

🌸 March Meeting: Celebrate Spring!

Mike Trinca, Paradise Recreation & Parks District Manager, will describe the beautiful natural resources enhancing our quality of life and discuss future plans for Paradise and the new park in Magalia.

March 22nd, 2011, 11:30 AM, at the Family Resource Center, 6249 Skyway, Paradise.

Surprise Box Lunch \$5.00. **Reservations by March 14th;** call Lani McManus at 877-6997.

Paradise Recreation and Park District (PRPD) covers approximately 165 square miles that encompasses the Town of Paradise, Magalia, Paradise Pines, Butte Creek Canyon and Concow. 358 acres are natural open spaces with 73 acres being developed park-land. This includes swimming pools, fishing pond, horse arena, archery range, walking trails and picnic areas etc. PRPD offers a wide range of recreation programming and sponsors numerous special events.

🌸 The View from Here

I was just starting to write this article when I discovered this quote and wanted to share it with you. *"The rainbows of life follow the storm..."* (author unknown.) We have just had our biggest winter storm this season, and as I look out my window the new daffodils are raising their heads to the sun, the sky is blue and decorated with some beautiful clouds. This storm truly brought the treasure of the rainbows of life to us. Aren't we lucky!

A Big thank you to the Gourmet Group for a wonderful Soup Supper. We raised over \$747.00 which will benefit Branch Operations, the Pence Scholarship and 2012 Career Trek. Nice job, ladies and gentleman!

Madeline Caton did a great job in helping with Career Trek 2011 and making sure our girls knew about this unique educational opportunity. This was a wonderful chance for 8th grade girls on the ridge to interact with different professional women who use math and science

in their jobs. Heads up!—our branch will be responsible for coordinating this special program in 2012.

Please read the article on page 2 about the Inter-Branch Council (IBC) Luncheon in February. The Paper Arts Group did a wonderful job in making the table directions not only for this event but also the Soup Supper. Thank you, ladies!

My mantra for this year has been "just do one thing." We have accomplished a lot and spread out the work load, but we have a few more projects to complete before the end of May. If you have not yet done your "one" thing to help our Branch have an outstanding program, delicious nourishments, create a colorful, playful environment and have fun, please give me a call, 872-3031. It is not too late to get involved.

March is Women's History month and our members have been busy preparing to make classroom presentations representing Dame Shirley, Annie Bidwell, Dr. Ella Gachell and Julia Morgan. See Carole Chumbler's article on page 3 about our educational project. The Paradise Branch has been providing this wonderful learning opportunity for the youth on the ridge for many years. It is truly a gift we provide to our community.

Make sure you mark your calendars today and save the dates of Tuesday, March 22nd, Saturday, April 16th, and Saturday, May 21st for future AAUW gatherings. Lani McManus has lined up some interesting, thought provoking speakers, plus a new venue for our May luncheon. Join us to experience the fun and continue to expand your knowledge on a variety of topics.

I was a Recreation Major at Chico State, did my internship at PRPD, and was on the Board for several years. The District continues to expand programs and develop parks for us all to enjoy, so I am looking forward to learning from District Manager Mike Trinca about the new park planned for the Upper Ridge and having lunch with you on March 22nd.

Cheers!

Ronda Hoffman, Branch President

Branching Out is published five times per year by the Paradise Branch of the American Association of University Women. AAUW Paradise Branch is committed to advancing lifelong education opportunities and equity for girls and women. We will do this while providing growth opportunities and support for our members and establishing a positive visible presence on the Paradise Ridge.

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research..



🌿 Interbranch Luncheon

On Feb. 5th, six Paradise branch members joined about 30 other women from the Interbranch Council chapters for the annual IBC luncheon, held this year in Yuba City. Our featured speaker was Robin Pleau, a PhD student in Sociology at UC Davis and recipient of an AAUW Funds Fellowship award to further her research. Ms. Pleau described her research on multi-generational households. She has found that the number of such households has increased by millions over the last twenty years. In future, Ms. Pleau wants to work for a non-profit and explore how multi-generational households effect women's employment.

Yuba City reported that several hundred girls attended their career day event, which is held on a school day and is preceded the day before by a similar event for boys.

Carol Holzgrafe of Chico & Paradise reported on Tech Trek developments, including a new camp at UC Davis (where our scholars will go this summer) and a probable scholarship cost increase of \$50 to meet ever-rising costs.

Jana Lawton from Chico said a committee is forming to implement the one-member, one-vote rule, and she asked for volunteers.

Satsie Veith

🌿 Public Policy for March

This just in from AAUW headquarters: Only weeks into the 112th Congress, conservative lawmakers are already working to weaken public education by diverting public funds from public education and into private and religious schools. Sen. Joseph Lieberman (I-CT) has introduced a bill that would reauthorize and expand the failed D.C. school vouchers program which Congress had agreed to end last year. AAUW stands firmly by the belief that the country should provide an excellent education for all children, not private school vouchers for a few.

While the House bill to redefine what constitutes rape to further limit abortion availability was defeated in the House after a huge public outcry, the new Congress is paying special attention to a woman's right to choose. Most recently, the House voted to de-fund Planned Par-

enthod by passing a bill that prohibits the government "from providing any federal family planning assistance to an entity ... that performs an abortion." This would also prohibit Planned Parenthood from receiving federal funds to provide cancer screenings, birth control, and testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, because it also provides abortions.

Not an AAUW-studied bill, but members should be aware that the just-released Republican budget provides \$0.00 (zero/nada/nothing) for NPR and PBS, the public broadcasting systems that bring you, your children and grandchildren Sesame Street, Nova and Nature, Ken Burn's Baseball, The Civil War, The National Parks, Masterpiece Theatre, Mystery and Antiques Roadshow. Local PBS stations (KCHO/KIXE etc.) bring you California Gold and other north state shows.

While KQED in San Francisco receives only 7.8% of its budget from the feds, our local KIXE gets 45% of its budget from the government. It won't survive this cut and we will be left with programming from Fox News and mainstream shows—with all that really icky advertising.

If life without Sesame Street, All Things Considered, Nova and The News Hour (just rated the most trusted news source in the U.S.) is unacceptable, start writing.

Our Congressman, Wally Herger, has voted in favor of \$0 funds for PBS and for redefining of rape. If this matters to you, call and write. You can make a difference.!

Carol Holzgrafe, Public Policy Chair

🌿 Community Connections

Head Start Volunteers Needed

If you love working with very young children and want to volunteer in your community, you may be interested in exploring the possibility of volunteering with Paradise Head Start. Head Start is a federally-funded non-profit program that promotes child development in the areas of physical, emotional, dental, and nutritional health, and helps children develop their cognitive and social skills. Programs include morning and afternoon sessions for preschool-age children. For more information about volunteer possibilities with Head Start, please call 741-2995.

Ronda Hoffman, Branch President



🌸 Other Public Policy Issues

Challenges to Reproductive Freedom

AAUW has long supported women's rights for social justice, and since 1977 has made reproductive rights a public policy principle. The AAUW 2009-2011 Public Policy Program advocates "choice in the determination of one's reproductive life". AAUW trusts that every woman has the ability to make her informed choices regarding her reproductive life within the dictates of her own moral and religious beliefs. Further, AAUW believes that these deeply personal decisions should be made without government interference.

The U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 ruling in *Roe v. Wade* legalized abortion for all women and found it to be a constitutionally protected "fundamental right". However, many of the most vulnerable groups of American women are being denied control over their reproductive lives due to increasing restrictions brought about legislatively.

Within the past month, Rep. Chris Smith (R-N.J.) introduced H.R.3, which would prohibit the use of federal funds to buy any health insurance that includes abortion coverage, even if those services are paid for with private money. Among its several restrictive provisions, it would ban the use of flex spending on health savings accounts to pay for abortion, and ban employers and the self-insured from using tax breaks to buy private health insurance that covers abortion. AAUW opposes this legislation.

To learn more and take action, visit the national website www.aauw.org and go to Public Policy.

AAUW Public Policy: Proposed Changes

At both the national and state levels, AAUW reviews and revises its Public Policy Principles and Priorities every two years. Some of the national changes are:

- Advocating public education free of harassment and bullying.
- Explicitly adding a position against human trafficking.
- Opposition to the use of public funds for nonpublic elementary and secondary education and to charter schools that do not adhere to the same civil rights and accountability standards as other public schools.

Replacing "vocational" with "career and technical" in strengthening educational programs.

To review all changes and the rationale for these, go to www.aauw.org/Member-Center

Sue Miller,

[AAUW CA Vice President and Public Policy Directory](#)

🌸 Women's History Project

Fourth graders on the Ridge will have an opportunity to "meet" women who contributed to California's history thanks to our Branch's Women's History Program. From March 21st to the 29th AAUW members in historical dress will visit the four elementary schools in the Paradise Unified School District as well as Achieve Charter, Children's Community Charter and the Seven Day Adventist Academy.

Presenters this year are Cheryl Caldwell as Louise Clapp (author of *The Shirley Letters*), Sara Stanley as Annie Bidwell, Carole Chantal as Dr. Ella Gatchell (Chico's first woman physician) and Carole Chumbler portraying architect Julia Morgan.

Other AAUW members will assist in the presentations by handling photos and props of the times. Phyllis Larsen is co-coordinating the scheduling of the assistants. Contact her if you would like to volunteer.

Members are encouraged to attend any of the classroom presentations. A schedule is available on our Branch website www.AAUWParadise.org. Check with the school on the day of the presentation to see if there has been any last minute change.

Carole Chumbler

🌸 More on New Members

Marianne Heaton

Marianne received her Associate of Arts Degree from Santa Monica College, in 1973; her Bachelor's Degree from California State University, Chico in 1975; her Elementary Teaching Credential from California State University, Chico in 1977; and her Paralegal Certificate from California State University, Chico in 1985.

Thank you again to our present members who talked to their friends about joining AAUW. Your referrals have made a big difference.

Paulette Jones, Membership VP



🌿 Other Dates and Interest Groups

New Groups: Anyone interested in starting an interest group call Cheryl Caldwell at 877-8238.

Evening Book Group will meet Friday, March 4, at 7:30 PM to discuss *Cod: A Biography of the Fish that Changed the World* by Mark Kurlansky. If you're interested in joining us on that date or at a future gathering, call Mary Johnson at 877-3906 or Joan Regan at 872-4613.

Gadabouts Group For information or questions please call Paulette Jones at 877-1163.

Morning Book Group meets every 4th Thursday of the month between 10 and noon. To join our group, contact Connie Ferrell at 873-0725.

Pot Luck Group is open to new members. The group meets once a month on the second Sunday of the month. Anyone that is interested in this group may call Marilyn Eldridge at 873-1029.

🌿 Dramatis Personae

President:	Ronda Hoffman
Treasurer:	Lynn Eads
Secretaries:	Jean Crist Merrie McLaughlin
VP EF/LAF:	Connie Ferrell
VP Membership:	Paulette Jones
VP Programs:	Lani McManus
Editor:	Jim Holzgrafe

