

AAUW

THE INSIGHTER

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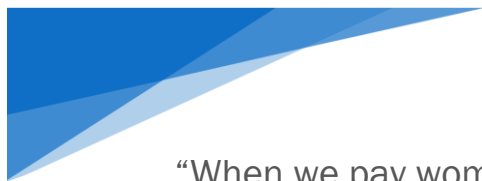
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Our Supporters



“When we pay women less than men, we’re telling women their work isn’t as valuable. We’re all equally valuable. And we should be paid equally.” —*Maria Shriver*



WEBSITE

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I love Roseanne Rosannadanna from the 1970s on SLN. She would always say, "It just goes to show ya, if it's not one thing, it's another." That's how I have been feeling this month. My central heating/air broke, my ice maker stopped making ice, and my roof is full of pine leaves. My cardiologist says I have to lose 30 pounds. I am always out of breath and have a terrible backache. The doctor says I have to have a CT scan for an aneurism. I have claustrophobia about scans, so I have been sleepless most nights. My medications are back ordered because the pharmacies got hacked. If it's not one thing, it's another.

Here's another. I have to write the AAUW's President's Letter. Reading over last March's President Letter, I just want to change the date and post it again. Who would know?

It's the same, same, but different. The weather is better. Grandkids didn't stay for a week during their break. My house is leaking way less. I managed to plant 200 Tulips, anemones and other bulbs (can't remember what they are called). I tried out 5 new recipes from my volumes of Bon Appetit magazines. Top recipe was the Asian noodle salad with peanuts.

Best of all, like last March, I attended the final AAUW Science Camp session - "Biology". It is the one where the students and mothers get to dissect an animal. This year it was a piglet. Wow, 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 two AAUW Board Members, Dena Traina and Kathleen Hull, who have been organizing, scheduling, and confirming all of the arrangements, as well as presenting "Engineering and Soil Science. 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.

You can read about AAUW's national position on job equity at their website, 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.

Don't forget to vote. (Editor's Note - Hope you voted. The percentages in Merced County were pitiful)

Sue Chappell

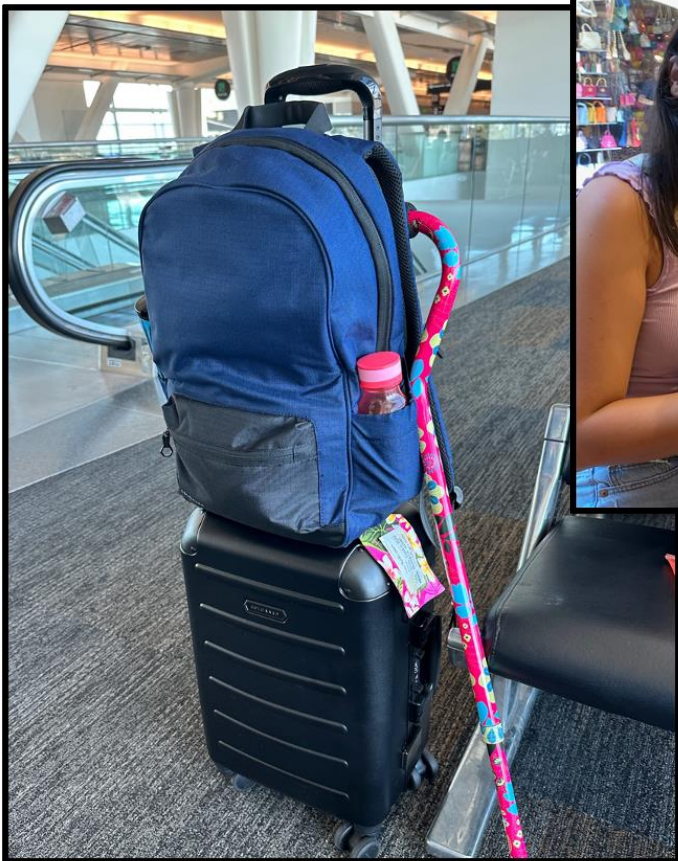




TRAVELOGUE

Our February travelogue program which will be presented by our former president Ruth Wax. Ruth took a lovely trip to Florence where Ruth ate – well shall we just say a little bit of gelato.

We found one of the fascinating parts of Ruth's talk was about her traveling light. Everything in her backpack and her one carry on piece of luggage. (<https://solgaard.co/>) Ruth did admit that there wasn't enough room in her suitcase for the souvenirs that she was not supposed to purchase – but it would happen to all of us. Please see our website for more information on Ruth's delightful trip.





Lisa M. Hamilton: *The Hungry Season*

Everyone is welcome to attend what will be a memorable event as California author Lisa M. Hamilton is joined by Hmong scholar Seng Alex Vang for a conversation about Hamilton's new book, *The Hungry Season: A Journey of War, Love, and Survival*.

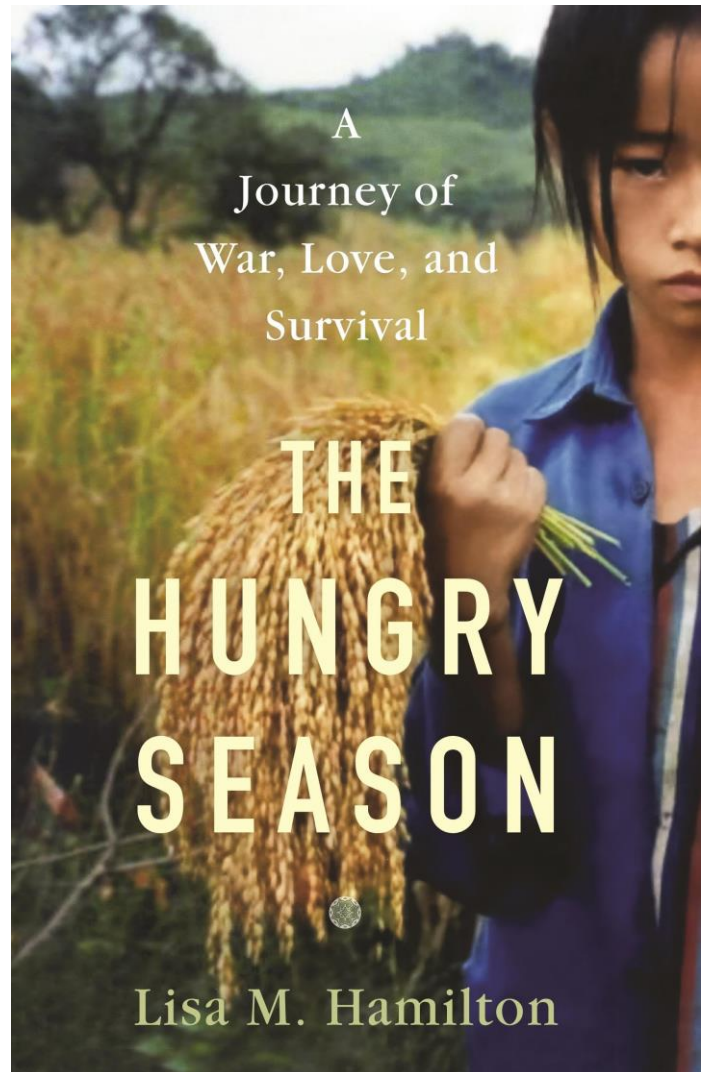
When:
3:00PM, Saturday, March 23, 2024

Where:
Gracey Room, Merced County Main Library,
2100 "O" Street, Merced, California

This event will be interpreted live in Hmong. Free headsets available.

Admission is free, but for planning purposes please use either the QR code or RSVP button to let us know if you plan to attend:

RSVP



About The Hungry Season:

Reported over seven years, *The Hungry Season* is the intimate biography of Fresno farmer Ia Moua. Born in Laos, Moua fled home in the wake of the American sponsored war, then spent fifteen years in a refugee camp in Thailand before immigrating to the United States. Acclaimed as one of the best nonfiction books of 2023 (*Kirkus Reviews*), *The Hungry Season* chronicles how Moua navigated the devastating loss of everything she loved, and at the same time reinvented herself into someone more powerful than she ever imagined she could be. This is your chance to connect with the author on a personal level and gain unique insights into the book's complex creative process.



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

International Women's Day Proclamation

Dena Traina Reporting

The City of Merced gave a group of women a proclamation for International Women's Day. Dena Traina and Susan Walsh went to accept the award on behalf of the American Association of University Women <https://cityofmerced.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=1139611&GUID=B619164E-7E0F-4123-9519-3D47E279E340&Options=info|&Search=#>



Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch were found dining at the Rainbird this month. Thanks to Becky Tietjen for forwarding this lovely picture.



TRIBUTE TO JULIA LARSON

From Alice Larson Leonardo, Julia's daughter. The family is having services on March 16, 2024 at 1:00 at Stratford and Evan's Funeral home in Merced located at B street and 15th street with a gathering afterwards at the 510 Bistro on Main Street. Anyone from your book group is invited. Please disperse this information to your group. Thank you for all the pleasure you all gave to Mom. Alice Leonardo I am sure Alice would like other pictures. She is getting email at Julia's email address.



Equal Pay Day

Equal Pay Day—March 12—is used to raise awareness around the gender pay gap and take action to combat pay inequities. It is appalling that women working full time still only make 84 cents per dollar paid to men—a pay gap that is significantly worse for many women of color and for women working part-time or seasonally. The Paycheck Fairness Act (H.R. 17/S. 728) would address several components of pay equity including ending use of salary history to determine wages, pay data collection, and retaliation protections for discussing wages.

Help us urge Congress to support the Paycheck Fairness Act:

- [Contact your members of Congress](#)
- [Write a Letter to the Editor](#)
- [Engage online](#) (Join the social media storm on March 12 at 2 p.m. ET)

The gender pay gap impacts all women in nearly every profession, at all education levels, and worsens as we get older. This cannot be allowed to continue!

Act – Drop the College Degree in Support of Those that Support Our Causes

What do you have that Eleanor Roosevelt didn't? A college degree. You heard that right. No all-nighter study sessions for her. No blue books. No Top Ramen®. No fashion-backward mortarboard. Eleanor



Roosevelt—yes, Eleanor Roosevelt—would technically not be able to join AAUW today as she did not earn a traditional degree by attending college. If you think something is wrong with that picture, vote Yes in April on the proposed amendment to National's bylaws to drop the degree requirement for membership. AAUW California supports it and here's [why](#). You can support it too by adding your personal endorsement [HERE](#). There are a lot of Eleanors waiting to be invited in.

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.

I attended our Napa County Branch's Tech Trek dinner and was stunned, surprised, pleased, and proud. Our first Tech Trekker, 25 years ago, was there as our speaker, now being 38 and owning her own production company in Atlanta. She was so eager to go to Stanford for her week, and indeed it made a difference in her life. At that time, she was the only one we could send, and we didn't have the money to do so, but took up a collection on the suggestion of a member, and sent her! Warm and fuzzy, and so very proud to be a member of AAUW and supporting these young women.

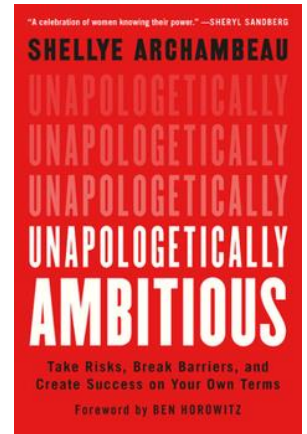
Linda Feutz
Napa County Branch



LOCAL UPCOMING EVENT

The local Society of Women Engineers would like to invite you to their meeting with author Shelley Archambeau. More information and the zoom link coming soon.

Unapologetically Ambitious is a book written by Shellye Archambeau, a former CEO of the technology company MetricStream. The book is a memoir that shares Archambeau's journey to becoming one of the most successful women in the tech industry. It offers practical advice and personal anecdotes to help empower women to achieve their career goals. The book asks readers to question what they really want from life, what values they live by, what lifestyle they desire, and what they find fulfilling.





OUR SUPPORTERS

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



“We need women who are
so **strong** they can be **gentle**,
so **educated** they can be **humble**,
so **fierce** they can be **compassionate**,
so **passionate** they can be **rational**,
and so **disciplined** they can be **free**.”

– Kavita Ramdas

Allie Seifert
Director, Public Relations



New Membership 2024-25

Make your check payable to Merced AAUW and mail to: Dee Near, 1004 Half Dome Court, Merced, CA 095340

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 Donations to Merced Branch (voluntary) Scholarship \$ _____
Science camp \$ _____ Other (please specify) \$ _____
(Assoc. \$ 72 (\$69 is tax deductible) State \$20 Local \$15

TOTAL AMOUNT \$ _____

Check number _____ Date _____

Degree: _____ College Attended: _____

Degree Field _____ Grad. Year: _____

Degree: _____ College Attended: _____

Degree Field _____ Grad. Year: _____

Degree: _____ College Attended: _____

Degree Field _____ Grad. Year: _____ .

AAUW National Bylaws: Eligibility. An individual holding an associate (or equivalent, e.g., RN), bachelor's, or higher degree from a higher education institution accredited by a regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (an "Accredited Higher Education Institution") or other qualified educational institution located outside of the United States, as determined by the Board of Directors, shall be eligible to receive admission to AAUW membership; such membership shall be granted upon payment of AAUW dues.