

## OCTOBER MEETING and PROGRAM

Tuesday, October 17, 7 p.m.

Paradise Library Meeting Room ~ 5922 Clark Rd.

PRESENTATION: CASA

Making A Life-Long Difference for  
Very Vulnerable Children in our Community

AAUW and community members are invited to learn why more than 88 children enter foster care every day in California and what Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) are doing to improve these children's lives. The presenters at this informative event will be Lisa Michels, Butte-Glenn CASA Program Supervisor, Tracy Hunsicker and Chris Hoffman, CASA volunteers. They will present information on why these children are removed from their homes, what happens when Child Protective Services removes a child from their home, and "the true-to life tales" of foster children from our community and throughout the county in their path through foster care. The role and importance of CASA volunteers advocating for these children will be explained. There will be time for your questions following the presentation.

If you have questions or need more information about the presentation please contact Ronda Hoffman, 872.3031.

*Lift up a child's voice. A child's life.*

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## ■ The View From Here

Welcome to the 2017-2018 Paradise AAUW.

As with any group of people communication is important, but this year keeping in touch will be more important than ever. So please call or

email if you have a question. You will find the list of Officers and Committee members in this newsletter and it will appear in our Directory.

We hope that a lot of our members will be interested in the Reading Pals Program. It is a volunteer program for tutoring students in reading. This is the first year that it is being implemented at Paradise and Ponderosa Elementary schools. The program



started locally in Chico in 2013 and has been very successful.

Volunteers will work one or two days a week (on Tuesday and/or Thursday) for one hour in the afternoon. For more information go to [www.readingpalschico.org](http://www.readingpalschico.org).

We will all work together to achieve our AAUW goals - of primary importance, sending girls to Tech Trek and Career Trek programs.

We will continue to give scholarships to Butte College students. We will have another year of great performances about notable historical local women.

Looking forward to a great year!

*Paulette & Mary*

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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.



## ■ Tech Trek at UC Davis 2017

In July, four Paradise/Magalia 8th grade girls enjoyed a week of STEM-related classes, workshops, and events on the U.C. Davis campus, all on scholarships provided by AAUW Paradise members. This was AAUW's Tech Trek Science and Math Camp for Girls in its 20th year.

Each girl chose a morning core class from a list of anatomy/physiology, genetics, 3-D math and architecture, engineering and – new this year – cyber security.

Afternoons included hands-on trips to the School of Veterinary Medicine, backstage at the Mondavi Performing Arts Center and the Chemistry Department for a display of chemical phenomenon, experiments plus making ice cream with liquid nitrogen (and eating it too)!

Campers learned about budgeting in a hilarious, reality-based program and met 10 women with unusual careers in STEM-related areas (Crime Scene Investigating, organic farming, winemaking, and plant pathology along with the more usual veterinarian, physician and controller). This is only a small part of a week learning what it is to live like a college student, making new friends and getting a glimpse into a successful and promising future breaking barriers. (If you want to see the schedule, just ask Carol).

Our Tech Trekkers are invited to the Sept. 16 lunch and will tell us more about their experiences then.

For an inside peek at Tech Trek Davis, 2017, check out these sites:

[Youtube Video:](#)

[Google Docs:](#)

[Davis Newspaper interview:](#)

*Carol Holzgrafe, Mary Huntsinger and Sue Griffin,  
AAUW Paradise Tech Trek Committee*



Paradise Tech Trekkers 2017 Paradise

## ■ Sunshine Corner



Sunshine took center stage in August with the awe-inspiring Great American Eclipse. Mark and I traveled to Boise, Idaho and beyond to view the Totality. Quite the summertime adventure and very interesting to see in person. Hoping many of you got to experience some part of it as well.

We keep good thoughts for those members who have health and other personal challenges. Be sure to let me know if someone needs a card, email or caring note.

bookmark2@sbcglobal.net  
Autumn Greetings,

*Best Wishes, Laurie Baker*



**TechTrek Notes: From Liz Heaton:** "...my core class is amazing – engineering is really awesome; we have made a burglar alarm and used solar panels. Thank you so much for everything, especially for my dorm group and mom."



## ■ Public Policy September 2017



First of all, because we are all so politically aware these days: “The AAUW National office reminds us that during these difficult and challenging times, we are a non-partisan group: not biased nor partisan, especially toward any particular political group. What

does this mean? It means that we support or oppose ideas (in the form of bills or public statements); we do not support or oppose political parties. If you have questions, please contact [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org) or 800-326-2289.

- AAUW CEO Kimberly Churches issued (on Sept. 7) the following statement responding to Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos’ announcement concerning the future of Title IX enforcement. [DeVos wants to rewrite the laws concerning the rights of campus rape victims because she believes the perpetrators currently are denied their rights.]

“Secretary Betsy DeVos’ decision to open up Title IX for changes represents a blatant intent to roll back protections for students. It is an action that is at direct odds with upholding the civil rights of all Americans.... Considering that 89 percent of college campuses disclosed zero reported rapes last year — despite the fact that we know incidents are far more frequent — we should move forward and build on past progress, not walk back current protections.

The American Association of University Women stands with survivors and remains committed to protecting and defending Title IX, and to pursuing its vigorous enforcement.”

- Ways to become informed — using real news:

AAUW’s Two-Minute Activist program has gone mobile: Text the word EQUALITY to 21333 today to receive timely and targeted calls for action via text message!

You can also subscribe to Washington Update, a members-only, weekly e-bulletin at [VoterEd@aauw.org](mailto:VoterEd@aauw.org). It offers an insider’s view on the legislative process, the latest policy news, resources for advocates, programming ideas, and updates from AAUW’s Public Policy and Government Relations Departments. You will find many more resources at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org).

- Hints for contacting your legislators: use phone calls, post cards or emails (through their ‘Contact Me’ web pages); letters take weeks to get to them. And, do contact your representatives even if you know they agree with you. They keep tallies to help their arguments.

At a meeting next February we will learn more efficient ways to affect what our representatives do.

- In case you missed it, AAUW’s new CEO, Kimberly Churches, responded to the dissolution of DACA yesterday (Sept. 5). “AAUW is proud to be part of a community that fights for the civil rights of all Americans, including immigrants.”

- The Supreme Court is expected to have a “momentous” session, according to Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. On her own decisions she was quoted in the NY Times (7.31.17) thusly: “She said she will sometimes go along with the majority in, say, a tax case. “Even though I disagree, I will bury my dissent,” she said. “We call that a graveyard dissent.”

When the stakes are higher, she said, she takes a different approach. “I will never compromise,” she said, “when it’s a question of, say, freedom of speech or press, gender equality.”

Justice Ginsburg has our backs.

*Carol Holzgrafe,  
Public Policy Chair*



**CAROL MEETING JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR**

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**TechTrek Notes:** *From Caelyn Gronlund: “I most enjoyed the physics workshop and the chemistry workshop. .... [camp] has provided me with different college and career choices. Thank you for allowing me to go to Tech Trek.”*



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■ **AAUW's National Convention, Washington, D.C. June 14 – 17 Or, "what I did last summer"**

...Since I treasure all my AAUW friends, I was lucky enough to join six from the Morgan Hill branch as delegates to the bi-annual national convention this June. We took the red eye from San Francisco (not recommended) and stayed at the convention hotel, the Marriott Renaissance Hotel downtown, within walking distance of pretty much everything. I can provide lots more details of what we saw and learned (just ask me) but these are some 'brief' highlights:

Wednesday: The convention theme was "Action" so we were briefed on how to approach our representatives (nicely but prepared), how to find information on bills etc. We also toured the new AAUW offices – quite up-to-date and, finally, with wi-fi (ask me about that). The handout, "Meeting With Your Elected Officials" is a keeper. The Keynote Speaker was Judy Woodruff of PBS's News Hour.

On Thursday all 800 of us, wearing AAUW Lobby Day T-shirts, boarded buses for Capitol Hill to meet with our representatives. We saw Sen. Dianne Feinstein (she waved on her way to a floor vote) and talked at length with her aides about AAUW focuses – student loan debt and its impact on women and the current threats to Title IX. We did not see Sen. Kamala Harris (already on the floor for the vote) but also spoke with her aides. (Did you know that the government is really run by smart, well-dressed, young people? It looked that way).

Because I was the only delegate from Congressional District 1, I decided not to visit Rep. La Malfa (he hears from me regularly); instead I went along with the Morgan Hill team to Rep. Zoe Lofgren's office. She spent almost a half hour with us, discussing AAUW's concerns – Lofgren speaks to the Morgan Hill branch quite often so they know each other well. One thing Rep. Lofgren said especially resonated with me: She said that, of the current Congress, only 37 percent were there during the 2007/2008 financial crisis. Lofgren believes that this may be one reason why today's Congress appears unconcerned about re-emerging predatory banking practices. Since that part of the financial community proved itself less than solid on the "protect the customer" issue, a

system without regulation may be considered hazardous.

By the way, California had the largest delegation attending (109); Morgan Hill (7) was the largest from California.

Workshops were varied and excellent: "Setting Smart Goals for your Branch", "Using the Identity Wheel to Build Welcoming and Inclusive Spaces", "the AAUW Recruitment Cook-Off", "Communication Skills: Presenting and Participating with Confidence" and "Media Training 101" were particularly helpful to me.

Speakers at the Plenary Sessions and elsewhere had riveting stories to tell, and we met new AAUW CEO Kim Churches. The highlight was the Friday dinner speaker, Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor who received the AAUW Achievement Award. "Women have a false sense of equality," Sotomayor said, cautioning us that the Court is not a leader on the issue of women's rights. "You have a lot of work to do," she said. She spoke while walking among the tables, shaking many hands (including mine), watched closely by six serious-looking Secret Service Agents.

On Saturday, Churches announced the election of the new AAUW Board Chair, Julia Brown, an attorney and member of the Las Cruces, N.M. and Oakland-Piedmont branches. Julia takes over from Patricia Fae Ho, our chair for the past two years.

Overall, I learned a lot, networked like mad and had a very good time. The next national convention will likely be in three years, in time to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment. I hope more of us from District 1 will attend. It is worth your time.

After it was over, we stayed for several more days, touring the Capitol, visiting all the memorials, many museums, the Library of Congress and – a highlight for me – the Newseum. The Holocaust Museum is a stunner in every way.

To close, I want to thank the Paradise board and branch for their financial support for this convention. It made a big difference.

*Carol Holzgrafe*

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**TechTrek Notes: From Karli Martin:** "I love being surrounded by campers that share interests with me and talk about things I find fascinating. .... I am so thankful you chose me to fulfill the position."



## ■ Greetings. (7.18.17)

As I read through the special individual notes from many of you and look over the pictures, the beautiful book brings back so many memories. Love the pictures and the Certificate, put together by Laurie, Carol and Jim H. Now, I realized how much Paradise AAUW has meant to me over 20 plus years-friendships I will keep forever. Marcia Hamilton still remembers meeting me for the first time when I showed up at her door step, to take pictures of the Couples Bridge Group. So many of you to remember, but impossible to list.

I am still getting settled and keep changing ALL THE STUFF AROUND. The Storage Locker is still full of cat mugs and stuff, as I am learning how to live in small spaces with NOT so many cat items.

Huge 4th of July parade brought out 50,000 to the streets Morgan Hill. Local AAUW has marched for many years, and Carol was seen dancing along the streets. Reminded me of Paradise parades when we marched many years ago.

The new 2012 Honda Fit, with only 52,000 miles, has replaced the smashed car. However the KATLVR license still exists and will live forever. The house sale is finally finished, except for a few tardy bills suddenly showing up. Did you know this can be done even months after escrow closes?

Family I have not seen for some years have been here recently. Not all of you are aware that my family and relatives have lived in this area for many years. So the temporary count went up to twelve that I have seen recently. Great niece and nephews came home for a quick visit,

from Georgia, New York City and SF. The Chief of Police (SHE), from Pooler, Georgia, has moved to Spokane to become the Department Chairperson for Criminal Justice at Spokane Community College. How proud of that I am!!!!

Recently sat in on Morgan Hill AAUW Planning meeting and will join the Tech Trek Committee (Can there be anything else?). I now have my official Morgan Hill Name tag. And, of course, University of Santa Clara is back in my life.

I look forward to receiving Branching Out. Have a great year.

Marygrace



Marygrace Colby and Carol Holzgrafe at the Morgan Hill branch's annual barbecue in August.

**TechTrek Notes: From Kayla Soukup:** "Dear Paradise AAUW Branch Members: Thank you so much for choosing me to be a part of this amazing camp. I can't put it into words how much it means to me. Tech Trek has opened up so many doors for me. I have learned so much about not only genetics, but how to be a better human in general. Thanks to all of you, I now have a better understanding of all things college and life. I cannot thank you enough."



## ■ Upcoming Events

### Morning Books

Thursday, Sept. 28, 10 a.m., host TBD.

Discussion of each member's "summer reads."

Thursday, Oct. 26, 10 a.m., host TBD. Book for discussion: "Heroes of the Empire" by C. Millard.

### Evening Books

Friday, Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m., host Mary Huntsinger.

Book for discussion: "Stranger in a Strange Land."

### Wednesday Bridge

Wednesday, Oct. 4, 1:00 p.m., host TBD

### Friday Bridge -

Friday, Sept. 15, 1:00 p.m., host Lynn Eads

Friday, Oct. 20, 1:00 p.m., host Cheryl Caldwell

### Out-to-Lunch Bunch

Thursday, Oct. 12, 11:30 a.m. at Cafe Coda in Chico

Thursday, Nov. 9, 11:30 a.m. at the Paradise Elks Lodge

### Wine & Whine

Thursday, Oct. 19, 5:30 p.m., host Nancy Wirtz

Thursday, Nov. 16, 5:30 p.m., host Dianne Lorenz



## Board/Committee Paradise AAUW 2017-18

President/Co-Facilitators:

Mary Huntsinger and Paulette Jones.

Finance – Lynn Eads

Finance Assistant – open

Secretary – Dianne Lorenz

Membership – Nancy Wirtz

AAUW Funds – Jan Kinney

Public Policy – Carol Holzgrafe

Newsletter Editor – Alex Lorenz

Web Manager – Alex Lorenz

Historian – open

Directory – Lynn Eads

By-Laws – Lynn Eads

Publicity – Jan Keller

Sunshine – Laurie Baker

Women's History Book Fund: Madeleine Caton

Woman's History Presentations – Sue Griffin/Carol Holzgrafe

Pence Scholarships – Madeleine Caton/Sue Griffin

Tech Trek Coordinator – Carol Holzgrafe

Interest Groups Coordinator – Dianne Lorenz