

## Annual Interbranch (IBC) Meeting

**Saturday, Feb. 6th \* 1:00 p.m.**

**On-line via Zoom!**

**(See details elsewhere in newsletter)**

### View from Here

Dear Paradise Members:

We are more than halfway through the 2020-2021 year. As of now, it seems somewhere between “who knows” and “maybe” that we can have an in-person meeting – remember those? - sometime before June 30. But surely in 2021-2022! Meanwhile, we have some very interesting and fun Zoom meetings coming up, for which you don't need to leave the house or even get out of your PJ's.

See in particular in this newsletter details about the upcoming IBC Meeting (Feb. 6). Our speaker will address an issue fundamental to who we are as individuals and a society, as well as very important to AAUW as an organization. I hope many of you will be able to attend.

Looking back, participants in the holiday gift exchange (Dec. 15) had a very pleasant afternoon (on Zoom). We opened gifts, we enjoyed each other's company, and we got an informal tour of one member's garage -- an unexpected bonus.

Please see Carol Holzgrafe's update on Tech Trek and how our branch is continuing to work toward “sending” girls to camp, though the camp will be on Zoom because of the virus. Also we will support another Pence scholarship recipient this year, thanks in part to Madeleine Caton's generous offer of a matching donation. (See details elsewhere in Newsletter)

Thank you, Madeleine!

“Deprived of other banquet, / I entertained Myself—”, to quote Emily Dickinson. We all have inner resources, but if you happen to be feeling a bit isolated in these peculiar times, remember we have each other. See the Upcoming Events column for current activities. And if you have an idea for a new interest group that could be done safely, please let Dianne or me or someone on the board know so we can get the suggestion out to everyone. Also, don't forget that all Paradise members (not just joint members) are welcome to participate in the Chico branch interest groups as well!

Looking forward to seeing you all soon, one way or another.

Satsie Veith, President/Facilitator

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Branching Out is published four times a year by the Paradise Branch of the American Association of University Women. AAUW Paradise 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.



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## You Will Be Asked to Vote on this Question in April

These are the arguments I've heard from National AAUW about removing the restrictive membership requirements, plus some cons that I've consistently heard from current members:

One argument against removing the traditional educational requirement:

It is a happy event to find a group of "like-minded" women with whom we can socialize and work for common interests such as equity, education, health issues, and more. Many members, especially our older ones, are used to this social environment and find that it has worked well for themselves and AAUW in general.

However, much has changed in women's lives in recent years. AAUW must have new and younger members to replace those who are no longer with us for one reason or other and to take over for branch board officers exceedingly tired of leading over and over again - and to infuse new energy into our branches and communities..

Fresh faces, fresh ideas and enthusiasm have proven to be critical in keeping our California branches going. (Plus Tech Trek.) They are the future as those of us from earlier generations were when we joined (and still often are). We must attract these younger women (and men too).

BUT, what about the proposed membership requirement, allowing anyone to join who wants to, no matter what their educational background is?

The young are put off and even offended by our remaining an 'exclusive' organization. Many companies and foundations *will not grant funding*

to AAUW because of this excluding requirement and this has become a serious problem.

So, do we hold to the old ways, comfortable ways, in which the future of AAUW is bleak – or do we change a bit, look to the future, and welcome every woman or man who wants to work with us to support The AAUW Way?

A final word: as I said when the IRS insisted, in the mid-1980s, that we admit men as members: "No one will join us who is not interested in the same things we are." What do we have to lose? We need these people. Let's meet the future with open arms and make an even larger effect on the world!

**When the time comes in April, as much as I value the way we have been, I will vote for the way we will be in the future.**

Thank you,  
Carol Holzgrafe, Public Policy

## For Your Further Consideration

I agree with Carol's points and would like to add the following:

Kim Churches has also pointed out that there is very unlikely to be an influx of new (previously unqualified) members if and when AAUW drops the degree requirement. That has not happened after previous rule changes. But it will remove a discriminatory condition that discourages women who might otherwise join AAUW, but who do not want to belong to an organization that excludes women based on a lack of the educational opportunities others have had. This stance seems particularly out of place since AAUW stands for educational opportunities for all women.

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There was a time when women may have considered it a source of pride and achievement to join AAUW. Nowadays there are many worthwhile organizations who pursue goals of equity for women, and we need to compete for members.

Also, it will make it easier (and less embarrassing) to approach potential new members, since we will not have to figure out or ask if they have a college degree.

I too plan to vote for dropping the college degree requirement.

Satsie Veith, President/Facilitator


## Tech Trek

The AAUW California Board of Directors this morning approved a motion that will allow any branch to send girls selected for the 2020 Tech Trek residential camps to attend the 2021 Virtual Robotics Camps (VRC).

The Tech Trek project coordinators are working with the VRC director and her staff to arrange the camp so there is no problem between the 2020 girls and the younger ones selected for 2021. Such as separating them by year for the small group breakout rooms.

We, in Paradise, have already decided to see if any current 7th grade girls would like to take part; so far only Achieve Charter School may have girls though I will ask again at Paradise Intermediate. PSMS has opted out for this year.

I believe that two of the four girls we selected for 2020 (Madeline Johnson and Cameron Knaus) would greatly enjoy and benefit from the camp. They both participated in several of our joint Zoom projects this summer. The other two



girls did not and I, personally, don't feel confident that they would show up or stay for the entire week, which is a commitment they would have to make.

There will be three or four camps during the summer at a cost of \$400 per girl.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will arrive next week, probably coming to me as TT branch coordinator. In this document the Paradise branch would agree to send girls to the 2021 VRC. If we decide not to take part, we don't have to return the MOU, as I understand it.

Thank you,  
Carol Holzgrafe, Tech Trek

## Annual IBC Meeting

I hope many of you will attend this year's IBC get-together, which is always a great way to reconnect with our sister-branch members.

This will be a ZOOM meeting and is scheduled for Sat., Feb. 6 at 1 p.m. Our speaker this year will be Kathleen (Kathi) Harper, Co-Director of Public Policy for AAUW-California. Kathi's talk will focus on the vital issue of AAUW's policies related to race, and help us think about what our branches can do to eliminate racial and ethnic divisions in our communities.

Each branch -- Paradise, Chico, Oroville, Gridley, and Marysville-Yuba City-- will report on recent and future activities and events and we'll have the chance to discuss common issues.

A Zoom invitation with a link to the meeting will be sent to all members of each IBC branch. Paradise members will receive an invitation a few days before and the day of the event.

Thank you, Carol Holzgrafe

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## Upcoming Events

IBC MEETING: Sat., Feb. 6, 1 p.m. via ZOOM.  
(Details elsewhere in newsletter.)

BOARD MEETING: Tues., Feb. 9, 1:30 p.m. via ZOOM. (All members are welcome to attend)

EVENING BOOK GROUP: has a new meeting time! It is next scheduled to meet Friday, Feb. 19 at 1:30 p.m. via ZOOM. Book for discussion will be *Death Comes for the Archbishop* by Willa Cather.

THE FLANEURS: a “gentle walking” group that meets generally on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, usually in Chico somewhere, to stroll through the parks or residential neighborhoods. All are welcome to join. If interested, please call Satsie at 530.570.3550 or Carol Holzgrafe, Mary Huntsinger or Nancy Wirtz.

## And a necessary reminder . . .

Please beware of emails that appear to be sent to you from current or former AAUW members but are unusual in tone, are asking for a reply for a vague reason, or asking for money or gift cards as a favor.

Because their email was hacked, Carole and Bert Chumbler have a new address: Please update your records for them with the following:  
[geraldneverdid@gmail.com](mailto:geraldneverdid@gmail.com)

## In the Spotlight!

Dear Readers,  
Introducing a new feature for the newsletter. But .... It will take your (yes, you) participation to make it a success!

The purpose of this column will be to “put the spotlight on” you as a member or someone in your family.

This is your chance to shine! Do you have a specific accomplishment, a hobby, a craft, a knack for writing poetry, a memorable travel adventure, etc., that you’d like to share with your fellow AAUW friends? This is the place to do it!

For this debut column, we shine the spotlight on Mary Peterson’s daughter, *Sarah Peterson Young*. Sarah has just had the distinction to be chosen as one of the new columnists for the Chico Enterprise Record feature, “North State Voices.” North State Voices runs on the Opinion page every Thursday, with columnists taking turns. Thus, each columnist ends up writing 13 columns in one calendar year.

Sarah also has a blog - [sarahpetersonyoung.wordpress.com](http://sarahpetersonyoung.wordpress.com) - in which she writes about Paradise and the surrounding area, then and now.

And finally, thanks to Carol Holzgrafe for her help in naming this column!

Dianne Lorenz, Newsletter Editor

Sarah Peterson Young



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## A Ted Talk to Inspire!

Dear Members, for those of you who were unable to attend the Soup Supper on January 26, here is a link to the inspiring Ted Talk called "Nature, Beauty, Gratitude" that we viewed at the end of the program. It is quite lovely.

[https://www.ted.com/talks/louie\\_schwartzberg\\_nature\\_beauty\\_gratitude?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/louie_schwartzberg_nature_beauty_gratitude?language=en)

Thank you to Linda Menicucci for recommending it. Linda also recommends a movie on Amazon Prime called the Antidote, which she says is about "kindness as a way to unite the country." Something we can really use.

Satsie Veith, President/Facilitator

## Pence Scholarship Matching Funds Donation Opportunity!

Long-time member and Pence Scholarship supporter Madeleine Caton has very generously offered to **match donations up to \$500**. A fund of \$1000 or more will enable the branch to give up to two scholarships this year. Thank you, Madeleine!

If you would like to make a donation to help match Madeleine's offer, please send a check to Nancy Wirtz, 1191 Bonair Rd, Chico, CA 95926. Please make the check out to AAUW, with Pence Scholarship written in the memo line.

Remember that the Pence Scholarship, while a worthy donation, is not tax-deductible.

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