

View from Here

First off, Happy New Year to us all! It's hard to believe that we've already opened our calendars for the year 2024.

The next event for our entire region is the Interbranch Council annual luncheon, 11 a.m. on Sat., Feb. 3rd to be held at St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church, 2341 Floral Ave., here in Chico. I hope a good number of us have made plans to attend. Many thanks to Satsie, who has done a fab job with the registration process! You've done a terrific job in making it run smoothly, Satsie.

Our next IBC event has Paradise hosting the November 2024 IBC luncheon meeting. Hopefully, there will be several Paradise locations from which to choose. We will also be tasked with locating a speaker for the February 2025 IBC Luncheon.

And . . . I'm so pleased to let you know that Soroptimist Chico has awarded AAUW Paradise with its first scholarship for a Paradise Trekker to attend STEM camp this summer! Let's hope this starts a tradition of award for years to come.

I'm not so pleased, however, to let you know that Linda Menicucci has found it necessary, due to her husband John's health, to resign from the Board. We send our best wishes to you both, Linda. This means we may be delayed in actively recruiting members to our

Paradise branch. The good news is that AAUW CA has introduced a Membership Toolkit with a section on "Attracting New Members to your Branch." So, if you would like to help attract new members, *please....raise your hand!!*

Our next Board meeting will be on Tuesday, February 13, 11 a.m. at Nancy Wirtz's home.

I guess that's it for now. See you at the February meeting!

~ Kit Oldham, President

Tech Trek

We are beginning the process of selecting our campers for 2024 Tech Trek. Our interview team will meet the girls nominated by their science and math teachers at Paradise Jr. High and Paradise Charter Middle School in mid-March, selecting 3 for the 2024 camp at U.C. Davis and, perhaps, one for the Virtual Camp.

However, because, at the moment, we do not yet have enough money to pay for all four we are thrilled to receive news that Soroptimist, Inc. of Chico will award our branch the amount of one scholarship. Nevertheless, further donations will be needed before March 15 when we pay for our campers. Any checks must be written to "AAUW CA SPF" and with "Chico branch" on the memo line and can be sent to treasurer Satsie Veith at 1401 Sunset Avenue, Chico, CA 95926-2651.

Thank you all!! \$\$\$\$\$

~ Carol Holzgrafe, Tech Trek

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.



Les Flaneurs enjoying strolling through an historic Chico neighborhood in January.

Join Les Flaneurs!

This is the Paradise branch walking and talking group that walks (or tries to) on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, either in Paradise or in Chico. We walk back country trails, parts of Bidwell Park, or wander through neighborhoods. Chico, in particular, has quite a lot of distinct, often intriguing houses, many very old, most nicely maintained. Sometimes we even go farther afield: viewing the Julia Morgan Houses in Marysville, enjoying the U.C. Davis Riparian Creek Trail, the American River Trail in Sacramento, or Table Mountain in Oroville. Join us; it's fun! Bring your ideas for new paths to follow.

If you want to give us a try, contact Satsie Veith at 530-570-3550 (text) or satsiedv2@gmail.com

February Happenings

Annual IBC Luncheon

WHEN: Sat., Feb. 3, 11:00 a.m.

See "View from Here" Pg.1 for details

Paradise Reading Group

WHEN Tues. Feb. 5th, 5:15 p.m.

WHERE Conference Room of the Paradise Library.

BOOK *The Remains of the Day*

CONTACT Sue Bordelon, 530.228.4627

Out-to-Lunch Bunch

WHEN Thurs, Feb 8, 11:30 a.m.

WHERE Tres Maria's, 1020 Main St, Chico

RSVP Mary Huntsinger, 530.521.1323

Branch Board Meeting

WHEN Tues. Feb. 13, 11 a.m.

WHERE Nancy Wirtz's home

WHO All Branch members are welcome to attend.

Wine and Whine

WHEN Wed., Feb. 21st, 5:30 p.m.

WHERE Sicilian Cafe, 240 Wall St., Chico

RSVP text Carol 530.774.4009

PLEASE NOTE Cash only payment

Evening Book Group

WHEN Fri., Feb. 23rd, 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: Dianne Lorenz's home

BOOK: *Neuromancer*

CONTACT: Text Dianne 530.774.3419

* SAVE THE DATE! *

For our annual soup supper

WHEN Saturday evening, March 9th

DETAILS to follow at a later date



Public Policy

News you can use:

AAUW California and AAUW National regularly present webinars on topics members will find informative and, sometimes, riveting. One such is the upcoming, February 4 presentation called “*Mary Church Terrell and the Fight to Integrate AAUW.*”

It was not an easy fight but they got the job done.

Learn about Black activist Mary Church Terrell, her work for women’s suffrage and racial equality, and her role in the integration of AAUW. A co-founder of the NAACP, Terrell became the first Black member of AAUW after winning an anti-discrimination lawsuit. We will hear from Dr. Alison Parker, author of *Unceasing Militant: The Life of Mary Church Terrell*, as she recounts stories and major successes in the life of this extraordinary woman.

The focus on inclusion now is important because we will all be asked to vote soon on eliminating the degree requirement for AAUW membership, so everyone can join in our fun and in our work for our communities.

Sunday, February 4 at 3 p.m. on Zoom. To register go to aauw-ca.org, scroll down to the Mary Church Terrell section and click [HERE](#) to register. The link to join will magically appear in your email’s In Box. If you haven’t used Zoom, let me know. I may be able to help you get set up (it’s actually easy). Or go to aauw-ca.org, click on “Branch Tools” at the very top, click on the picture box that says “Webinars” and search for “Zoom Basics”. It is clear, short, and helpful.

Another Zoom production is **School Boards: The Battleground for the Education**

Culture Wars

Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2024 07:00 PM Eastern so 4 p.m. Pacific time

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Y2RuiP5PSNuey04jKNymAA

Across the country, we have seen school boards, and candidates for school boards, taking up controversial policies that have led to banning books from school libraries; the censorship of curriculum in school classrooms due to individuals finding content “objectionable”; and policies leading to the prevention of safe school climates for students of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Please join us Wednesday, February 7 at 7:00 pm ET for an AAUW National Public Policy Committee webinar to learn how one AAUW state board is fighting back and what you can do locally.

~ Carol Holzgrafe, Public Policy

Our Newest Interest Group Takes Flight!

The Paradise Book Group got off to a good start in December with a great discussion about *The No.1 Ladies Detective Agency*. We decided not to meet in January due to members’ out of town plans. **Next meeting will be on Tuesday, Feb. 6th at 5:15pm in the Paradise Library Conference Room.** We’ve chosen *The Remains of the Day* by Kazuo Ishiguro, who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2017.

We welcome all, including non-members, if you would like to bring a friend. RSVP to Sue Bordelon at 530-228-4627 or suebordelon23@gmail.com

~ Sue Bordelon, Group Contact



Have a GPS Adventure!

Check out the newly revamped AAUW California website, devoid of duplications, broken links, and thickets of navigation. You can now find almost anything you want to know with three little clicks.

Go to aauw-ca.org/ Find the little words at the very top: these are your doors into AAUW CA Land.

To find out about Tech Trek, Speech Trek, or Gov Trek, click on Programs/Projects and, like magic, the three programs' logos appear. Click on them and you'll find anything you want including a link to the volunteer application. (Hint, hint).

If you have a branch board job, click on Branch Tools and you'll find a delight of pretty little boxes – the door to Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Being a Branch Officer. Finance, Leadership Resources (the big one) or Webinars (newly organized for finding one useful to you) – try the search box or scroll down to see what wonders appear.

If you are looking for help with a branch problem, check Leader on Loan. Read all about it, then fill out the request form and submit. I'm in charge of this for the next few months. And don't overlook forms and templates. All in one place. And, if you still have questions, check AskUsFirst.

I would like to mention that this new look and ease of use is the result of hours and hours and hours of hard work by your AAUW CA board of directors and their committees (I helped). They did a good job.

If you would like a private tour of this site, just let me know.

Carol Holzgrafe



*Mary Huntsinger; Bill Knudsen; Satsie Veith;
Mary Peterson*



Holiday gathering at Nancy Wirtz's home

