

The Chico AAUW Grapevine



American Association of University Women - Chico Branch Vol. 22 No. 4 Dec 2010

Next Event ...

Tea for You and Torres Too
Sunday, December 19 - 2 to 4 p.m.
Chico Women's Club - 592 E. 3rd Street

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

AAUW membership is open to all graduates holding a recognized associate (or equivalent), baccalaureate, or higher degree from a qualified educational institution.

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.



Give Joy ~ Give Hope

Many of us are at an age where we don't want or need gifts for ourselves. Giving to others so that their lives are improved is a way to share our many blessings this holiday season. Our December meeting is an opportunity to get together for fun and conversation and also to help the Torres Shelter at the same time. The Torres Shelter, located at 101 Silver Dollar Way, is an emergency shelter for the homeless--a place where they can find support, structure, and stability so that they can tackle the challenges of being homeless and get back on their feet.



The shelter has served over 600 people this past year, including families with children. They provide many services in addition to a warm, clean place to sleep and shower. When providing over 25,000 nights of stay in a year, they go through lots and supplies and this is where we can help. From the list below, please choose at least one item and bring it to our holiday gathering (don't wrap): **hygiene** - shampoo, disposable razors, lotion, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, foam ear plugs; **clothing** - heavy duty rain ponchos, water resistant jackets, sturdy umbrellas, gloves, warm socks, flip flops, T-shirts, pajamas; **building supplies** - bleach, laundry detergent, window cleaners, brooms; **food** - large size canned goods (soups, chili, beans, and stews); **office supplies** - printer paper, post it notes, bins 12"x15"x21"; **miscellaneous** (need not be new) - art supplies of all kinds, musical instruments, twin-size sheets and blankets, washcloths, rags, towels, bathmats with no-slip bottoms; **kitchen** - 8 oz disposable cups, plastic ware, paper plates, 33 & 10 gallon trash bags.



We will also be sharing tea and holiday goodies at our party and it will be festively decorated. Kim Cross is organizing some games to loosen us up and add to the fun. A \$5 buy-in is required to play and the proceeds will go to the Torres Shelter. You have your choice of Bunco, Spinner (a domino game), Poker, and Mexican Train. All of these games are easy to play (no experience) and ALL ARE FUN. Call Kim in advance at 899-8556 and let her know for what game you want to sign up. We need to know ahead of time in order to set up the tables. Bring spouses and friends. More people means more fun and more money for the Torres Shelter.

President's Message

Ah, December. Our favorite month. Well, allowing for the month's dark side, most of it will be a delight for us all. We hope to see as many members as possible at the Dec. 19 tea. No work, just fun and a time to relax.

- January will see a new interest group forming – Hikers and Bikers – where we will, well, hike and bike, probably alternating months and days to give everybody a chance to participate. If you know of intriguing paths, have an opinion or want to join, please let me know. Chico is such a fabulous biking and walking town (especially in the not-summer period), we really should take advantage. More details in the next Grapevine.

- The Antique Appraisal Faire committee is hard at work. Save Sunday, February 20 to help out or to bring that “interesting” item in for an appraisal – or to just find out what in the world it is. Do mention the faire to friends and neighbors too. Everybody has something old, dear and quirky. All profits go to our Tech Trek scholarship fund.

- Tam Ma, (shown at right) the AAUW Fellow, will speak to our branch on Wednesday, Jan 19. She is a delightful, intelligent, committed young woman with quite a story to tell. And quite a future too. Save the date.

- We have some Title IX news. Be sure to read Cindy Wolff's update on the Chico high schools' policies on (un)equal opportunities for local girls. At a recent meeting in San Jose (they are researching their high schools' compliance) we were told that Chico State has also – in the past - been called on the carpet for Title IX infractions. Is it something in the water?

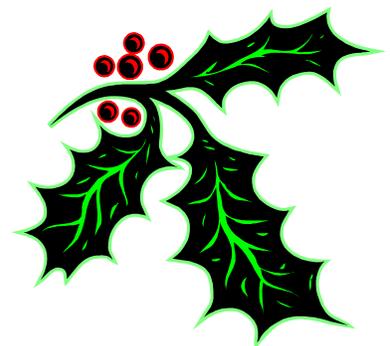
- AAUW California Convention: April 8-10 in Irvine. Should be quite exciting. Anybody want to come along?

This is my favorite story this month: A village in Ghana has named a woman, Peggienene Bartels, 57, king. King Peggy she is to be called. “If the men want to tell me what to do because I am a woman, I say, ‘You named me king so sit down and shut up.’ And they do.” Read the whole story on NPR's Morning Edition, Nov. 11.

<http://www.npr.org/2010/11/11/130902212/in-ghanaian-village-american-woman-reigns-as-king>

Thanks again to the board committee, the Antique Faire committee, Helen Gesick for doing the directory, Jana Lawton (as always) for the truly great-looking newsletter and all of you for supporting AAUW's missions.

Carol Holzgrafe
Chico Branch President
873-6906, carol@holzgrafe.com



Branch Officers

President -

Carol Holzgrafe

Membership -

Diane Flaherty

Finance -

Toni Reid

Newsletter Editor -

Jana Lawton

Public Policy -

Carol Holzgrafe

Tech Trek Chair -

Michelle Rasmussen

Directory -

Helen Gesick

Many duties performed by elected officers in the past are now being shared and done by *The Committee*:

Diane Flaherty, Helen Gesick, Carol Holzgrafe, Jana Lawton, Barbara Paige, Michelle Rasmussen, and Toni Reid.

New members would be welcome to share in the work and fun.

Membership News

Do you know someone who might want to join our AAUW branch? Or someone you think should join? Our membership qualifications were expanded several years ago so many more people are eligible to become members. See the front page of this newsletter for the “membership statement.” Contact Diane Flaherty, 342-7016, dianefl@sbcglobal.net. We’ll do the rest! For those who join in January 2011, we can offer a half-price dues for the Association.



NEW MEMBER

Cindy Wolff
1966 Honey Run Rd.
Chico, CA 95928
896-0204
cwolff@csuchico.edu

CINDY BRATTAN WOLFF is a 5th generation Chicoan with family roots in area farming and local government. Her great grandfather, William Robbie, was an early mayor of Chico. During his tenure as mayor, he oversaw the building of the old City Hall (1911), accepted the deeds to Bidwell Park (1905) and Children’s Playground (1911) and designed the roads through lower Bidwell Park so that the, “people of Chico could see their new park.”

Cindy has attended UC, Davis, Colorado State University, and CSU, Chico and has been a professor in the Nutrition and Food Sciences Program at CSU, Chico since 1987. She is the Executive Director of the CSUC Center for Nutrition and Activity Promotion and the recipient of numerous awards. Cindy frequently presents at state and national conferences on community nutrition and the promotion of healthy eating and activity patterns.

She and her husband, Howard, travel extensively and spent a week this past October bicycling through the state of Vermont. Together they have two children, an 18-year-old daughter, Mariya, and a 21-year-old son, Jeff. We are delighted to welcome Cindy to Chico AAUW and are pleased to have such a committed advocate for gender equity as a member of the branch.

Wine and Whine

Join Chico branch members (and friends) for this monthly event. Enjoy a glass of wine, beer, soda or grown-up water and chat. No program, just friends talking and relaxing. Small plates are available for snacks – or you could even stay for dinner. Bring friends or relatives who might be prospective members. Try it, it’s fun! More info needed? Call Carol Holzgrafe, 873-6906.

Wed. Dec 15, 5:30 p.m . Monk’s Bistro 128 W. 2nd between Main & Broadway

Generous Members

Due to the donations members made at our Souper Supper, the Chico branch was able to contribute \$929 to AAUW Funds this year. Those dollars will help support women in their pursuit of higher education, in their quest for gender equity through the Legal Advocacy Fund , and in funding AAUW’s research and projects. All of the contributions go to directly support these important AAUW missions.

We also want to acknowledge **Elsie Cloud, Sadie Urbanowicz, and Kim Cross** for their generous donations to the branch general fund. The branch operates on a very small budget of \$14 per member per year and we had been talking about how to afford to do what we need to do this year. Thanks to their generosity, Chico AAUW shall remain in the black and continue to provide the newsletter, monthly programs, and the community projects that make AAUW an asset in Chico.



AAUW Public Policy

I have been called a political geek (by friends, even), so it must be true. Being able to write a monthly article covering AAUW's public policy issues is almost as good as finding extra chocolate in the pantry. Almost.

However, apparently exhausted by the November elections, AAUW doesn't have too much going on for December. Let's see what we can unearth:



To see the 2010 bill package – those bills before the Legislature that AAUW formally supports, opposes or watches – can be found at http://www.aauw-ca.org/assets/resources/2010_Legislative_Positions_AAUIW_CA.pdf if you want a baseline to compare.

Next, to prepare for the 2012 elections (I know, I know, but we need to keep tabs on our elected officials or they get out of hand), you can follow legislators this way: The AAUW Action Fund's *Congressional Voting Record for the 111th Congress* (<http://www.aauwaction.org/VoterEd/cvr.htm>) gives our members and the public critical information about how all members of Congress voted on priority issues.

www.aauw-ca.org and www.aauw.org are both chock full of truly good information so do spend some time coasting through the pages. Both have been recently updated and are easier than ever to navigate.

Bumper sticker of the month: Seen on a small, old-ish truck in Chico: "Jesus was a liberal." Until next month,
Carol Holzgrafe
Public Policy Chair

TITLE IX Update

Recently, with the support of Chico AAUW and several other local organizations, an Office of Civil Rights (OCR) complaint was filed against the Chico Unified School District for Title IX non-compliance by the district's high school sports program. Title IX mandates that equal high school sport opportunities are afforded to students irrespective of gender. It has been 38 years since Title IX was accepted as law and both the Pleasant Valley High School (PVHS) and Chico High School (CHS) sports programs remain out of compliance. The OCR receives many complaints and selects a fairly small number each year to investigate. We have been notified that the CUSD complaint is one of those selected for investigation. The following is a list of some of the apparent inequities in the CUSD sports programs:

- Participation opportunities – As a four year average, there is a 9-10% (PVHS) and a 6-7% (CHS) difference between athletic participation and student enrollment resulting in 280 to 320 more boys on sport teams per year than girls for the two schools combined. This difference is approaching the size of the entire girls' sport program at either high school;
- Facilities - Softball fields are inferior to baseball fields. As an example, PE is scheduled on the girls' field whereas the boys' is restricted from other uses;
- Equipment and supplies – Disparities exist in quality and quantity of sport equipment;
- Fundraising - Fundraising dollars are used for specific sports as opposed to controlled distribution which would ensure gender equality;

Contacting our legislators, state & federal:

- Congressman Wally Herger
<http://herger.house.gov/>
- State Senator Sam Aanestad and Assemblyman Dan Logue:
www.legislature.ca.gov/
- U.S. Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer:
www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm

Interest Sections

Interest sections are an intimate way to facilitate lifelong learning and to develop friendships with people having similar interests. If you'd like to try a new group, contact the coordinator for more information. Most groups have room for new members.



Dinner for Eight

Michelle Rasmussen - 343-9631

Meets at 6:00 p.m.

Dinners are open to all members but reservations must be made in advance. We're looking for new members to share good food and conversation. Call for details for the next gathering.

International Relations Discussion Group

Roxanne Ferry - 891-1722

All are welcome. Group meets at 7 p.m. on the 4th Monday of the month.

No December meeting.

Jan 24 - Receive study guides and plan topic presentations for 2011 at the home of Jana Lawton, 1112 Bidwell Avenue

World Interest Group

Bette Lawler 894-6898 or

Margaret Mow 891-5081

Group meets 4th Sunday of the month at 1:00 p.m. for speakers and potluck dinner at member's homes. **NOTE new time and date.** Call for meeting location.

Morning Book Discussion Group

Marti Young 343-0412

Group meets at 10 a.m. on the 4th Friday of the month at the Chico Library

Dec 17 - The Light in the Forest by Conrad Richter with discussion led by Georgia Davis. **Note change in date this month.**

Women's Microfinance Collaborative

Jana Lawton 894-1843

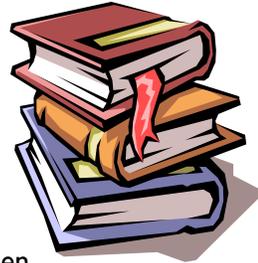
WMC members contributed over \$2000 during the recent Annie B's campaign. This was enough to earn \$205.74 in matching funds from the North Valley Community Foundation. All of this will directly fund another community bank in Haiti. Tax deductible contributions can still be made for the 2010 tax year.

Evening Book Discussion Group

Sydney Stewart 893-4952

All are welcome. Group meets at 7:00 p.m.

Dec 14 - My Antonia by Willa Cather. Hosted by Tedo Best at 995 Jenooke Lane (893-0736). Discussion facilitated by Michelle Rasmussen.



Ethnic Writers Book Group

Reading books written by people of diverse ethnic backgrounds

Jana Lawton 894-1843

Group meets at 7 p.m. All are welcome
Dec 15 - Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet by Jamie Ford. Hosted by Jo Ann Palmer, 7 Seabird Lane (891-3512).

Non-fiction Book Discussion Group

Marge Best 345-6586

Group meets on 2nd Friday at 10 a.m.

Dec 10 - hosted by Barbara Paige at 8 Dana Point Road. Call Barbara at 891-8330 if you are a group member and can't attend.

Computer Group

Georgia Davis 343-2782 or

Helen Gesick 343-5931

Meets at 10:30 a.m.

Dec 15 - at the home of June Ellingson, 420 W. Lassen Ave.

Bridge Groups

Call for time and locations

Tuesday Bridge - 1st & 3rd Tues.

Karen O'Neill 891-8568

Thursday Bridge - 2nd & 4th Thurs.

Karen O'Neill 891-8568



History Lecture Group

Marge Best 345-6586 Based on the Great Courses series. Group meets at 10:00 a.m. to view videos and discuss.

No December meeting because of conflicts with the holidays. New members are welcome but please call ahead.



The CHICO GRAPEVINE is published by the Chico Branch of AAUW. Items for inclusion can be mailed to Jana Lawton, newsletter editor, 1112 Bidwell Avenue, Chico, CA 95926 or e-mailed (preferred) to lawton@sunset.net

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- Publicity - Cheerleaders cheer for boys games, but not girls' which reduces girls' ability to increase gate revenue since research shows that cheerleaders increase sport attendance;
- Coaching - Disparities exist in coaching staff, e.g. more coaches for boys' than girls' teams and greater turnover in coaches for girls' teams;
- Scholarship opportunities - Stats for CHS volleyball team boys are posted on the MaxPreps.com website. Stats for the girls' team are not posted even though both teams have the same coach;
- There is no identification of the CUSD Title IX coordinator, as mandated by law, on the district website nor in any other set of information distributed by the district.

It generally takes about six months for the OCR to complete an investigation. Complaint outcomes include a recommended timeline for changes deemed necessary. There is no financial penalty associated with an OCR complaint. We will keep members updated on the progress of this complaint. Apparently, some changes have already been made by the school district. There are now statistics posted on the MaxPreps website for the Chico High varsity girls' team and there appear to be steps taken to add a girls' JV soccer team, although this change does not yet appear in the listing of sport teams on either schools' website.

AAUW believes that expansion of athletic opportunities for girls and women must continue at both the high school and college levels, because it is important not only for the participants themselves but for the benefit of the greater community as well. As stated on their website, the AAUW remains strongly committed to preserving the protections of Title IX and advocates its strong enforcement, http://www.aauw.org/act/issue_advocacy/actionpages/titleix_athletics.cfm.



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