

**Annual fall Luncheon Saturday Oct. 8 – 11:30 a.m.
Nics, Skyway & Fir in Paradise**

Reservation deadline: Fri., Sept 23 text Linda 530-433-3018

View from Here

As of this writing, we have welcomed cooler weather with a bit of much needed rain. So thankful that we are out of what seemed like an everlasting heat vortex! And it's come just in time for the start of our 2022-2023 year. It's also a great relief that the threat of COVID is less that it's been for the last two years, and we have the freedom to meet in person for our events.

The planning meeting for this year was held in June at Nancy's where meeting dates were decided along with the gathering places. They are included in this newsletter (see Calendar of Events).

One of our goals for this year is to increase our membership and several ideas were offered at the meeting on how to go about that. Nothing decided, but we will be working towards that goal during the year. If you have any ideas, please share with the Board in any way you like – email, board meeting attendance, or in casual conversation.

As a reminder, Board meetings are the 2nd Tuesday every month, starting at noon. You will be notified about the location of each meeting. Everyone is welcome – even if you aren't on the Board.

Sue Griffin and Kit Oldham, Co-Facilitators

Calendar of Events

Annual Fall Luncheon will be at Nics in Paradise (6256 Skyway) at 11:30 on Saturday, October 8th. Luncheon orders will be taken by Linda Menicucci from a menu that was sent to us in an email on Sept. 12th. RSVP also needed by Sept. 23rd.

Coming up on Saturday, December 10th is the *Annual Holiday Gathering* at Nancy Wirtz's home in Chico. This is always a very festive occasion. Thanks, Nancy!

The *Annual IBC Luncheon* is scheduled for February, with further details on the exact date to be determined at a later time.

The *Annual Soup Supper/Spring Meeting* is May 6th, time TBD. Linda Menicucci is hosting us at her home at 204 Rosebud in Paradise for this occasion. Thanks, Linda!

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.



Public Policy

When Women Vote ... They Change the Conversation!

AAUW California supports the passage of Propositions 1 and 28 on the November ballot in California.

Proposition 1. The decision by the Supreme Court of the United States to overturn Roe v. Wade dealt a serious blow to the rights of women to make their own decision about their bodies. This spurred many state legislatures to act to ban abortion, some with no exceptions for rape, incest, or endangering the life of the mother. Abortion bans in other states have already taken effect. Yet polls in many states show a majority in support of protecting the rights of women to choose to have abortions. Currently women are coming from other states to obtain abortions in California. An Abortion Access website is being formed in our state to enable and assist out-of-state women with travel arrangements, housing, medical appointments and other matters.

California Legislators, recognizing the remote possibility that at some future time state legislation could ban abortions, took timely action in June to pass SCR 10. This put Proposition 1, the Constitutional Right to Reproductive Freedom, on the November ballot. Passage of Prop 1 will amend the California Constitution, stating "Section 1.1 is added to Article I thereof, to read: SEC. 1.1. The state shall not deny or interfere with an individual's reproductive freedom in their most intimate decisions, which includes their fundamental right to choose to have an abortion and their fundamental right to choose or refuse contraceptives. This section is intended to further the constitutional right to privacy guaranteed by Section 1, and the constitutional right to not be denied equal

protection guaranteed by Section 7. Nothing herein narrows or limits the right to privacy or equal protection."

AAUW CA has begun a Social Media campaign to educate and encourage voters to support Prop 1. Weekly messages contain important facts. If you don't use social media, we urge you to email the messages to others who do!

Proposition 28. In the context of AAUW CA's Public Policy Priorities in support of Education, AAUW CA supports Proposition 28, The Arts and Music in Schools – Funding Guarantee and Accountability Act. Studies on educational achievement prove that arts and music education improve student learning. Music education has been shown to improve cognitive development and spatial reasoning while the dramatic arts improve reading comprehension. Arts and music education has also been shown to improve school attendance and individual self-confidence and motivation to learn, particularly among poor and other at-risk students. Yet these programs are usually the first cut when school budgets are reduced. Prop 28 would provide a minimum source of annual funding coming from the state General Fund to K-12 public schools to supplement arts education programs. School districts would be held accountable to use the funds for hiring certificated employees and purchasing supplies and materials. Read the full propositions on the Secretary of State website, www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ballot-measures

Become informed, and Vote on Nov. 8!

PLEASE NOTE: the new and CORRECT link to National's Get Out the Vote Tool kit is:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/advocacy-toolkit/>

~ Carol Holzgrafe, Public Policy



Travel Adventures

Trinidad is also a place in California:

After weeks of Summer in Chico, several friends from the Chico and Paradise branches headed to the coast in July for 10 days of cool breezes, blue waters, and good food. Jan Britton, Mary Huntsinger, Nancy Wirtz, Satsie Veith, and Carol Holzgrafe rented a splendid house in Trinidad (north of Eureka) with ocean views and good walking (they all belong to Les Flaneurs). They were joined for a few days by Carol's old and intrepid friend, Joanne Rife from Morgan Hill. The house had a kitchen that allowed good cooking (a dishwasher!!!), a deck for relaxing, and grassy yard with chairs with an ocean view - an ideal spot to spend hours with a book and a cup of tea or glass of wine. They spent a day in Redwood National Forest (tall, tall trees), one in Eureka (bookstores and the zoo), and several just wandering the beaches and forest trails. Perfection. Except for the bear that visited most nights.

~ Carol Holzgrafe

Do you have a travel story to share with our members? Send story and photos to Dianne for our next newsletter!



From the archives ~ Tea Party at Oak Knolls ~ (Date Unknown)
From left to right: Katie Rosenberg, Mary Johnson, Marilyn Eldridge, Mary Drew, Liz Mesones.

Happenings!

Small Plate Outings

Mary Huntsinger and Nancy Wirtz continue to go out for small plates on Thursdays most weeks. We really enjoy trying new places as well as some old favorites. On our radar for the immediate future are: Happy Garden, Om on the Range, Big Tuna, Franky's... If you'd like to join us just let us know by 4:30 on Thursday. If you'd like us to try a particular place, please give us an earlier call. Nancy 530.514.3992, Mary 530.521.1323. When there is a Wine and Whine scheduled, we do that instead.

Les Flaneurs

This "walking and talking" group usually meets Tuesdays, Thursdays and/or Saturdays at 8:30 or 9:30 a.m. depending on the season. If interested contact: carol@holzgrafe.com, 530-874-6906 or Satsie at 530-570-3550.

Out-to-Lunch

Welcomes both Chico and Paradise branch members. This group meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Call Lynn Smith at 530-636-4984 to make your reservation.

Evening Book Group

Meets on a Friday evening at 7:30 p.m. approximately every 6 weeks. Members take turns choosing the book for discussion. The classics, fiction, non-fiction, historical fiction, science fiction - books have been chosen from all of these categories. If interested, contact Dianne Lorenz, group co-ordinator: de4lorenz@comcast.net or by text 530-774-3419.



2022-23 Board of Directors

CO-FACILITATORS: Sue Griffin
and Kit Oldham

TREASURER: Nancy Wirtz

SECRETARY Dianne Lorenz

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:

Jan Britton, Madeleine Caton,
Kelley Conner, Carol Holzgrafe,
Mary Huntsinger, Linda
Menicucci, Lani McManus, Satsie
Veith.

Tech Trek

We did it! The residential Tech Trek camp at U.C. Davis returned after a long two-year hiatus. We only had one 7th grade girl apply to the Davis camp: Payton Arkenberg of Paradise Charter Middle School. She came highly recommended by Mr. Palmer, one of our always-reliable nominating teachers.

Our selection committee determined that Payton would be the perfect camper and so she turned out to be. She loved the camp and it loved her back. (I heard from camp staff).

From a thank you note Payton wrote near the end of camp:

Dear AAUW: Thank you for sponsoring me so I can come to this camp. I really enjoyed learning about cameras and video editing in my morning core class, Media Arts. I enjoyed all of the STEM experiences like field trips and electives. This STEM camp really showed me how amazing it can be."*

**The field trips were to the School of Veterinary Medicine, the Bohart Museum of Entomology, the Graduate School of Chemistry where the girls did experiments with the students, and the Mondavi Center for Performing Arts (the physics of lighting, sound, and colors).*

One camper mother wrote recently that, when her daughter returned home, she said that Tech Trek was the most fun she had ever had. "Then she went to sleep for the rest of the day." (Not unusual. Camp is tiring but oh, so invigorating.)

Now, it's on to earning funds to send another girl or two from a Paradise school to next year's camp. As you all know, being exposed to other girls who love STEM too, meeting women working in the fields, and living on a college campus can be invaluable to a young girl's future choices. Especially in our little town where not every family has a college tradition. We do good work, worth supporting.

Thank you, Carol Holzgrafe