

AAUW

THE INSIGHTER

SEPTEMBER 2023

VOLUME 88, NUMBER 1

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Our Supporters



Welcome to AAUW's 2023-24 new year. We are excited about new programs, new sections and getting together with our friends.



“All the months are crude experiments, out of which the perfect September is made.”

Virginia Woolf



WEBSITE

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The heat goes on and on. I have certainly slowed down this summer. Seems like I can't get anything done. I walk through the house and I see repairs, cleaning, and projects that should be started, but I can't get started. Procrastination is the word of the month. Being lazy has taken over. Maybe it's the heat, maybe it's teenage trauma from a very strict Dad who would get out his chore checklist to see what farm duties we had accomplished while we were on summer vacation. My siblings didn't seem to worry about the checklist. I was always hounding them to do their assigned chores. Trying to make them accountable. That's the story of my life. Get others to do what they are supposed to do. No wonder I'm the president of AAUW.

I will try not to hound you all about Science Camp. The next best thing is to worry, or ignore, or procrastinate. Sigh.

I have concluded that you are not lazy if you are reading a book. Just finished *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver, the Audio version. I like hearing the southern accent.

Sincerely,
Sue Chappell
President

Editors Note: Since this message was written, Dena Traina and Kathleen Hull have volunteered to co-chair the Science Camp committee. But we still need everyone's help and Joanna has already called the leaders of the sessions to see if they would continue this year.





April 2023 Program

Our spring brunch was held in April as we were trying to avoid local graduations. It was very successful.. 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

Start your fall off right by attending the AAUW Fall Brunch!

When: Saturday, September 30, 2023, from 9:00-11:00 AM

Where: Kathy Hansen’s home, 2469 Bluegrass Lane, Merced

Who: AAUW Members and Guests

Why: Let’s gather and enjoy visiting with old friends!

How: Please RSVP by Monday, September 18th at MercedAAUW@gmail.com or call [Jane Lawrence at 209-658-4490](tel:209-658-4490)

Cost: \$10 per person.

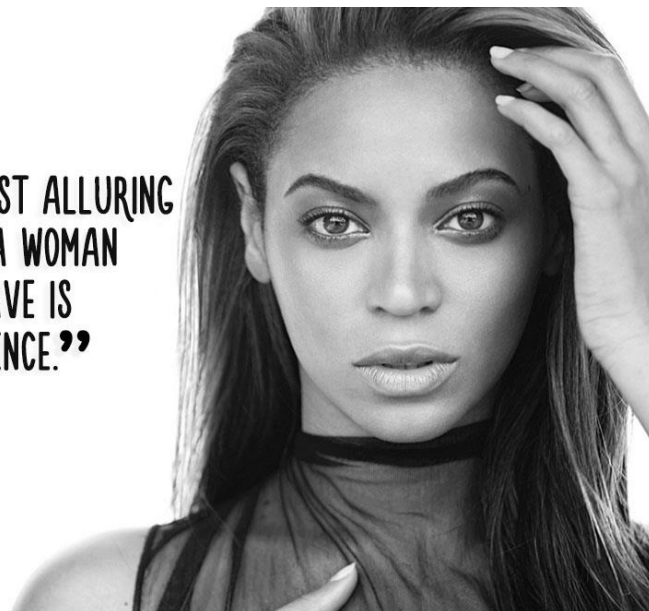


Dr. Michelle Greenwood, Director of the Rising Scholars Program, at Merced College, will join us and talk about their work in the local prison system.

Also, while you have your calendars out, please put down Tuesday, October 24th at 5:30 for AAUW’s Wine Tasting at the Vista.

President Sue Chappell and the 2023-24 AAUW Board

“THE MOST ALLURING
THING A WOMAN
CAN HAVE IS
CONFIDENCE.”





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

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: Kathy Berkeley 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

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

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

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.

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. **Currently not accepting new members.**

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. 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

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 or 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

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. 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

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.



SECTION NEWS

Bridge

Hello and hope you're having a great summer break! We're doing well here.

I'd like to offer to chair a new ladies daytime bridge group as one of our activities in place of Julia Larson, who has become inactive in the group. Don't know how successful it will be due to less active players these days, but thought I would give it a try. For those interested, contact Pauline Cuchna at samnilla@sbcglobal.net.



Gomes

It is with deep sorrow that we need to announce that Victoria Gomes son Nick has passed away. The memorial service was held in early September to a full room at the Italo Lodge. Vicki, our thoughts are with you and Steve.



MEMBER NEWS

Dear Dee and my wonderful AAUW friends,

Larry and I have decided to move to Oceanside to be closer to Henna and her family. She has 2 beautiful little boys. Van is 3 and Jet is 1. We want to be part of their lives. It is a joy to be around them.

AAUW has been an important part of my life in Merced. I have already joined the local AAUW. I am looking forward to making more AAUW friends.

I am thankful for the friendship I have and for being a part of our work to promote opportunities for young women.

I will miss all of you.

Fondly Iantha



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



AROUND THE STATE AND THE NATION

WE Local Collegiate Competition Applications are Open

Applications for the WE Local Collegiate Competition are now open! This competition is an excellent opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students to present their research to a broad technical audience in three styles:

- Short-Form Abstract Submission
- Visual Poster Presentation
- A 10-minute Snap Session

These different competition formats allow students to learn and gain insights on their research, as well as to receive live feedback and encouragement from others within the STEM fields.

The FY24 Collegiate Competitions will take place at the WE Local Conferences in Las Vegas, Baltimore, and Wichita. To apply, check out the WE Local Competition page. Applications will close Nov. 1, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. CT.

WE Local Bengaluru and Munich will offer poster competitions for university students to showcase their projects and research. More details will be announced soon.

Reach out to awards@swe.org with any questions.



Around the World With the Mentoring Committee

Whether as a mentor or mentee, you will find that global mentoring is an exciting opportunity to learn more about other countries, different ways to do business, and new methods to grow your career and network.

The SWE Mentoring Committee (formerly Mentoring Facilitation Working Group) will host a panel on “Mentoring Around the World” with global speakers who will discuss opportunities and challenges in mentoring, twice to support multiple time zones, on Sept. 17, 2023, at 11 p.m. EST ([register](#)) and Sept. 18, 2023, at 11 a.m. EST ([register](#).)

Read more about international mentoring in our latest [All Together blog post](#).

Diverse: a SWE Podcast Pioneering Inclusive Change in STEM

Welcome to Diverse, a podcast by the Society of Women Engineers. SWE gives women engineers a unique place and voice within the engineering community. On Diverse, we highlight incredible thought leaders and personalities in the STEM community and discover who they are at home, at work, and in between. Stream episodes online or wherever you listen to your favorite podcasts.

Listen to the Latest Episode

<https://soundcloud.com/swepodcasts>





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Goodbye August

Hello September

Please be a good month
and bring
smiles and
happiness to
my family
& friends.



Pass It On.