

AAUW

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Our Supporters



“The young cannot
teach tradition to the
old.”

Yoruba Proverb



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. Please visit our website <https://merced-ca.aauw.net/> regularly for information about Zoom programs and activities.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Holidays AAUW. I wish you wellness and joy. Hope you all survived Thanksgiving.

This year I am really cutting down on trying to do it all. I have given up a lot of traditions as I get older. No more Christmas cards, and this year, no tree. No big dinners on Christmas Eve and Christmas night. Two dinners are too hard and too expensive.

The following traditions are being added:

1. Learn about at least one other family's customs and traditions. I'm starting with Ruth

Wax because my grandchildren are very interested in Judaism. Ruth is on our Program



Committee.

2. Have some of my new neighbors over for dinner. There have been a lot of houses sold in Ragsdale and new people are here.
3. Plant something in honor of my father, the gardener.

I will talk with you at our AAUW Holiday Tea about your traditions, as it all seems pretty overwhelming to me. How do you all do it? You all make it seem so easy.

Cheers to next year and a future full of happiness, sharing and peace.

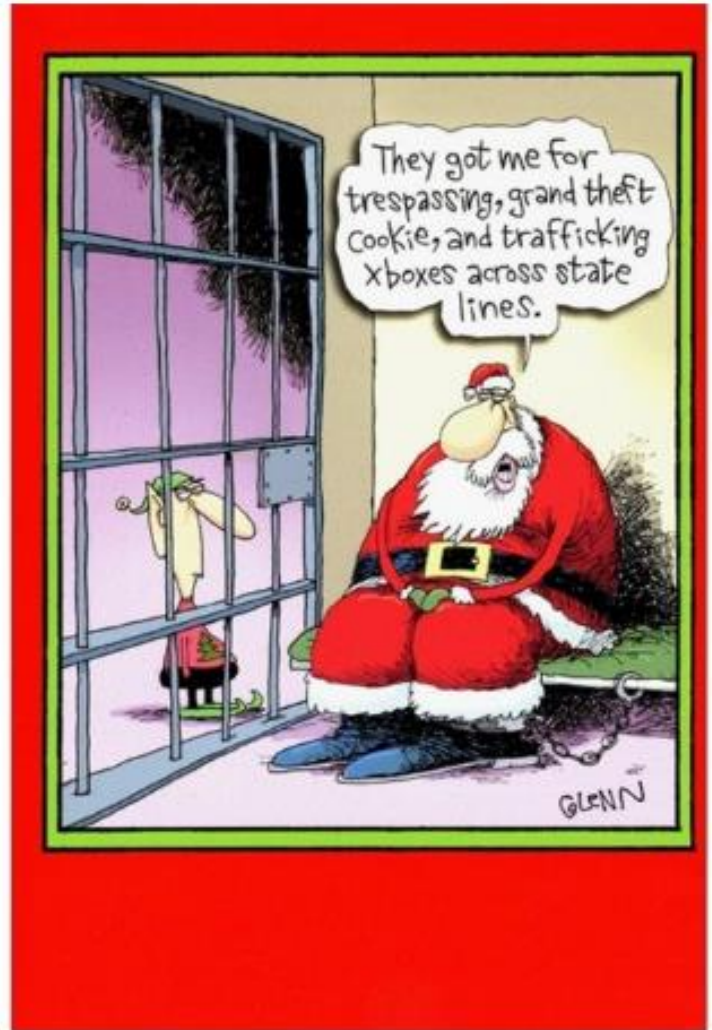
Sincerely, Sue Chappell
President



Enjoy with Your Feet Up

Holiday Riddles

1. How do kids always know when Santa Claus is around?
2. Where does a snowman usually keep his money?
3. He is a man during winters, but he might be a source of water during spring. Who is he?
4. What is something that travels all around the world like Santa Claus, but never leaves its corner?
5. I am tall when I am young, and I am short when I am old. What am I?
6. When Santa Claus sets off from the North Pole during Christmas Eve, in which direction does he usually travel
7. Who is responsible for delivering Christmas gifts to cats?
8. What is the name of a runner's favorite reindeer?
9. What bites but doesn't have any teeth?
10. What is Santa's favorite thing to do in his garden?



Answers on Next Page



HOLIDAY TEA!

When: Sunday, December 12th from 3:00 – 5:00

Where: Linda Lucas's Home

2501 St. Augustine Court, Merced

Who: AAUW Members and Guests

Cost: **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.



Answers:

1. They sense his presents!
2. A snow bank.
3. A snowman.
4. A stamp.
5. A Holiday candle.
6. South, because everywhere is south of the North Pole.
7. Santa Claws.
8. Dasher.
9. Frost.
10. Hoe, hoe, hoe!

“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 kkshrum@yahoo.com

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**



Adopt a Highway.....

Kem Shrum Chair



Adopt a Highway Section is busy again keeping Hwy 140 clean. From back to front – Jennifer Foster, Colleen Eisberg, Kathleen McElwain, Dee Near, and Kem Shrum.



Sierra Trekkers

Judy Smith Chair

The Trekkers were busy on Sunday November 6th participating in the Run for the Fallen. Some of our Trekkers even won medals.



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

WE NEED
MORE WOMEN
SOLVING
DIFFERENT
PROBLEMS,
STARTING COMPANIES,
AND CREATING JOBS TO
DRIVE
OUR ECONOMY AND
SOCIETY FORWARD.

- ANDREW YANG



Programs

Gov Trek.....



This virtual program for high school junior and senior girls is designed to elevate the next generation to pursue careers in public service and elected office. Over five two-hour sessions, students will engage in interactive and

inspiring activities with exposure to women legislators, career options, and the inner workings of a political campaign. The program will culminate in a group competition to create a realistic campaign simulation.

Interested students must complete and submit their online registration by Saturday, January 14, 2023. Parents must complete the Eligibility, Liability and Photo Release by Thursday, January 19, 2023.

Click [HERE](#) to register.

An Attitude of Gratitude

Gloria L. Blackwell

AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

On this day of gratitude, I want to express my heartfelt thanks for your support. Dedicated members like you are the reason this organization has persevered for 140 years. Actually, make that 141. Did you know it's our birthday next week? While 141 might not have the same ring to it, I am as enthusiastic about the year to come as I was last November when we marked the milestone that puts AAUW in a category all by itself for advancing equity.

What keeps me inspired is not just the worthiness of our cause, but your continued commitment to it, in good times and bad, through peaks and valleys. You celebrated with us this spring when Justice Ketanji Brown-Jackson was confirmed as the first Black woman to serve on the Supreme Court—and showed the same solidarity in protest after the court shockingly overturned Roe v. Wade a few months later.

You showed up for equity at the voting booth too, electing a historically diverse slate of leaders from both parties and supporting reproductive freedom and other shared priorities. And you enabled us to distribute our most-ever funding to AAUW's 2022-23 AAUW Fellows and Grantees—\$6 million!

I hope you enjoy a day of rest and connection with your loved ones. Happy Thanksgiving!

The Simple Truth: New Calculation, Entrenched Problem

AAUW will soon release the annual update to our signature report The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap. It's a particularly interesting analysis because, for the first time, AAUW and our coalition partners analyzed the earnings of all workers—including seasonal and part-time employees—to capture a more accurate picture of the post-pandemic labor market. The report found women took home only 77 cents for every dollar men did in 2021.

Shop AAUW for the Holidays

Looking for the perfect holiday gift for your equity-minded friends and family? Check out the [ShopAAUW](#) site for all your AAUW-branded and patriarchy-smashing gift needs this year!

[Branch Activity of the Year Awards – Apply Now!](#)

SEPTEMBER 2, 2022

**Branch
Activity of
the Year
Award
2022–2023**



Applications due March 15, 2023. Show Off Your Branch Activity and Earn an Award Has your branch created a unique and inspiring mission-based activity in the last year? Did it dazzle [Read More](#)



OUR SUPPORTERS

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