

## View from Here

Here we go with a new AAUW Paradise year! And it's looking like we're getting a handle on all the events that will take place. My unbounding appreciation goes out to all the Paradise Branch members for being such a big help to me in being President of the branch for this year.

As a reminder to all who would like to attend our Board meetings, they continue to be held on the second Tuesday each month starting at 11:00 a.m. Notification will be given to all as to where each meeting will be held. Stay tuned!

Jan Britton gave us the dates for the Chico Branch events through the New Year. And we have plenty of our own coming up. Those dates will be sent out in an email as soon as they are confirmed.

To close out our last year, I had the pleasure of attending Paradise High School's Awards and Recognition program in late May. I was a newbie to this event and didn't know what to do. Then, to my horror, I was informed I would be the first to go in making the award to graduating senior Noelle Foot on behalf of the Women's Improvement Society endowment administered by North Valley Community Foundation. Even though I had planned to go home after I presented the award, I simply could not bring myself to leave. I was so impressed with all of the awards being given out to so many graduating seniors. And the awardees were impressive

themselves! Many students received multiple awards, including Noelle!



*Kit presenting award to Noelle*

For our fall brunch, we met at Nancy's home (Thanks, Nancy) where we got to know our new member, Sue Bordelon. We were also happy to see and catch up with continuing members Priscilla Hanford, Jan Keller and Mary Peterson (Welcome back!). We were especially happy to greet the Paradise Trekkers for this year, Layla and her father Zach, and Bella and her mother Kelsi. It was inspirational and so exciting to hear about their week at Davis. To hear them tell it, their lives changed because of STEM camp. Wow!

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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.



And, speaking of new members, in addition to Sue Bordelon, we want to welcome Pam Weaver. We look forward to seeing you at a future event. We are glad to welcome Sue Scott and Peg McMahon back to the fold.

The IBC's February Luncheon next year will be held on February 3rd, 2024. Paradise Branch is tasked with Registration for the event. Mark your calendars – it's always a great event. Satsie and Nancy have graciously accepted taking on representing Paradise at the IBC meetings, along with Kit. And a huge thanks to Satsie for taking on the responsibilities as IBC's Treasurer this year! That's in addition to your being Treasurer for Paradise this year. We're certainly keeping you busy!

I know that you join me in anticipating this year's activities and working for an increase in membership and Tech Trek campers from the Paradise Branch! Thank you to all!

~ Kit Oldham, President

## Tech Trek Continues to Thrill our Campers

Three local Paradise girls were able to attend AAUW's 6-day Tech Trek STEM Camp for Girls this July. Two, Layla Schwab from Paradise Charter Middle School and Bella Walker from Paradise Junior High, attended the residential camp at U.C. Davis.



The girls spent each morning in their core class, each afternoon on field trips, and evenings with programs. Here is a list that will make you wish Tech Trek had been around when you were in middle school:

*Core Classes:* Anatomy / Physiology, Engineering, Computer Programming / Wearable Technology, Aerospace, and Storytelling with Data.

*Field trips:* School of Veterinary Medicine, Mondavi Center for Performing Arts (sound and light engineering), Chemistry Department, and the Food Innovation Lab at the Mondavi Wine and Food Institute.

*Afternoon workshops:* Forensics (CSI), Architecture / Construction, Mindfulness, Tools for Triage, Escape Room plus a mini workshop for the core classes they did not have. (Very popular).

*Evening Programs:* Budget Cents (chaotic and loud but they learn a lot about handling their money), Professional Women's Night, Astronomy, and more.

Malaree Chambers attended the Tech Trek Virtual Camp and spent the week on Zoom learning how to make wearable robotics technology plus workshops and programs. No girl leaves Tech Trek without learning that women are now working in every job imaginable and they can too.

And they learn that it's okay to let people know you are smart.

One more thing: We heard recently from an 8<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher and a high school teacher. They both said they can always tell which of their students have attended Tech Trek. Now, that is something.

We'll be fundraising soon so we can send more Paradise and Magalia girls to this often life-changing camp. So, stay tuned. And thank you for your support.

~ Carol Holzgrafe  
Tech Trek Branch Coordinator, Paradise



## Public Policy

### Can book burning happen here?

Well, yes, according to a webinar AAUW California presented Thursday, Sept. 21. We tend to think that only happens in places like Florida or Texas. AAUW defends the right of every parent to control what her or his child is exposed to – but they do not think that one parent should control what everyone else’s child can read or experience.

AAUW CA encourages each branch to have members keep an eye on local school board meetings so the community can be warned when this has come up. I encourage you to watch the webinar on book banning and curriculum change. It will be available by Sept. 26 at <https://www.aauw-ca.org/category/2023-2024-webinars/> OR go to [aauw-ca.org](http://aauw-ca.org), click on “webinars 2023-2024” at the very top of the home page.

You can read the slide deck or watch the video; it will take you longer but there is a lot of useful information.

You will learn: how to evaluate a school board meeting, how to speak at one, how to defuse a confrontational situation and protect yourself. And much more. The AAUW CA Public Policy Committee has provided many resources for us to help our community.

Facebook meme: “Never in the history of the world have the book burners turned out to be the good guys.” We must be alert.

~ Carol Holzgrafe, Public Policy

Watch for an email from Carol Holzgrafe with the updated Paradise Directory for 2023 – 2024. She is trying out a new format that should be easier to read. Someday she will learn how to make it into book form. Please check your entry for accuracy and let her know, asap if anything is incorrect. [carol@holzgrafe.com](mailto:carol@holzgrafe.com), 530-774-4009 cell and text.

## And more on Tech Trek!



### 2023 Tech Trekkers at UC Davis

### Thank you note written from Camp by one of our Paradise Tech Trekkers

Dear AAUW Paradise,

Thank you for an experience I will never forget!

Being a Tech Trekker has made my year so much better, and will continue to be a memory I cherish.

Having an opportunity to build and create here at Tech Trek has allowed me to learn things I never could at school.

I have seen many amazing things, such as the anatomy lab at the vet hospital. I created a solar powered car. I have to gotten to see sheep lungs fill with air using a pipe.

Overall, Tech Trek has been the best learning experience ever. I’m not exaggerating. I can’t thank you enough for your hard work. I am so glad I was chosen to go here, and I am having the best time.

Sincerely, Layla Schwab  
(Paradise Charter Middle School)





## In the Spotlight!

*The purpose of this column is 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 or craft, a knack for writing, a memorable travel adventure, etc. that you’d like to share with your AAUW friends? This is the place to do it. Send me your copy and your photo (emailed, full size.)*

*~ Dianne Lorenz, Newsletter Editor*

*This issue we are featuring member Elizabeth “Liz” Kearney, who sometimes writes using the pen name, I Edmondson.*

## A Look at the Unexplained by I. Edmondson

I. Edmondson has released her new book, *A Look at the Unexplained* which is now available for purchase on Amazon, Barnes & Nobel, BookLocker, ebay, and AbeBooks among others.

*A Look at the Unexplained* is a non-fiction book that explores our changing world and looks at the roles currently being played by those in the fields of business, science, religion, and education. The changes that have occurred in all phases of human life over the last few years have been numerous and astounding, and we have become accepting of events and changes unlike any others in the history of mankind. The author explores some of those events and changes and shares information about what has occurred and what has changed in the fields of education, government, medicine, religion, science, and our lives. She explores what is now known about the field of extrasensory perception, after death experiences, robots, and ghosts and the changes that have been encountered as a result of those changes.

The author is a writer whose 14 books in the fields of education and business were released under her married name, but who has chosen to use a pen name for books that are not in those fields.

For more information about *A Look at the Unexplained* please visit [Booklocker.com](https://www.booklocker.com)



*Members enjoy the annual fall Brunch at Nancy’s lovely Chico home, Sept. 9, 2023*



*Evening Book Group members enjoying dessert after their book discussion. L to R: Jan Britton, Nancy Wirtz, Sue Griffin, Lani McManus and her husband, Jim.*

## Happenings!

### 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.

### Board Meeting

Will be held Tuesday, Oct. 10 starting at 11 a.m. at Nancy Wirtz’s home. All Branch members are welcome to attend.

### Out-to-Lunch

Welcomes both Chico and Paradise branch members. This group meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month. The October 12th gathering will be 11:30 a.m. at Sophie’s Authentic Thai Cuisine, 6689 Skyway in Paradise. Text or call Nancy Wirtz at 530-514-3992 to make your reservation.

### Wine & Whine

Welcomes both Chico and Paradise branch members. This group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Wednesday, Oct. 18th the group will gather at 5:30 p.m. at Big Chico Japanese Kitchen, 305 Nord Ave. (just north of W. 1st Street) in Chico. No credit cards; cash only please. PLEASE RSVP Carol ~ text 530.774.4009 ~ if you plan to attend. She must make reservations..

### Evening Book Group

Will next meet on Friday, Oct. 27 at 7:30 p.m. at Lani McManus’ home in Chico. Book for discussion is *Provenance* by Laney Salisbury & Aly Sujo.



*Your Board Members at work ~*

## 2023-24 Board of Directors

FACILITATOR: Kit Oldham

TREASURER: Satsie Veith

SECRETARY Dianne Lorenz

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:

Jan Britton, Kelley Conner, Sue

Griffin, Carol Holzgrafe, Mary

Huntsinger, Lani McManus, Linda

Menicucci, Satsie Veith.

## **AAUW CA Website Offers a Wealth of Resources**

Since Covid effectively shut down all branch meetings, AAUW California has produced a series of webinars on subjects our members and board members can use. Topics such as “The Care and Feeding of Volunteers”, “Keeping Track of your Tech Trekkers – and Why You Should” (my webinar), “Restructure, regenerate, and revive your branch”, another one of mine; “Want More Women in Political Office?”, “You’re in Charge, Now What? What board members need to know” and plenty more.

Every board position you might hold has at least one webinar explaining how to do things: President? Treasurer? Membership? Tech Trek? Your state AAUW board spends a lot of time and effort producing these webinars for YOU. Do take a look to see what might be useful.

While you are there, wander around the entire website. Most board positions have a Toolkit that explains your job. AAUW CA has excellent technological resources to have produced one of the best websites in all of AAUW.

~ Thank you,  
Carol Holzgrafe