

AAUW

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE



PG. 2

President's Message



PG. 3

Recap of January Program



PG. 4

February Program



PG. 5

Sections



PG. 6

Section News



PG. 7

Around the State and Nation



PG. 8

Our Supporters



WEBSITE

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

“I saw that you were perfect, and so I loved you. Then I saw that you were not perfect and I loved you even more.” —*Angelita Lim*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Martin Luther King, Jr. said the following in a speech to women at Spelman College in April 1960.

“Keep moving, for it may well be that the greatest song has not yet been sung, the greatest book has not been written, the highest mountain has not been climbed. This is your challenge! Reach out and grab it...If you can't fly, run; if you can't run, walk; if you can't walk, crawl; but by all means keep moving.”



My 8-year-old grandson asked recently, “Grandma, what superpowers do you have?” I responded that I didn’t know about superpowers. He said, “You know, because you are a superhero. The most common ones are super strength or teleportation. My superpower is invisibility.” I said, “Oh, I see. I’ll choose super strength because being strong is what I am good at, I said”. “You’re right, Grandma. Super strength is your superpower.” I love that sweet boy. 2024 will be a new year to use your superpowers

Sue Chappell





CHAIR YOGA WITH TERRI RADNEY

Having never done chair yoga, I was not sure what to expect. I thought how hard could this be? I work out so I didn't really expect that it would be very strenuous. In the beginning of the session, we did some stretching, but when she got to the part where we were holding our leg up for what seemed like 10 minutes (note the word seemed) I realized that this could be quite helpful to my health. Many of us joined the regulars in our group for this session and had a great time. Now the next day, wasn't quite as great. Get my drift.

Chair yoga is a regular program at the senior center so check it out and get started. Just because you missed the first couple of weeks in January doesn't mean that you cannot start now!

And now to work on your brain.

Answers on Page 8



Impossible Quiz: Brain Teasers

1. What word is spelled incorrectly in every dictionary?
2. What never asks a question but gets answered all the time?
3. What goes up but never comes down?
4. What starts with an e and ends with an e but has only one letter in it?
5. How do you make the number one disappear?
6. What will you find at the end of every rainbow?
7. How many months have twenty-eight days?



TRAVELOGUE

WITH RUTH WAX

Dear AAUW Members,

We hope to see you on Tuesday, February 20th for our February travelogue program which will be presented by former president Ruth Wax.

Her topic is: Florence, one of the most popular and beautiful cities in Italy.

When: Tuesday, February 20th 5:30 PM

Where: Gracy Room, Merced Library, 2222 M Street

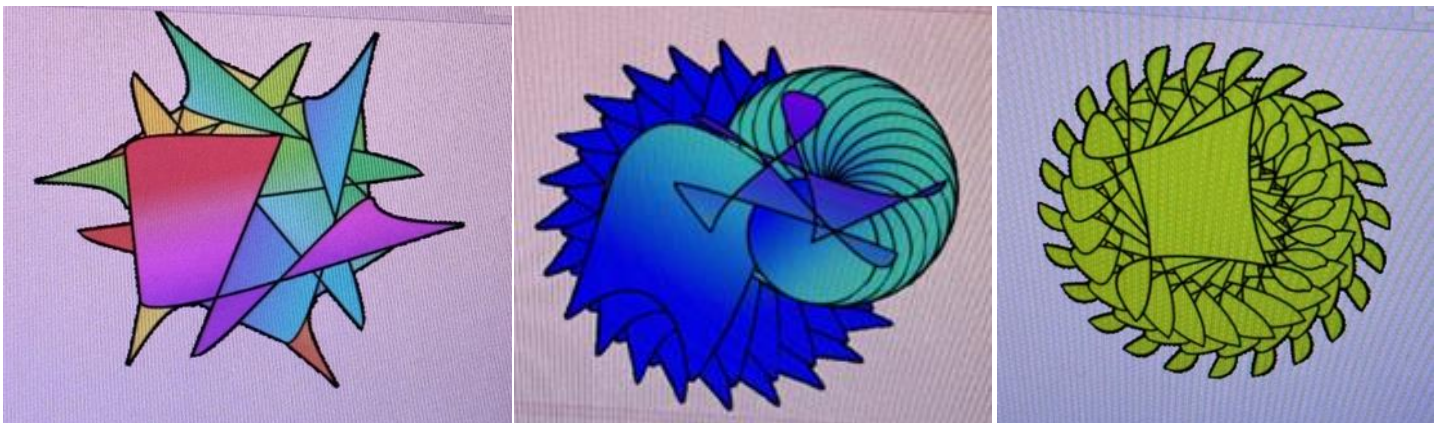
Who: AAUW Members, guest(s) and the general public

How: No RSVP needed!

Cost: Free! Ruth will talk with us about the art, architecture shopping and food of this special city. In addition, she'll share what she's learned about how to pack for overseas trips. This is a program you will not want to miss!



And now some computer-generated art from Science Camp – Computer Science Section





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: Currently No chair.

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 – **A new section! Do you love a good mystery? This group is for you! Call or text Judy Smith.**

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 – Pauline Cuchna 209-658-6321 samnilla@sbcglobal.net

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.

Chocoholics: 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

Meetings will be held on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 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 – mostly easy to moderate. Occasionally we do 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 year to one of our nation parks.

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. Come share the story of your wine and share tasting with the group. **New members welcomed.**



SECTION NEWS

Wine and Cheese Section.....

Colleen Eisberg, Chair

The AAUW wine and cheese group met at the home of Dee Heller on Friday, January 26. Dee and Linda Salles hosted an elegant evening. We took a fun quiz to see if we preferred wines associated with spring, summer, fall or winter varieties. Russ Winton, the columnist for Wine in the *Merced Sun Star*, held a blind tasting of two reds and two whites purchased at Costco. The guesses were rather unsuccessful, but the appetizers prepared by Dee and Linda Salles were amazing! It was a fun and delicious event!



SCIENCE CAMP

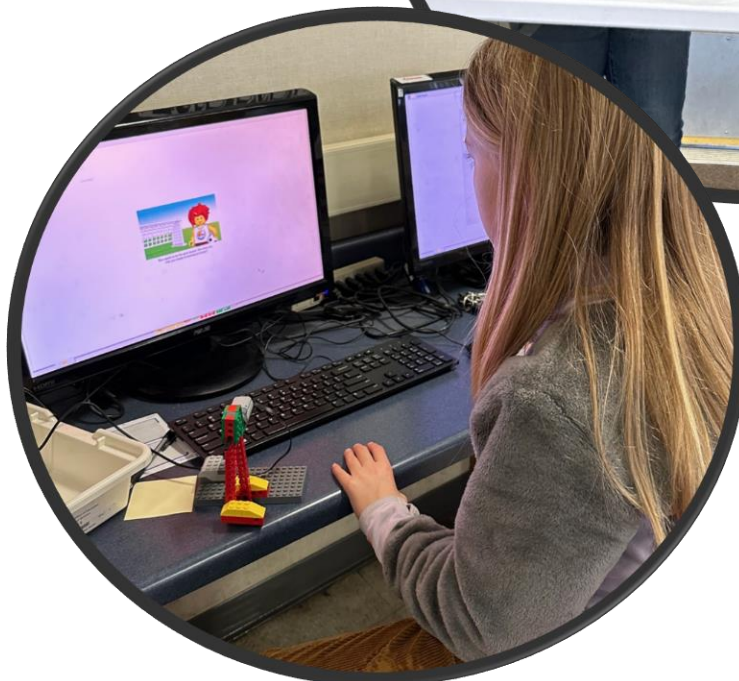
Engineering

Although we have a smaller group this year, the girls and moms have been fabulous. Engineering swapped dates with Biology, but all went well. Once again, bridges reined supreme. We were lucky to have a new volunteer speaker, Kathleen Morse, who owns Yosemite Space, a space based engineering company.



Computer Science

Rebecca Currin was nice enough to continue teaching our computer science session this year. The girls were able to build a Lego model and they learned how to program so the model would do a task. Lastly, they created artwork that they manipulated with code to create a new image. See Page 4.





The New Year

The new year is an opportunity for both new and continuing resolutions, including our 2024 commitment to you. This year AAUW will:

- Continue fighting for all women to achieve economic self-sufficiency through pay equity and paid family leave policies.
- Advocate for a strengthened Title IX and a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, and diversity.
- Pursue policies that advance full access to civil rights for a diverse society.

As a founding partner of the ERA Coalition’s National Strategy Task Force, AAUW will continue to call on Congress and the Administration to affirm the Equal Rights Amendment. Together, with your membership, support, and continued advocacy, we can advance policies that continue to break down educational and economic barriers for women.

Act — A New Year’s resolution: Be an informed voter

This year promises to be eventful, with many of our key policy issues impacting gender equity being decided in Congress, in statehouses, and at the ballot box. Start this year off right by making your own commitment to be a well-informed and engaged activist and voter. Here are three ways to do it:

1. Invite three friends to become a Two-Minute Activist! Share this message to help AAUW build momentum for positive change in 2024.
2. Engage on the state level! Throughout the year, states and branches engage on key AAUW issues at play in their state legislatures. Elected officials work for you, the voters—so urge them to stand up for gender equity, reach out to an AAUW branch near you, and see how you can get involved.
3. Make sure you are ready for elections this year, including upcoming state primaries and caucuses. Confirm your voter registration to ensure its accuracy. [Click here](#) to find out your state’s primary and presidential election dates for 2024.

Learn — Occupational Segregation Continues

New data released in December from the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2022 American Community Study (ACS) illustrates two distressing trends: 1) Higher education is not enough to solve the gender pay gap and 2) occupations dominated by men usually pay better than female-dominated fields, even when those jobs require the same level of education and skill. This new data is consistent with previous AAUW research documenting occupational segregation and its impact on women of color.

Despite women’s educational gains over the past several decades, men with a bachelor’s degree or higher continue to earn more than women with the same education in all fields.

For example, in electrical engineering, women earn 85 percent of what men were paid (\$123,800 vs. \$105,200). Additionally, the data demonstrates that degrees with a higher share (at least 60%) of women had relatively lower earnings than those with higher share of men. In 2022, women held 90 percent of elementary education degrees and were still paid 84 percent of what men were paid, working in the same field with the same education (\$54,070 vs. \$64,380). AAUW is addressing many of the causes of these inequities, including fighting to expand paid leave, access to affordable childcare, and elder care. In addition, AAUW works directly to end occupational segregation through programs like STEMed for Girls, our free online program to inform and inspire girls in grades 9-12 who are interested in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields. Our grants and fellowships, including career development grants and selected professions fellowships, are also used, in part, to reduce the impact of caregiving responsibilities for women seeking degrees and make higher education and career opportunities more accessible to women.

Act — A New Year’s resolution: Be an informed voter

This week, AAUW members are heading up to Capitol Hill to ask representatives to support legislation to allow workers to earn paid sick days.

Lend your voice and urge your members of Congress to support the Healthy Families Act (H.R. 3409/S. 1664) and keep America's working families healthy and economically secure.

Nearly 1 in 4 private sector employees – and more than six in 10 of the lowest-income workers – don’t have even a single paid sick day. That means getting the flu or having a sick child creates a precarious choice: go to work sick (or send their child to school sick) or stay home and risk not being able to pay for groceries or rent. For the typical family without paid sick days, just 3.5 sick days without pay is equivalent to losing an entire month of groceries.

Having a national paid sick days standard would provide working women with more job stability and the economic security they need to take care of themselves and their family.

Ask Congress to [support the Healthy Families Act](#) and keep America's working families healthy and economically secure this flu season and every season.



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



Impossible Quiz: Brain Teaser Answers

1. Don't worry; your dictionaries haven't been flawed your whole life. The word spelled incorrectly in every dictionary is "incorrectly."
2. Although it never asks you a question, you answer your phone every time it rings.
3. The one thing that defies Newton's laws of nature by going up and never coming down is *your age*.
4. Yes, it is possible for a word to both begin and end with the letter e and only have one letter in it. That word is "envelope."
5. Making the number one disappear is easy, and it doesn't involve an eraser. Simply add the letter "g" to the front of the word, and "one" is now "gone!"
6. Unfortunately, our St. Patrick's Day dreams of a pot of gold aren't true. The only thing you'll find at the end of every rainbow is the letter "w."
7. You may have learned to keep up with which months have thirty days and which have thirty-one by counting on your knuckles. But the truth is every month has twenty-eight days!