

AAUW

THE INSIGHTER

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Our Supporters



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.

“The more you are thankful, the more you attract things to be thankful for.”

Thathanjka



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

What's on my mind this month is Voting and Thanksgiving - two tender topics in our family. There is no talking about politics when we get together. There have been too many shouting matches amongst us. But that doesn't stop us from voting. We all vote. We never miss. Don't forget to vote. It's hard to choose a candidate when I can't talk to someone about it. Maybe AAUW could be a good resource for me. If you want to chat about politics, give me a call.

The other big November event is Thanksgiving. Also fraught with family upsets. When grandma, who was the main cook, died, we had to invent new traditions. We have tried lots of ways. Northern folks met together and did a potluck. The hostess made the turkey. Southern folks meet down in San Diego with their inlaws.

My oldest daughter decided her family wanted to travel on Thanksgiving, so she has been absent for years. It has been a hard adjustment. This year they are in Paris. My youngest daughter is going to her Dad's house and taking all of her children, my grandchildren, with her. Doesn't fit my pictures of a happy event. All of my siblings are going to other inlaws or children's houses. So, this is the first Thanksgiving I will be alone. I will cook a little turkey and drink some wine because I am good at that. For sure I will count my blessings, which is what Thanksgiving is all about.



We have always had the tradition of trying to invite a stray, (someone who is alone who wants company and good turkey). Are there any strays in AAUW? I would love your company, we can potluck. Give me a call.

Sincerely, Sue Chappell
President





WINE TASTING AT THE VISTA

On a lovely fall evening, amid pumpkins of every conceivable shape and size, AAUW members gathered at the Vista Ranch for wine, camaraderie, and conversation. President Sue Chappell welcomed the large and congenial group and gave a special welcome to the many guests who had joined us.

The night's program was an update on the development of the Mary Hoffman Teen Center. Last year, AAUW members heard a presentation about the idea of establishing a teen center at the Merced Library in honor of the late Mary Hoffman. At last October's meeting, members donated over \$1600 towards this important initiative. This year, AAUW and Friends of the Library member Kenra Bragonier introduced Merced County Librarian Amy Taylor who brought the attendees up to date on the project. Thanks to funds from Merced County, construction has begun on the teen center. The Friends of the Library have been fundraising to help outfit the teen center and asked AAUW for support. Once again, AAUW members generously donated over \$700 towards this project for a special population in our community.

AAUW's annual Wine Tasting at the Vista has become a popular event for members and another way our group keeps abreast of and supports community initiatives. Thanks to all who came! We look forward to seeing you again next year!





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. Linda has graciously agreed to allow us to have the event at her house. Thanks Linda

Our next program is:

HOLIDAY TEA!

When: Sunday, December 11th from 3:00 – 5:00

Where: Linda Lucas's Home

2501 St. Augustine Court, Merced

Who: AAUW Members and Guests

Cost: \$10 and guests are free

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

Board members will be serving you tea and coffee.



“THE BEST WAY TO SHOW MY GRATITUDE IS TO ACCEPT EVERYTHING, EVEN MY PROBLEMS,
WITH JOY.”

Mother Teresa



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>.

From our Scholarship Winner Ivanna Rodriquez

I’ve definitely been significantly busy in regard to school. I’ve been adjusting to this new atmosphere at San Jose State, but so far everything is going well! Aside from academics, I have been participating in daily school activities as well as volunteering in the SJSU College Corps Program. In the program, I am tutoring Computer Science to 3rd-grade children along with volunteering at local food banks. It’s been a little hectic, but at the end of the day, it feels very rewarding.

Thank you for your invitation to the AAUW Fall Brunch. I had such a lovely time with you all last time and it was an honor to be present. Unfortunately, I don’t have any means of transportation from San Jose to Merced so I won’t be able to attend. However, I really appreciate your kind words and I hope to catch up with you in person another time possible. In the meanwhile, please feel free to catch up with me through my new school email ivanna.rodriquezramirez@sjsu.edu.

From Susan Flinspach regarding Longtime Member Judy Crowe’s Husband and his service to Merced County Library

We regret to inform you that longtime Bookstore volunteer Ken Crow has passed away. Ken took on a Bookstore shift in 2000 and continued to work regularly, with one interruption for illness, through September. He also served as a volunteer for the FOMCL audit, was a donor, and almost every shift he helped reduce our supply of military fiction by one or two books that then entered his personal collection. We will miss him a lot.

An Evening of Discovery
 Kids Discovery Station's First Year Celebration and Fundraiser!
Friday, November 4, 2022
6pm - 9pm

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.



When a longtime (Bookstore/FOMCL) volunteer dies, the FOMCL donates \$25 towards a memorial Adopt-a-Book for the individual. Each \$25 donation will buy a new book with a memorial name plate honoring Ken. So the FOMCL will start this Adopt-a-Book memorial for Ken, and it welcomes additional donations for more books. If you would like to donate, please reply to this email or to siflinspach@gmail.com. (I am traveling back to Merced on Wednesday and so will reply later this week.)



SECTION NEWS

Sierra Trekkers.....

Judy Smith Chair

The Trekkers visited Indigeny Reservice on the latest outing. Co-founders Jay and Judy Watson officially opened Indigeny Reserve to the public in 2012, and already it ranks as one of the Mother Lode's top tourist attractions, according to TripAdvisor and Yelp, top consumer review sites.

Jay is the former owner-operator of a San Francisco-based communications business. He often greets visitors and leads tours of the facilities when he's not making brandy and vodka. Judy is the former owner-director of Skytop Fitness Retreat in Sonora. She is the Program Director for Indigeny, focusing on guest speakers with the latest in sustainable living concepts, and offers Indigeny as an opportunity for young musicians to come and gain experience with public performance.

The website mentions lots about the hard cider and brandy but I don't see any of that in the picture. Where is it hiding? Dena Traina



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



Webinars

Inclusion & Equity Training.....

WHEN: November 5, 2022 @ 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
WHERE: Zoom Webinar - Register via Event Website

On behalf of AAUW’s Inclusion & Equity Committee, I am pleased to invite you to a webinar designed especially for diversity officers and state and branch presidents. This important training will cover a range of topics, including emotional intelligence, creating welcoming and inclusive experiences, and recruiting diverse members. It will also connect you to a network of diversity officers and other leaders who can provide support and community. The webinar will be offered twice to allow maximum participation, so please select the date that works best with your schedule.

Click [HERE](#) to register for the webinar.

Want more women in political power? Learn about the new AAUW program Gov Trek!

WHEN: November 16, 2022 @ 7:00 pm
WHERE: Zoom Webinar - Register via Event Website

Join AAUW California in learning more about the new program Gov Trek. Men still vastly outnumber women in the halls of power. Let’s close that gender gap! This webinar will explain how AAUW branches can offer the new, free program developed by AAUW California for junior and senior high school girls to expose them to careers in public service and elected office. Starting in January and conducted through five virtual two-hour sessions, the activities will be engaging, interactive, and inspirational. See how your branch can participate!

Click [HERE](#) to register.

DAW-AAUW presents: TITLE IX: FAST FORWARD 50 YEARS!! with Alison Kern

Join the American Association of University Women’s (AAUW) Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek branch in an informative FREE presentation by speaker, Allison Kern, Director of Athletics, Cal State East Bay. Alison has been both a student athlete as well as a university leader. Join us to learn about the impact of Title IX on Women’s

athletics in our local universities. The presentation will take place on Thursday, November 17th from 6-8PM at the Greenbrook Clubhouse located at 300 Greenbrook Drive, in Danville.

In August 2021, Allison Kern was named Assistant Vice President/Director of Athletics at Cal State East Bay. Kern will lead the Pioneers’ 15 intercollegiate athletics programs which consist of more than 230 student-athletes competing in the California Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA), Pacific Collegiate Swim and Dive Conference (PCSC) and the Western Water Polo Association (WWPA).

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See our branch website for details at: <https://daw-ca.aauw.net/2022nov>





OUR SUPPORTERS

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

