

# AAUW

## THE INSIGHTER

JUNE 2023

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Membership Renewal



This will be the last newsletter until August but don't forget to renew your AAUW membership. 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.



“Struggle is a never-ending process. Freedom is never won, you earn it and win it in every generation.”  
*Coretta Scott King*



### WEBSITE

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

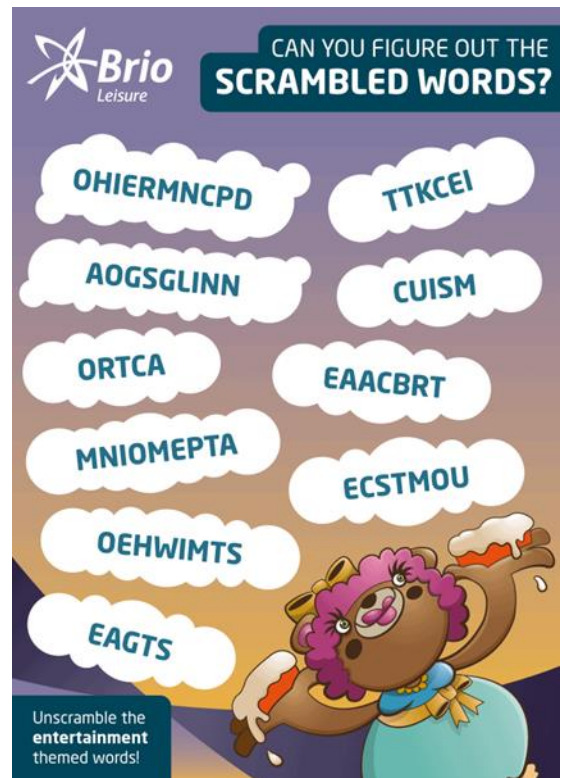
# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello fellow AAUW members. We have made it through the year and at last we can enjoy the summer. At our Spring Brunch we celebrated our programs, especially science camp. We honored our scholarship winners and swore in a new AAUW Board. I have stayed on as President for another year. Our Secretary, Kathleen McElwain, Treasurer, Megan Anderson, Membership, Dee Near and Program Chairs, Jane and Ruth, are going to continue for another year and be joined by Linda Lucas. Dena Traina will still be our newsletter chair and Kathleen Hull is our web site chair. Becky Tietjen is in charge of sections.

Joanna Browning has retired from Science Camp Chairperson, as well as Pauline Cuchna in Scholarships. We still need a Vice-President. If you are interested, please call me. Thank-you everyone for participating in programs and sections. I have really enjoyed being President. We have had such great laughs and friendships.

In June, we will have a planning meeting to decide on a theme and group activities for next year. If you have any great ideas, please send me an email.

Sincerely,  
Sue Chappell  
President





## April Program

Our spring brunch was held a little early this year as we were trying to miss all of the graduations. I think we were successful! We had a wonderful brunch at the Merced Golf and Country Club with a delicious meal and a wonderful program. In many ways it was a recap of the year with a mother and daughter presentation of their experience with Science Camp, the Book Sections' summary of this year's books and an introduction to our scholarship winners, Molina Duran and Jenifer Ceja. Lastly, we welcomed next year's board members.







SEPTEMBER PROGRAM


Our next program is a FALL BRUNCH!

Don't miss our first official program of the year: our annual Fall Brunch! The committee is still working on the details but will likely be at one of our member's homes serving delightful pastries by the board and quiches. More on this in the August newsletter.

# JUNE WORD SEARCH

U	Y	D	P	S	R	N	J	U	N	E	Q
M	V	C	I	J	E	N	J	G	U	X	K
I	N	A	R	Q	M	O	Q	B	P	C	V
G	P	N	T	T	M	I	L	D	G	A	C
A	A	O	E	B	U	T	M	B	N	M	O
R	A	E	X	H	S	A	X	E	S	P	L
R	W	I	D	D	I	C	Y	A	O	I	L
K	L	N	N	A	S	A	T	C	S	N	E
X	P	G	E	L	Q	V	V	H	S	G	G
G	R	A	D	U	A	T	I	O	N	T	E
D	D	F	Z	D	K	X	C	Q	B	J	I
A	N	N	I	Z	S	S	C	H	O	O	L

Beach	June
Camping	School
Canoeing	Summer
College	Trip
Graduation	Vacation





## SECTIONS

Members of these interest sections meet in the home of the hostess for that month. Some sections also have co-hostesses.

Write or call **Becky Tietjen** to join a section at (559) 909-1520 or [frautietjen@yahoo.com](mailto:frautietjen@yahoo.com)

**Adopt-a-Highway:** Chair – Kem Shrum 489-8130 [kkshrum@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:the.wallaces@comcast.com)

Couples gather for four dinners a year. This group is closed. Currently meeting outdoors.

**Book Section 1:** Kathy Berkeley [kathyberkeley@att.net](mailto:kathyberkeley@att.net)

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.

**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](mailto:sharonlwa@comcast.net)

Members meet the first Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. and rotate between members' homes. We select a book to read, to be read by all, for each meeting, and a volunteer guides us through the discussions. Due to a large membership, you are welcome to sign up on our waiting list.

**Book Section 4 (Evening Book Group):** Chair Dee Near 723-9007 [neard@comcast.net](mailto: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. This year's selection: Oct 27 *A woman is no man* by Etaf Rum, Nov. 17 *Gone; A Girl, A Violin, A Life Unstrung* Min Kym, Jan 26 *Horse* Geraldine Brooks, Feb 23 *When the Elephants Dance* Tess U. Holthe, March 23 *The Leopard is Loose* Stephen Harrigan, Apr 27 *German Wife* Kelly Rimmer, May 25 *Bittersweet* Susan Cain.

**Bridge Couples:** Chair – Carol Hamm 383-4705 [cjhamm@comcast.net](mailto:cjhamm@comcast.net)

In order for the Bridge Couples section to be viable, 4 couples plus 2 substitute couples are needed. Currently not enough couples have signed up. If you play bridge, now's your chance to join a fun group! Normally the section meets the second Friday of the month at 7:00 p.m. This section meets from October through May. **This section has been suspended.**

**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.

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

**Chocololics:** Chair – Diana Alexander 658-1647 [dianaalex51@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:hwzacharias@gmail.com)

Sadly the Quasi-Epicures have decided to call it quits. I'm leaving in the description this year in the hopes that, perhaps, it can be resurrected in the future. 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 (777-5345) and Jennifer Foster 722-3649 [sierratrekker@comcast.net](mailto:sierratrekker@comcast.net) or [one4cats@att.net](mailto:one4cats@att.net)

We will continue meeting at Lake Yosemite at 6pm on the third Thursday of the month as the weather permits. We may go back to people's homes this winter. Indoor meetings will be held on the third Thursday of the month all at 6:00 in 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 [nickandjane@guerra.net](mailto:nickandjane@guerra.net)

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](mailto: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. Sept 22 is the first tasting event of the year. Come share the story of your wine and share tasting with the group. **New members welcomed.**

**Bunko:** Chair – Cheryl Burke – 726-8481 [cdinesburke@gmail.com](mailto:cdinesburke@gmail.com)

Meets the fourth Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. There is a lot of lively interaction for the members of this group. Since we have 12 members already, you are welcome to sign up for the substitute list. All members and subs are required to be vaccinated and boosted. This section meets September through May with no meeting in December.



**Wine and Cheese**

The Wine and Cheese group met at the Vista Winery, May 25th, for a beautiful evening outside with good music, pizza, wine, and conversation.

Attached is a picture taken by Pam Andersen featuring Clarence and Colleen Eisberg, Rae Owens, Cynthia Glasgow-Ragus, Robyn Farnsworth, Dee Heller, and Diana Alexander.



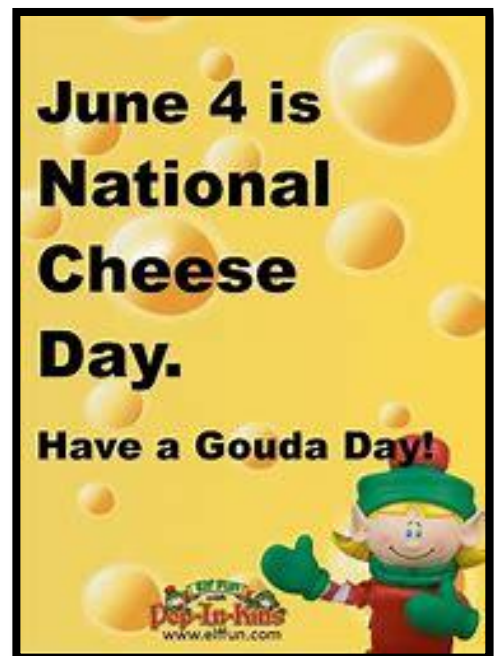
*JOY FINDS YOU WHEN YOU  
UNDERSTAND YOUR VALUE AND  
NOURISH YOUR NEED  
EVEN WHEN IT FEELS HARD*



**Book Section IV**

In case you missed the list of books that Book Section IV read this year, here is the list. After the lovely presentation at the brunch, I am sure that you will want to read Horse!

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Any mystery by author                   | Peggy Dulle      |
| A woman is no man                       | Etaf Rum         |
| Tomorrow, tomorrow & tomorrow           | Gabrielle Zevin  |
| Gone: A Girl, A Violin, a Life Unstrung | Min Kym          |
| Horse                                   | Geraldine Brooks |
| The Leopard is Loose                    | Stephen Harrigan |
| German Wife                             | Kelly Rimmer     |
| Bittersweet                             | Susan Cain       |







## AROUND THE STATE AND THE NATION

### Equal Pay

By now, you should have received your AAUW notecards featuring the winning entries from our annual art contest. May the bright colors and beautiful brushstrokes remind you of the limitless possibilities within each of us.

As the mother of an artist, I am especially delighted each year to see our members flex their creative muscles. Yet I also know—in art, as in other fields—women’s contributions are too often underrepresented and undervalued.

Similarly, with millions of women graduating this month, we must remember to both celebrate their vast potential and fight for a fairer world.

### MAKE A GIFT

With you on our side, we won’t stop until every woman and girl has the same opportunity to learn, earn and lead. Together, we will:

- Push policymakers to ensure our government takes action to relieve student-loan debt, which disproportionately impacts women of color.
- Connect and inspire young leaders across the country at our one-of-a-kind National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, which in just a few days gathers in person for the first time in three years!
- Fund the best and brightest women scholars to take the next step in their educations and careers through our world-famous Fellowships and Grants program.

If you, like me, are committed to ensuring the Class of ’23 graduates into a world where they’re paid fairly and treated equally, please give today.

In solidarity,  
Gloria Blackwell

### DID YOU GET A YELLOW POSTCARD?

Many of you contacted AAUW National to express your concern regarding the yellow postcards our members received from AAUW National. You may know the project

as the “Data Verification project,” “Oral History Project,” or simply as the “Yellow Postcards.”

We took your feedback seriously and have worked with AAUW National to make the following changes:

All messages (emails, postcards etc) to California members will be suppressed going forward. AAUW National is very concerned that members may have felt pressured into purchasing items. Each California member who purchased an item or package will be contacted to confirm that they wanted to place their order. If not, they will be assisted in canceling the order and obtaining a refund.

Please share this information with your branch members and note that it may take a few days to turn off the messaging. If you or your members already received a survey from PCI, the third-party vendor that National used for this project, feel free to share your observations about the process with them directly with confidence that it will be shared with AAUW National.

For more information about the project click [Member Data Verification & Oral History Project FAQ – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](#)

### FAMILY ACT AND HEALTHY FAMILIES ACT

This week, Congress reintroduced two bills that would have great impact on women in the workforce: the Family and Medical Insurance Leave (FAMILY) Act and the Healthy Families Act.

Women disproportionately bear the economic opportunity cost of providing care for children or elderly family members or doing things like taking them to the doctor. Yet unlike the majority of developed countries worldwide, the United States does not guarantee paid annual leave, paid time off for illness or family care, or paid parental leave. This results in many women putting off seeking health care for themselves because they cannot take time off work, affecting their abilities as employees and primary caregivers.

Urge your members of Congress to support the FAMILY Act and Healthy Families Act to finally provide the support American workers need trying to meet the demands of work and life. While Congress took steps during the pandemic to provide broader access to emergency leave, it soon expired and millions are back at square one. Access to paid leave should never expire.



## OUR SUPPORTERS

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



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**JUNE IS THE TIME FOR BEING IN  
THE WORLD IN NEW WAYS, FOR  
THROWING OFF THE COLD AND  
DARK SPOTS OF LIFE.**

– JOAN D. CHITTISTER