

**General Meeting Wednesday, April 10, 3 p.m.  
Paradise Library Community Room**

**Program: Linda Crill \* Navigating Uncertainty and Change**

## **View from Here**

Honestly, ladies, I'm so impressed by the creativity and positive thinking in establishing and following through on plans to increase AAUW Paradise membership, mostly by bringing meetings to Paradise venues. That, and establishing a policy that our meetings held during the dark and dank Winter months take place during daylight hours, especially for those living in Chico, will increase our visibility in Paradise and Chico and, hopefully, eliminate concerns in joining our AAUW branch to take part in the fun, creativity and joy in sponsoring 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls to the Tech Trek STEM summer camp at UC Davis.

I think that all came through to me loud and clear for all of us who attended the Soup Supper on Saturday, March 9th at Carol Holzgrafe's home (Thanks, Carol!) I came away feeling a glow from all the laughter and storytelling and just plain silliness that we shared. AND we started and ended early enough that the drive back to Chico for many of us was during daylight hours. It was great to experience what it will be like in the future with our new "early start" policy. Ironically, daylight savings time started at 2 A.M. the next morning.

Lastly, in our efforts to future members, we will combine a general meeting with our

next business meeting in Paradise on Wednesday, April 10th at 3 pm at the Paradise Public Library. (Note the changes in date, time and location for this meeting.)

This meeting is open to the public so please invite family and friends. Our dynamic guest speaker, Linda Crill will speak on *Navigating Uncertainty and Change*. Light refreshments will be served.

Many thanks to Nancy and Jan for the publicity they are preparing for local media. See you there!

~ Kit Oldham, President

## **Meet Linda Crill**

Linda has an impressive past including years of work in the high powered world of big business followed by the loss of her beloved husband at 56 and then a cancer diagnosis herself. She has weathered all of this with uncommon grace and fortitude. You will be fascinated to hear what she has learned about navigating obstacles and leaning into change. She is a beacon for those looking for the path to maximum life satisfaction.

Please invite all of your friends who might enjoy this presentation as well as all those who care about educational opportunities for women and girls.

Plan to join us - in Paradise - for her talk, Wed., April 10 starting at 3 p.m. at the Paradise Library Community Room.

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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.



Out-to Lunch at “Tres Marias” in Chico.  
L to R: Dianne Lorenz, Nancy Wirtz, Satsie Veith and Mary Huntsinger.



Evening Book Group met at the Lorenz’s home in March to enjoy a lively book discussion.

**BLIND CURVES—ONE WOMAN’S UNUSUAL JOURNEY TO REINVENT HERSELF AND ANSWER: WHAT NOW?**

Linda Crill is a former corporate executive who lost her husband to cancer. Friends and experts advise her to rest and grieve herself. It doesn't work. To shake up her life, she decides to learn to ride a motorcycle. Four weeks later she heads out on a 2,600 mile jaunt down America's Pacific Coast Highway. She finds more than she is expecting ... as revealed in "What Now?"



Linda Crill - Our featured speaker for the upcoming April 10th meeting in Paradise

## Happenings

### Les Flaneur

Les Flaneur group walks most Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays in a wide variety of areas. Everyone from AAUW Paradise and Chico and their friends are welcome. Contact Satsie Veith: text 530-570-3550.

### Out-to Lunch Bunch

meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 11:30 a.m. We delight in trying out a different restaurant - some old, some new - each month. The group will next meet Thursday, April 11 at Sierra Nevada Taproom. RSVP Mary Huntsinger at 530.521.1323.

### Evening Book Group

Meets every 6-8 weeks, on a Friday night at 7:30 p.m. The next meeting is April 19th. Book for discussion will be *Crashing Through: the extraordinary true story of the man who dared to see* by Robert Kurson. Contact Dianne Lorenz: de4lorenz@comcast.net.

### Paradise Book Group

our next meeting on Apr. 10 at 5:30 pm is a follow up to the Donna Leon book. We will be watching a movie of the Guido Brunetti mystery. For our May 8th meeting we're reading *The Silver Ladies of Penny Lane* by Dee MacDonald. Please RSVP to Sue Bordelon for location. 530-228-4627

### Wine and Whine

Will next meet on Wednesday, April 17th at 5:30 p.m. at Grana, 198 E. Second St. In Chico. RSVP Carol Holzgrafe: text 530-774-4009.  
PLEASE NOTE: Cash only payment





See whom you may recognize!

On March 9th, Carol Holzgrafe hosted us in her lovely Magalia home for our annual Soup-Supper event. As the saying goes, "a good time was had by all!"



Sue Bordelon Kay Zimmerlee



Alex Lorenz Nancy Wirtz Jim Johnson



Below L to R: Sue Bordelon, Carol Holzgrafe, Nancy Wirtz, Kit Oldham.



Mary Huntsinger Mary Johnson



Bill Knudsen Jim Johnson



## Tech Trek

The Paradise branch is pleased to send two young women to the Tech Trek STEM Camp at U.C. Davis (July 14-20). Kaelyn Vogelbacher from Paradise Junior High and Sadie Arendt from Paradise Charter Middle School say they are looking forward to spending a week on campus, learning about the many facets of STEM, and meeting others with similar interests.\* They are aware that their scholarships are from our branch and have promised to try to attend a meeting in the fall so they can thank you in person.

One of these young girls commented that it will be good to be with other girls who “are actually interested in learning and do more than the basic work.” She will meet many girls like this.

I would like to thank Cynthia Smith, science teacher from Paradise Junior High, and Todd Lanam, math teacher from Paradise Charter Middle School, both of whom encourage their students to take advantage of this experience. Mary Huntsinger helped with the in-person interviews and Kit Oldham supported us in many ways.

Thanks to you all for helping send these terrific girls to camp. NOTE: we are pretty much out of funds now so you may all look forward to a fund-raising letter (as opposed to a fund-raising event which none of us wants to do.)

Thanks to you all  
~ Carol Holzgrafe

## Public Policy - Decision Time!

For those of you concerned about the approaching vote to eliminate the degree requirement for AAUW membership, this is the history of those requirements. You may draw your own conclusions about the commitment to diversity and inclusion that has changed – slowly – over the years.

To join AAUW (ACA) in 1881 you needed a graduate degree from one of these 8 colleges: Oberlin College, Vassar College, Wellesley College, Smith College, Boston University, Cornell University, the University of Michigan, and the University of Wisconsin. Shortly afterwards M.I.T. and Wesleyan (Connecticut) were added.

Prospective members had to be recommended by a current branch member and be accepted by a unanimous vote. Additional colleges also needed to apply and were checked for numbers of female faculty/administration/students. Both these applications included a site visit and there was no guarantee of membership for woman or school.

1887: By-laws changed to require only a 2/3 vote for membership

1923: Women with Honorary Degrees from accredited universities were eligible starting in 1923. This would include Eleanor Roosevelt, a high school graduate who worked tirelessly for women and girls. Some women with only an undergraduate degree could, under some circumstances, become Associate Members.

1930s and 1940s still required a site visit to a prospective member’s home. AAUW had a non-discrimination policy, but you can imagine .....

1946 Mary Church Terrell, a highly accomplished African-American woman, re-applied for membership in the D.C. branch; she was turned down in a branch vote, 254 to 350.



“The ensuing crisis was one of organizational identity and principle for AAUW and proved to be a searing experience for the women involved. The board ruled in 1946 that eligibility for Association membership was to be based solely on educational criteria and that branches could no longer discriminate in their membership policies.”<sup>1</sup>

1961: Women with undergraduate degrees (B.A., B.S.) could now become full members – 80 years after AAUW’s founding.

1963: the first Black college (Howard University) was accepted. They had first applied in 1950.

1963: Graduates of any accredited college or university could join; schools no longer had to apply. Membership increased exponentially.

1986: Membership was opened to men. Some joined.

2005: Membership was opened to women and men with only an A.A. degree.

And now there is one final barrier.

No, the mission will not change; there will be no name change but, yes, the application will probably change to “List education and relevant experience.” No, we won’t be deluged with people wanting “meddle” with our mission. The only men who joined have been those we are happy to have. They work toward the mission (and they haven’t taken over, have they?) We can still be proud of our accomplishments, personal and organizational.

If you have concerns or want to know more, please let me know. You’ll be notified by mail when the voting starts. We will send you a prompt so you don’t miss it.

Do watch this webinar on YouTube by AAUW’s Archivist, Jessica Miller: “AAUW’s History and Evolution – a Journey Through Time”.

Thank You ~ Carol Holzgrafe



Flaneurs: Carol Holzgrafe and Linda Crill



Wine & Whine at the Sicilian Cafe in Chico