

AAUW

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Membership Dues




Please be careful as the impending storms could create many problems. If you need help to protect your home, please feel free to reach out to anyone on the Board.

It is that time again, time to renew your AAUW membership and I am sorry to say that National is raising their dues again. The Merced Branch cut our dues to try to keep a lower amount for our members, but unfortunately, that does not give our organization adequate financial support. So the overall amount is up and we are resetting the amount we receive to \$13 per member as it was in the past.



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.



“March is the month of expectation,
the things we do not know.”
Emily Dickinson

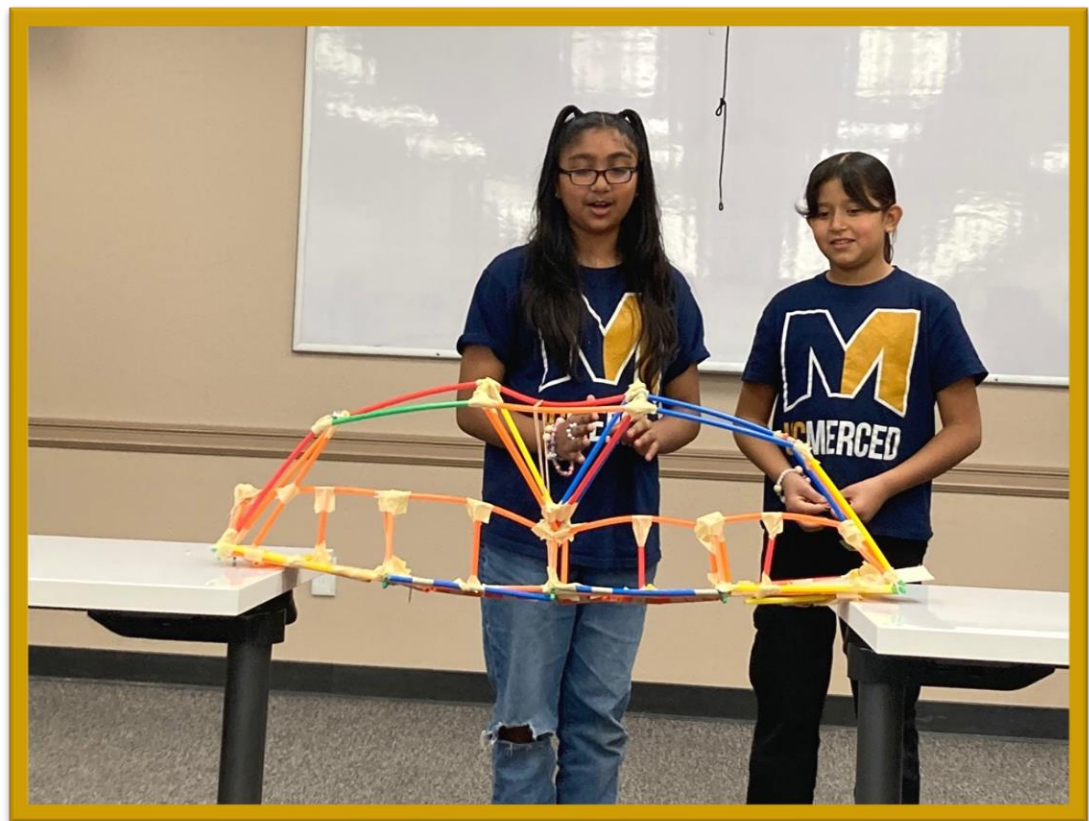
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This miserable weather we are having has dampened my spirit as well as my leaking house. I was feeling very lonely and overwhelmed until my three grandchildren arrived for a week-long stay during President's holidays. They were so fun and so hungry. I spent the whole week cooking and chauffeuring them to waterpolo and activities.

In between all of this, I attended the last AAUW Science Camp session – "Engineering". It is the one where the students and mothers build bridges out of drinking straws. The bridge has to span the space between two tables and carry the weight of a bag of coins. You have to work as a team of two families and the children have to present to the class why their bridge is the best. It was a buzz of activity when I entered. I was so impressed. Since it was the last session, we presented certificates and had a little party. Thank you to all the presenters and the helpers who made this a successful science camp. A special thanks goes to our AAUW Board Member, Joanna Browning, who has been organizing, scheduling, and confirming all of the arrangements. This is her last time being Science Camp Organizer. She will be hard to replace. But she will pass her wisdom on to the next person. I consider this to be our best contribution to empowering young girls in our community to be scientists. There are still more men than women in the STEM jobs – Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. If you would like to take this job on, please call me.

You can read about AAUW's national position on job equity at their web site, www.aauw.org They have been collecting great research about supporting women to have equal pay and it is one of AAUW's top goals.

Sincerely,
Sue Chappell
President





February Travelogue

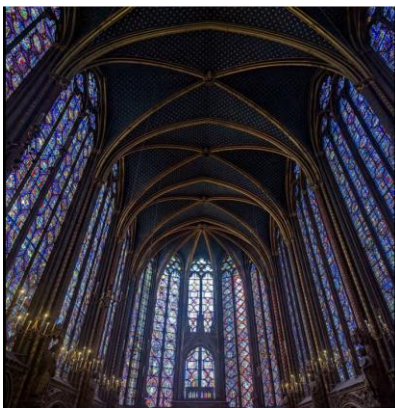
Dee and her youngest daughter Carrie explored France last year and she talked about her time in Paris, Bourges, Amboise, Mont St. Michel and Bayeux. Please find her talk on our website! [Photo Album \(aauw.net\)](#) Here is a sampling.



First it was the famous Pont des Arts bridge in 2015, and now it is the Sacre Coeur's hilltop. Couples visiting Paris will have to find a new way to seal their love because the city is slowly doing away with les cadenas d'amour (love padlocks).



Le Passe-Muraille
While wandering around Montmartre, you might be lucky enough to bump into this great statue/sculpture, Le Passe-Muraille (the Passe-Through-Walls). Le Passe-Muraille is the title of a story by Marcel Aymé about a man named Dutilleul who discovers that he can (you guessed it) walk through walls. The statue is situated in a place named after Marcel Aymé in beautiful Montmartre.



Sainte- Chappelle chapel. Built between 1242 and 1248 for King Louis IX to house the supposed Crown of Thorns (now at Notre Dame and moved after the fire) Painted with fleur de lis, a symbol of the king. 15 separate panels of stained glass with more than 1100 different scenes



Palais Galliera museum. Christian Dior gown as part of Love Brings Love exhibit honoring Alber Elbaz who died in 2021.

And what would France be without Cheese



Our guide took us to a cheese shop. We tasted quince gels, raw milk cheeses such as comte.

April Brunch

Mark you calendars for our AAUW Spring Brunch!

Date: Saturday, April 29th

Time: 10:00 AM- Noon

Place: Merced Country Club

Planning is underway and this will be a fun event that you will not want to miss. Stay tuned for more details!



MARCH PROGRAM

KIDS DISCOVERY STATION

The AAUW meeting on March 8th will be at the Kids Discovery Station. Guests are welcome to join members at 6:00 PM to learn about the development of this wonderful, hands-on, interactive space for children to explore a wide range of science and arts activities.



After a brief talk by Mayya Tokman, the Creator and President of the Kids Discovery Station, the attendees will be able to engage in the varied activities at the facility. Be prepared to have fun!

There have been over 22,000 visits to the Discovery Station since its opening on September 25, 2021. There have been classroom field trips, birthday parties and family visits. We hope to see you on March 8. There is no charge for this event, but donations to the Station are welcome.

Her topic is: Development of the Kids Discovery Station

When: **Wednesday, March 8th from 6-7 PM**

Where: Kids Discovery Station, 350 West Yosemite Ave., Merced, CA

Who: AAUW Members, guest(s) and the general public

How: No RSVP needed!

Cost: Free!



“MARCH FORTH AND MAKE AN IMPACT.”



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.

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.

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. **Group is currently not meeting due to lack of interest.**

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.

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.**

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.

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. **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.

Sierra Trekkers: Chair – Judy Smith and Jennifer Foster 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. **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.



Genealogy – Anyone interested in starting a genealogy Section? If so, contact Dena Traina 209.777.5227

Knitting and Crocheting

The knitting and crocheting group has received a lovely donation of yarn and partially completed projects from the Hoffman family. If anyone is interested in helping us complete some of the projects, please let us know. As you will see in the next section, one of our great members has passed away and we could use some help with the crocheting projects..



“WE LOVE MARCH ‘CAUSE
SPRING IS “ALMOST” IN
THE AIR!

Trekkers

And now since I did not publish this lovely picture of the Trekker’s hike almost a year ago on Goat Mountain Trail near Bass Lake, here is a trek down memory lane.





The **Merced County Library** could use our help!

Please plan to make a trip to the library after 6 pm to check out some books. The library keeps track of this activity to determine if the library should stay open during the evening hours.

Geraldine Evans Freer

It is with much sadness in our hearts that we need to announce that Geri, master crocheter, volunteer and friend has passed away at the age of 74.



Marilyn Hayes

Marilyn has moved to a new location. Her new address is:

Park Merced

3050 M Street #118

Merced, CA 95348



Services are Saturday March 18th at 2:00PM at

Stratford Evans Merced Funeral Home

www.dignitymemorial.com

1490 B St, Merced, CA 95341



“Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories” is the 2023 theme for the National Women’s History Alliance, which spearheaded the movement for March to be declared National Women’s History Month. Throughout 2023, the NWHHA will encourage recognition of women, past and present, who have been active in all forms of media and storytelling including print, radio, TV, stage, screen, blogs, podcasts, and more.

Branch Gets a New Logo

Dawn Johnson, Director, Communications Committee Chair, communications@aauw-ca.org



THEY’RE FINALLY HERE!

The long-awaited branch logos have been created by National! Now you can customize your materials with your own branch logo that adheres to the proper color scheme. You can find them on the AAUW National website under Membership>State and Branch Tools>/Download AAUW Logos and Branding Materials or click [HERE](#). It will be so nice to see your branch’s name, won’t it?

Communication’s next Tech Peer Group gathering will be Tuesday, March 7th at 6 pm. The topic will be how to best work with Site Resources at National to maintain your branch website. There will be a brief presentation followed by peer-to-peer talk. If you don’t already have a representative attending the Peer Group meetings, contact office@aauw-ca.org to add someone to the mailing list. It could be anyone who handles techy things in your branch: the website, mailing lists, social media, newsletter, or related software.

Keep dry, keep warm, keep out of deep puddles and snow drifts in your car, and keep communicating

Gender Pay Gap

Kathleen Harper, Director, Public Policy Committee Chair, publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org

THE GENDER PAY GAP IS ALIVE AND NOT WELL!

Big news this month is that National is changing its methodology and terminology in terms of discussing the

gender pay gap. They are asking that we no longer talk about it in terms of “the day that women ‘catch up’ to men,”, the feeling being that we will never catch up! They are asking that we focus on the size of the gap itself. They are providing statistics specifying that the gap for “all women vs all men for all full-time workers” = 84%; and for “all women vs all men for all workers, including part-time and seasonal” = 77%. These are the numbers that will be used for the “all women” Equal Pay Day date of March 14th. For all non-white women, the same measurement is being applied within that group and specific dates have been assigned. See National’s Equal Pay page for percentages and dates.

Gov Trek



Speaking of celebrities, we hate to name-drop (Nancy Pelosi), but the inaugural session of our new state program, Gov Trek, opened with a bang! Nearly 60 high school girls peeked through the doors of the halls of power (Nancy Pelosi) to explore careers in public service and elected office. Top-notch speakers shared inspirational stories and sage advice from their own careers. Students delivered stirring elevator speeches, none of which were “Second Floor: Women’s Lingerie.” Did we mention Nancy Pelosi? We said we hate to name-drop, but.....(Nancy Pelosi). Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi delivered the opening address. And, wow, what an address it was! See for yourself [HERE](#). Inspired? Ride that wave. Get active and fill out the application to run for office on our state board of directors [HERE](#)! We’ll happily drop YOUR name in future editions



OUR SUPPORTERS

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



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 \$105
Assoc. \$72 (\$67 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 \$ _____