

🌸 Joint Meeting with the Chico Branch

What: Eileen Burke-Trent will show and discuss “Writing Women Back Into History”, a 20 minute movie developed by the National Women’s History Project in Wash. D.C.

When: Sat., March 21, 10 a.m. to noon

Where: Shelley’s Creative Catering, 2565 Zanella Way, Chico (behind the Italian Cottage Restaurant on Skyway).

Cost: \$13, accepted at the door

RSVP to Barbara Paige, 891-8330 or barbarapaige8@comcast.net

Eileen Burke-Trent is a Ruth Shur Leadership Fellow Emeritus with the League of Women Voters, U.S., and a member of the Gridley Chapter of AAUW. For years Eileen has organized celebrations for Women’s History Month in our region and partnered with libraries; local, state and national museums; grange halls; women’s clubs; local governments; women’s history projects; newspapers; universities and colleges; and involved individuals. She administers a Facebook page: Yellow Rose Events ~ Women’s History Celebrations, to share interesting events, links, and information on historical and modern women of interest. Eileen is working on developing two historical characters, for dramatic (and humorous) presentations on Alice Paul and Mother Jones, both important figures in the fight for Women’s Equality and Workers’ Rights.

🌸 Public Policy for March

Not much room to chat this time but what about that Patricia Arquette at the Oscars? She certainly put the ‘cat among the pigeons’ by saying it is way past time for equal pay. What an uproar, as if it weren’t so terribly obvious. This, as you know, is a longtime AAUW effort. Remember the great and strong Lilly Ledbetter? And two AAUW studies: *Behind the Pay Gap* and *Graduating to a Pay Gap: The Earnings of Women and Men One Year after College Graduation*. You can read them at aauw.org.

Carol Holzgrafe, Public Policy Chair

🌸 The View From Here

While February is always short, this year it seemed shorter, allowing March to arrive without notice; I may not have been paying attention. However, March means spring and that brings some stimulating events.

March 21 program: We have an opportunity to join the Chico branch for a program on women’s history. I will be away but encourage our members to attend. I know you will hear intriguing new details from the past, thrill to the achievements of women, and enjoy each other’s company.

Our 35th anniversary is approaching. The board/committee is planning a brunch on Saturday, May 30, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Vista Village Community Hall. More details in the May Branching Out but mark your calendars now. Marygrace Colby is diligently working to bring the branch history scrapbooks up to date. She requests that all Interest Groups take pictures and send them to her for inclusion.

The Soup Supper in January was a gratifying success. Many thanks to the Gourmet Group and everyone who attended or donated. Funds raised go to printing the Directory, the Pence Scholarship, some to help members pay their dues, and the remainder to Tech Trek.

You will receive the annual fundraising letter soon. Since this is the only way we raise money for our programs (except for the Soup Supper) I encourage you to read and act on the letter. Think of all the rummage sales you are not doing. Thanks to Lani McManus, our AAUW Funds chair, for doing the heavy lifting on this letter and its enclosures.

One more thing: We have most of our 2015-16 board/committee identified but we always welcome new members (or old) to join us in a small capacity. No better way to learn about AAUW and make new friends. Just let me know. I have ideas. Once it is complete, we will announce the new board because branch approval is required at the May brunch.

Carol Holzgrafe, Facilitator

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.



Membership

Fame and Fortune: We want to congratulate Kelley Conner for being named the Elks Club's Women of the Year. A stalwart leader in the Chamber of Commerce, she coordinates the "Party in the Park" each week, and works with the Pine Ridge Women's Club and other local groups.



Kelley is behind our AAUW holiday book collection for local children. At the February 21 Citizens of the Year banquet she extolled the virtues of our Tech Trek Science and Math camp for Paradise area girls. Thank you and congratulations, Kelley. (She co-owns PostNet in the Safeway center on Clark Road).

Member Found: Dr. Amy Darwin, who arrived in town to become the most popular physician on the Ridge, has joined our branch. We welcome her and her husband Everett and look forward to seeing them at upcoming events. Besides AAUW, Amy and Everett are involved in raising funds for an Afghan girls school. See below.

Former Member Lost: Peggy Burgess-Schilling left us on Jan. 8. A long time member, she was branch president from 1991 to 1993. Peggy's obituary appeared in the Jan. 21 edition of the Paradise Post: www.paradisepost.com

From Dr. Amy Darwin to Paradise branch members:

"My husband Everett and I are helping with a fundraiser for an Afghan girls' school that is associated with one of the refugee camps in Pakistan, and is supported by Quakers.

The dinner is Saturday, April 4, 6:30pm, at the Arc Pavilion in Chico and costs \$40 per person."

Tickets from Amy (adarwin1876@yahoo.com), Lyon Books or Adam Walter: 809-1946 or AdamWalterNZ@gmail.com

From Carol: Members with an email address will have received the flyer along with this March newsletter.

It's a Bargain: If you have friends who have been considering joining AAUW, this is a perfect time to encourage them to take that step. Dues for a member joining after March 15, 2015, are good for all of 2015 through June 2016, equivalent to three free months of membership.

Mary Huntsinger, Membership

Help Wanted:

The Women's History presentations to Paradise 4th graders (the last week of March) would love to add a musician to play period instruments for the kids: (harmonica, banjo, Jew's Harp, whatever). ALSO needed: a few more helpers to tote and carry (wear your own clothes). Call Carole Chumbler.

Carol Holzgrafe, Facilitator

Women's History Video

In celebration of National Women's History Month 2015, NWHM is proud to announce the launch of its new video series, Women's History Minute. Set to debut on Sunday, March 1st, the series will consist of daily 60-second videos produced to honor the ingenuity, dedication, and effort that American women have invested in our nation.

Be sure to visit their YouTube channel, at <http://tinyurl.com/womenshistoryminute>, every day during March to view the latest Women's History Minute. [The master video has apparently been removed, but the videos are available individually from that same URL. - editor]

From Julia Morgan's architectural design of Hearst Castle to Dr. Chien Shiung Wu's groundbreaking work as a physicist during World War II, this video series champions the achievements of women in various professions, as well as their roles in social and political movements.

Carol Holzgrafe, Facilitator



Meet Charter Member Dianne Lorenz

35 YEARS: AAUW Paradise 1980-2015

“It is a truth universally acknowledged”* that the more we think we know someone, the more we discover we don’t. Paradise Charter Member Dianne Lorenz is such a person.

When Marygrace Colby and I visited Dianne in January, I knew she had lived in Paradise for many decades. What I didn’t know is how she got here. I didn’t know Dianne had lived in Germany for a few years, that she was from a Very Interesting Family, or how she and her husband Alex ended up in Paradise running a successful business. Now I do.

The saga begins this way: Dianne was born into a large, French Catholic pioneering family, the LeGrands, who settled and farmed a good part of Colusa County. Her father was one of nine children, Dianne, one of six; the family took up 50 percent of the pews in church. One of Dianne’s treasures is a book of stories and pictures of 100 years of LeGrand history.

Dianne said the family was able to acquire more land because they had plenty of farm workers (the children) of which lending banks approved. As a result, she may be one of few AAUW members who can milk a cow.

“I had a Lake Woebegon–West upbringing”, Dianne said. “We could play outdoors with a sense of safety and security.”

This bucolic life changed when, following family tradition, Dianne enrolled at San Francisco State. However, she had to room with her older sister in Mary Ward Hall. “Doesn’t that sound like a prison?”

So she transferred to CSUC at the end of her first semester, and there she met Alex. They married the summer of junior year.

Alex, who had majored in engineering, began work as an engineering technician. They bought a modest fixer-upper in Saratoga. “Picture me, 9 months pregnant and rolling paint on the ceiling,” she said.

Dianne finished her B.A. degree in English at San Jose State and produced two children. “I felt like I was pregnant the whole time we lived there,” she said. During one semester break she took a week off to have Monica; Mark was born a year later during Easter break.

“Then I went home to be a housewife,” Dianne said. “I didn’t have a career goal as an English major and was brought up in culture where women were the helpmates.” Teaching didn’t appeal and, besides, back then a family could live on one salary.

In 1969 the family moved to Germany, near Munich where Alex was offered a job. He had been born there and spoke German like a native. Dianne did not. The family did have adventures traveling through most of Western Europe in a VW camper.

After three years Dianne wanted to come home. Alex transferred to Raychem in Menlo Park. A year later, in 1973, Marika was born, completing the family.

Though Dianne enjoyed being a wife and mother, she got a bit bored with staying home. She had volunteered for the Palo Alto Women’s Resource Center counseling women on career choices and how to combine family and career.

During a reduction at Raychem Alex took a buyout and they moved to Paradise with 9 months’ salary, a house but no job. “We thought something would work out,” she said.

“Alex was always entrepreneurial,” Dianne said, though she hadn’t known that before.

Dianne did the billing and paperwork for Alex Lorenz Foreign Car Repair, their first business. While ordering rubber stamps from Corbell’s Printing she discovered that the Corbells wanted to retire so, when Alex said, “Oh, that’s something Dianne could do,” and she didn’t say no, they bought the inventory and equipment and set up at home. Now, with A and D Lorenz Rubber Stamp, they had two businesses.

(Continued)



(Dianne Lorenz, continued)

When the computer era arrived Alex discovered sign engraving, gave up car repair, and went into graphics, then printing. The business expanded with as many as 11 employees in the heyday before everyone had computers and thought they could do their own printing. The older children always helped out too. This, of course, was Graphics Impressions, where they stayed for 30 years.

“Alex grew the business but couldn’t have done it without my support,” Dianne said.

The three children are now grown and have successful lives, happily producing grandchildren. Monica lives in Paradise with her three and works for United Health Care.

Mark lives in Orange County and is part owner and manager of a courier company. “He now understands the challenges of a small business,” Dianne said. Mark has one son.

Marika is at Beale Air Force Base in the Intelligence Division. She is married and lives with her husband and daughter Anika, age 7, near Beale.

Hobbies and Interests

Sailing, of course. They started with a car topper boat, then moved up to a 36-foot Catalina that sleeps 5 and is berthed in Richmond.

“Alex is a natural,” Dianne said. “I’m not but I enjoy it.”

“I like reading poetry,” she said. Mary Oliver and Billy Collins who re-introduced her to poetry. “I didn’t know poetry was like that!” She also loves to walk and garden.

On traveling Dianne says, “I’m not the adventurer in the family; Alex is. I don’t need to see the Taj Mahal.”

Why did she join AAUW? Moving to Paradise in 1976 she asked herself, “Where am I going to meet like-minded women? I saw an announcement in the paper for an AAUW membership tea for the Chico branch. “The minute I walked in the door I knew I had found my connection.”

She enjoyed the Chico branch. However, so many women from the Ridge were tired of making the drive and wanted to start a branch in Paradise. At first Dianne was not too involved, the business and family being all-consuming. But that was to change.

In the 80s Dianne began to work on a masters degree in career counseling. “I loved that period,” she said. Soon she was teaching career classes in Paradise, Gridley, and Ridgeview high schools, and résumé development with Dept. of Rehabilitation clients.

“How could I have thought I didn’t want to be a teacher?” she wondered.

AAUW involvement and memories

Positions held in the branch(s): president, 1988-89, co-president/facilitator with Lynn Eads 2011-13, secretary 2000-10, membership 2000-01. A founding member of the couples evening book group, member of Gourmet (Paradise and Chico), newsletter 1997-98, chaired Women’s History Month. She was EF Honoree 1986-87 and 2000-01, received the President’s Award 1985-86 and ’97-’98 and is still Interest Group Coordinator.

How do you want people to remember you?

“Mainly being a kind and compassionate person and being a good listener,” Dianne said.

So, after 35 years, Dianne Lorenz is still a happy member of Paradise AAUW. She is always smiling — and we smile whenever she comes in the door.

*Thank you Jane Austen (*Pride and Prejudice*).

NOTE: The ‘complete’ story of Dianne’s life will be posted at www.aauwparadise.org

By Carol Holzgrafe with help from Marygrace Colby



History Brought to Life

Our Paradise AAUW branch will celebrate Women's History Month by bringing an important part of California's history to life for 4th grade classes in Paradise and Magalia. Branch members will appear in costume, taking on the roles of Mrs. John Bidwell, Dr. Ella Gatchell, and Mrs. Louise Clappe the last week of March.

Member Linda Fletcher Brannam will assume the role of Annie Bidwell, wife of Chico's founder, and will tell about her life in early day Chico and about the causes that she supported. Lani McManus will play the role of Dr. Ella Gatchell, first female doctor north of Sacramento and cousin of John Bidwell. She will share information about diseases and remedies of the times and discuss her medical training in a day when few women were doctors. Nancy Wirtz-Lunde will talk about life in the mining camp of RichBar where Louise Clappe lived with her husband during the gold rush period of California's history. Students will also learn some of the songs miners sang during that time.

This is the 10th year that Paradise Branch of AAUW has brought these presentations to Ridge classrooms. Fourth graders study California History and the presentations are geared to complement classroom studies.

The Schedule: Should you want to help out or watch a presentation, we work with Cedarwood, Pine Ridge, Paradise, Ponderosa, Achieve and Children's Community charter elementary schools. Check the website (aauwparadise.org) for exact days and times, or ask Carole Chumbler or Carol Holzgrafe.

Upcoming Events

May 30, Paradise AAUW's 35th anniversary party

June 18–21, **2015 National Convention**, San Diego. "Best Value" registration fees end January 15, so don't delay.

Interest Group Dates

Please send Marygrace Colby pictures of your interest groups at work and play.

Bridge Babes Dates TBA, 1:30 p.m. Gail Prince, 877-0554.

Bridge Group I 1st Friday, 1:00 p.m. Lynn Eads, 877-2565.

Bridge Group II 3rd Friday, 1:00 p.m. Lynn Eads, 877-2565.

Intermediate Bridge Dates TBA, 1:00 p.m. Karen Hilleman, 873-2241.

Evening Book Group will meet Friday, March 6, at 7:30 PM to discuss *The Garden of Evening Mists* by Tan Twan Eng. The book for our following meeting in April is *Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Coast Trail* by Cheryl Strayed. If you're interested in joining us at either gathering, call Mary Johnson at 877-3906 or Dianne Lorenz at 872-8967.

Gourmet Group (for couples/partners) Dates TBA, 6:00 p.m. Ronda Hoffman, 872-3031

Morning Book Group 4th Thursday, 10:00 a.m.; new members are welcome. Connie Ferrell, 873-0725.

Out to Lunch Contact Mary Huntsinger, 872-2612.

Paper Arts Dates TBA. Laurie Baker, 872-1452.

Pot Luck Group 2nd Sundays. Marilyn Eldridge, 873-1029.

Share the Fun Carole Chumbler, 877-5635.

Wine and Whine Thursday, March 19, 5:30 p.m. at The Wine Room, Skyway and Fir Street. Come and share conversation, wine (etc.) and the newly updated menu. Carol Holzgrafe 873-6906.

Email addresses for all contacts are in the Branch Directory.



🌸 Dramatis Personae

Facilitator	Carol Holzgrafe
Financial Officer	Susanne Griffin
Secretary	Madeleine Caton
Director (Membership)	Mary Huntsinger
AAUW Funds/LAF	Lani McManus
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