

AAUW

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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.



"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

Maya Angelou

Poet and author of "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings"



WEBSITE

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

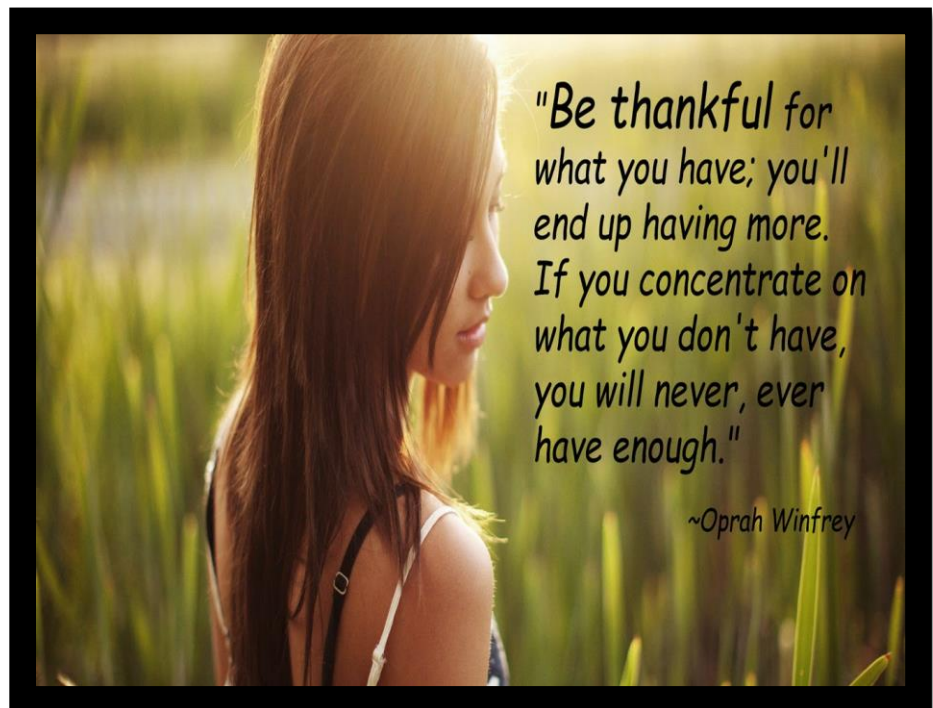
What's on my mind this month is Thanksgiving. Even in the midst of war, homelessness, poverty, death of loved ones and sheer hopelessness, I am blessed with thankfulness.

Here is my list:

1. I am thankful for my grandchildren who are thriving.
2. I am thankful for my two daughters, who in spite of a hard childhood turned out to be wonderful, successful mothers and university graduates, with husbands and children who support and love them..
3. I am thankful for AAUW who gives me the opportunity to hang out with other women and be a leader. (One of my passions). If it is your passion, too, you can volunteer to be the Vice-President of AAUW.
4. I am so thankful that my mortgage is paid off and that I am retired with a pension.
5. I also love chair yoga at the senior center. Kathleen McElwain, our AAUW secretary turned me on to this. I can now get out of a chair without using my hands.
6. I love the new AAUW sections. See below for Crafting, Ukulele, and Water Walking.

Most of all, I am thankful for our members, who in spite of all hardships, have managed to be "University Women". Way to go. Congratulations. You will make a difference.

Sincerely,
Sue Chappell
President





October 2023 Program

Karen Helms, from Kiwanis, was our featured speaker and she updated us on the new train project at Kiddieland and how we can be of assistance.

If you are interested in giving to the Save the Train campaign, there are several events coming up. Information is at [Kiwaniis Greater Merced Kiddieland – Serving the Children of the Central Valley since 1956. \(kiwaniskiddieland.com\)](https://www.kiwaniskiddieland.com).

Run for the Rail – November 19

Save the Train Casino Night – January 13

Please come out and support our local area.

And now for pictures of our lovely evening together.

The event was well attended, the weather was lovely, the food good and everyone had a good time.





DECEMBER PROGRAM

HOLIDAY TEA!

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

Where: Becky Tietjen's Home

5972 Phoenician Court, Merced

Who: AAUW Members and Guests

Cost: **FREE!**

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

Board members will be serving you tea and coffee.



“We learned about gratitude and humility – that so many people had a hand in our success, from the teachers who inspired us to the janitors who kept our school clean and we were taught to value everyone’s contribution and treat everyone with respect.”

Michelle Obama



SECTIONS

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.

Aloha Ukulele: Chair – Sue Chappelle 725-9082 sue.e.chappell@gmail.com
Ukulele lessons and jam sessions anyone? Please sign-up and we'll make it happen!

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Let's Craft: Co-Chair – Ashley McComb (209)761-7873 leymc84@hotmail.com
Kimberly McComb mccombkd@gmail.com

Meets the third Friday of the month at 5:30 pm. We will rotate between local craft venues to offer a variety of experiences. The crafts will vary between floral arrangements, painting, and craft workshops, etc. This section is for all skill levels.

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.

Summer Swim: Chair – Chair: Sue Chappell (209)-500-8832 sue.e.chappell@gmail.com

May 1 through October – Wednesday afternoons (time TBD) at Sue's pool. Come join us for water walking, lap swimming, cooling off, relaxing, and conversation! Bring a snack to share and your own drink.

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. Members become educated to various needs of women living in poverty around the world. The 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.**



SECTION NEWS

Book Section 4

The list of books that Book Section 4 has been revised. Even if you are not in this group, you might enjoy reading their selections.

Sept. Rabbit Hutch by Tess Gunty, Oct. The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo by Taylor Jenkins Reid, Nov. This Tender Land by William Krueger, Jan. Tom Lake by Ann Patchett, Feb. 22 Marriage Portrait by Maggie O'Farrell, March Twelve Tribes of Hattie by Ayana Mathis, April Hungry Season by Lisa Hamilton and May is TBA

Trekkers

The Trekkers ventured off to Bear Valley by Marshall CA. The area is popular for birding, hiking and running.



Adopt a Highway

The Adopt a Highway group is keeping our road clean. A big thanks to them for all of their efforts.



MEMBER NEWS

Please note these corrections to the directory

Please correct your directory for Kelly Bentz. It should read: 3350 M Street, Number 44, Merced CA 95348 phone 209 617 8540. Email kjbentz49@gmail.com. The printers repeated Vicki Bandoni's address under Kelly's name. If anyone else notices an error, please let me know! Dee Near

On a sad note:

Anne Field's Passing

Anne has been an AAUW Merced member since 2006. She was active in Trekkers and book section 1. Her career was spent as a librarian with the Atwater city school district. She loved to read nonfiction and kept up with the news through deep reading of the back stories. Anne was active all her life, entertaining us with stories of working at the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge during college. She and Gene even took their baby boy Victor up to the lodge when he was still in diapers and Anne hand washed them! We always enjoyed being up in the high country with Anne because she knew many of the secret spots and special things to do. Anne is survived by her two sisters, her daughter Lucie, and son, Victor.



AROUND THE STATE AND THE NATION

Double Your Gift

DOUBLE MY GIFT

This year, we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Equal Pay Act, which laid the foundation for so much of the progress we've made – together – towards ensuring everyone is compensated fairly and equally in this country.

To honor this milestone, the AAUW's Board of Directors, committee leaders and staff will double your year end donation up to an astounding \$60,000.

As we head into giving season, help us meet our goal of raising the first \$20,000 toward the \$60,000 match by Giving Tuesday on November 28th.

2023 Fellows and Grant Recipients



Sick of binge-watching crime dramas and dystopian science fiction series? Don't turn to Lassie reruns. Instead, be inspired by watching [videos](#) of our very own California AAUW Fund fellows and grant recipients discussing the innovative work our contributions helped sponsor. Trust us: these scholars can make subjects like vitamin B6, cross-body site microbiome ectopy, and E.coli as fascinating as the time Timmy and Lassie saved the farm from a grasshopper invasion (1960 S6.E20 - The Grasshopper and the Ant). See this newsletter's first article for further reference.

Local Recipient

Editors Note:

One of our local UC Merced doctoral students, Bambi (Hope) Hauptman has been a recipient of the American Dissertation Fellowship from AAUW National. Hope is doing her research on a treatment analysis of 1,2,3-Trichloropropane in drinking water supplies. Please check out the videos to see her presentation on her research.



My AAUW Moment

We want to hear your story of an "aha" AAUW moment, a time when you had a sudden heartwarming flash of happiness, gratitude, pride, excitement, or hilarity because you're part of this organization. Keep it under 75 words and send it with your name and branch to cc@aauw-ca.org.



Years before I returned to college, I'd heard about AAUW. I had worked on a project with a retired college dean. Eventually she took me to an AAUW meeting.

I loved how my curious brain reacted to all of these lifelong learning women. I returned to college to finally finish my degree majoring in pre-law at the University of California.

*It took a grand total of 21 years of on and off study to get that degree at age 40!
The first thing I did was join AAUW! I'm still giddy with excitement!*

*Jane Parks-McKay
Los Gatos/Saratoga and Santa Cruz Branches*



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