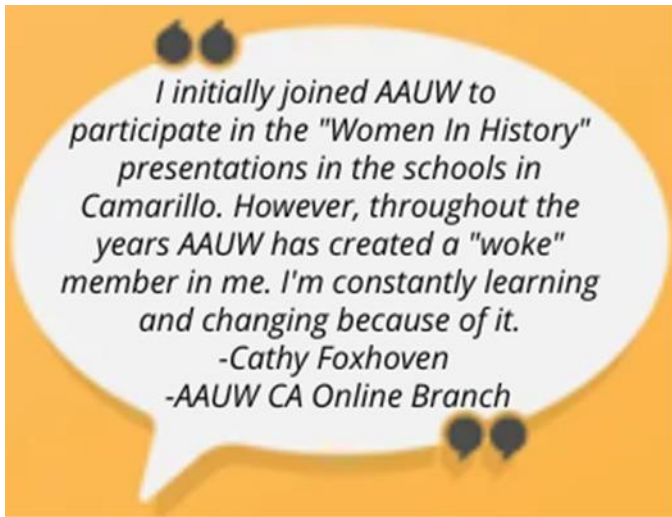
Book Section 4 Reading List for 2022-2023.....

Dee Near Chair

I have to admit that I am not in Book Section 4 but I have read 4 or 5 of the books that were listed in last month's newsletter. They were all great and I highly recommend that you read them. For some reason the one that is standing out in my mind today is the Gone. The story is about a girl who had amazing skills at the violin. Life looks good for a while but at some point, the book scared me as I didn't want anything to go badly for her. But it did. I won't spoil it for you but the book is great at making you understand and feel what it is like to be a kid that excels at something beyond what is considered normal.

Dena Traina

Nutrition Facts	
Serving Size 1/2 cup (114g)	
Servings Per Container 4	
Amount Per Serving	
Calories 90	Calories from fat 30
	% Daily Value*
Total Fat 3g	5%
Saturated Fat 0g	0%
Cholesterol 0mg	5%
Sodium 300mg	13%
Total Carbohydrate 13g	4%
Dietary Fiber 3g	12%
Sugars 3g	
Protein 3g	
Vitamin A 80%	Vitamin C 60%
Calcium 4%	Iron 4%
*Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your caloric needs:	
	Calories: 2,000 2,500
Total Fat	Less than 65g 80g
Sad Fat	Less than 20g 25g
Cholesterol	Less than 300mg 300mg
Sodium	Less than 2,400mg 2,400mg
Total Carbohydrate	300g 375g
Dietary Fiber	25g 30g
Calories per gram:	
Fat 9 • Carbohydrate 4 • Protein 4	



1. What is the serving size? _____
2. How many servings are in one container _____
3. How many mg of sodium are in this product? _____
4. How many grams of protein are in this product? _____
5. What is the total carbohydrate daily total percentage? _____
6. How many calories are from fat? _____



Things to Know.....

A lot of things happen at the stroke of midnight. One is a visit from a certain raven who “quoths” a lot. Another is that the California legislative session ends and bills must be signed or vetoed by the governor. At midnight on September 30th, 25 of the 36 bills supported by AAUW California became law. 70%! That might have caused your heart to drop on a high school math exam, but it is a real triumph for our hardworking Public Policy Committee and all of you who quothed “Nevermore!” to inequalities. Take a look at the new laws supporting economic security, equal access to public education, and social and racial justice [HERE](#). Even Poe would have agreed that 70% success is not for the birds.

In the categories of “What You Do Matters” and “Pass Me the Kleenex®,” read on. . . One of our board members visited a Beach Cities Branch awards event. At the meeting’s start, a newcomer came into the room and sat at a far table. One by one, the award recipients shared touching stories of their AAUW journeys as scholarship students or Tech Trek campers. There wasn’t a dry eye in the house. At the end, the woman revealed that she had walked in on the wrong meeting. She was so affected that she joined on the spot AND made a \$1000 donation to the scholarship fund. Oh my. Let the warm and fuzzy feelings commence.

Pregnant Workers Can’t Wait!

Since 1978, the Pregnancy Discrimination Act has been the best defense for pregnant people who face discrimination on the job based on pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions. But many people who are pregnant still risk being forced out of the workplace simply for following doctors' orders. The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act would close the loopholes in the Pregnancy Discrimination Act and provide much-needed clarity to employers and workers to ensure workplace safety for pregnant workers.

The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act passed the House of Representatives in May 2021. However, despite bipartisan support in both chambers, the bill has stalled in the U.S. Senate ever since. Pregnant workers should not have to wait any longer for protection. No one should face discrimination in the workplace because of a pregnancy. Urge your senators to pass the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act before the midterm elections!



GENDER PAY GAP: TOO WIDE BY ANY MEASURE

On this first full day of Fall, I find myself reflecting on transitions. As hard as it may feel to let go of summer, holding on won’t stop the seasons. Like it or not, I need to grab a sweater as I head out the door.

While change isn’t always easy, it’s my job as a leader to ensure AAUW evolves during times of societal transformation, even as our commitment to equity remains steadfast.

For example, during the pandemic, millions of women were forced out of the workforce due to layoffs and caregiving demands. We knew AAUW’s typical method of calculating the gender pay gap—by assessing only full-time, year-round workers—wouldn’t tell the whole story.

That’s why, this year, we compared all wage earners, including part-time and seasonal workers. When we used this analysis on the [data released last week by the U.S. Census Bureau](#), women were paid barely three-quarters—just 77%—of what men earned in 2021.

And the pay gaps for Black women (64%) and Latinas (54%) were beyond egregious when compared to white, non-Hispanic men. Even the traditional calculation showed the overall pay gap had, at best, stagnated.

By any measure, the numbers are unacceptable. But AAUW has been driving progress for 140 years, and we won’t stop now. Remember, we’re change agents too.

Sincerely,

Gloria L. Blackwell

Chief Executive Officer



OUR SUPPORTERS

Please join CASA and Kids Discovery Station by placing your ad here!



