

OCTOBER 2021

Volume 6

No.10

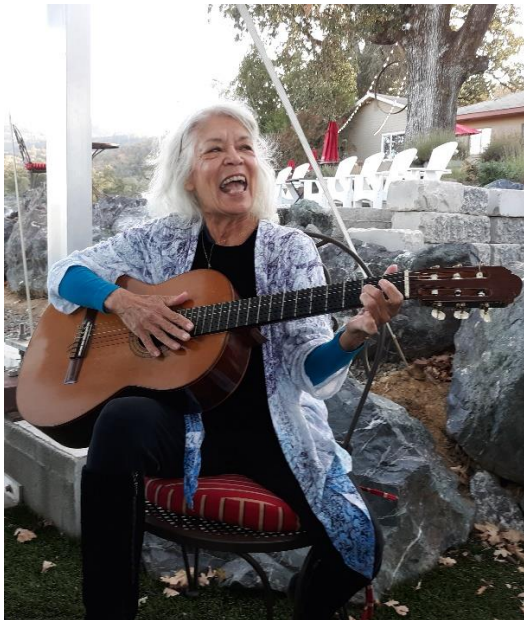
Ukiah • California
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NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hi All,

I'm happy to say that we had a lovely evening together at Rivino's Winery last Tuesday. The setting was quite beautiful, though a little chilly at times, and the spirits were high enjoying a reunion with our many friends and meeting new members and guests.

There were 28 members and 20 guests in attendance. We were honored to have Tim Karas, President of Mendo-Lake College District, attend the dinner as well as Paula Samonte, Mendocino County's musical treasurer, who came with her guitar in hand, to gift us with some of her original music.



We have three new members this year so far: Michelle Hutchins, Superintendent of Mendocino School District, Mary Leitem-Thomas, just retired Principal of St Mary's of Angels school, and Peggy Weber, retired manager for Bank of America. Peggy took on updating our yearbook. In addition, two past members have rejoined at the dinner, and Louise Simson, Superintendent of the Anderson Valley School District became our newest member. Some photos follow and fortunately, thanks to Kyle and Val, we have many more photos to share with you on our website. Check it out at ukiah-ca.aauw.net.

(Continued on the next page.)

Also, for your information three of our members have moved: Ellie Schacter went to San Diego, Kay Kinder to Arizona and Diana Clark moved to Ohio.

For many of us the highlight was seeing 6 past AAUW scholarship recipients and hearing how receiving the scholarship effected their lives. Their stories touched our hearts and truly brought home the meaningfulness of our work. It also served to stimulate interest and to strengthen our efforts in continuing the work involved in furthering this successful program. We received two letters from past scholarship recipients who were unable to attend the dinner. Excerpts from these letters are included in this newsletter.

If you did not attend the dinner, you will be receiving a letter in the mail about the scholarship program. We hope you will be inspired to send a donation to the scholarship fund. This year we intend to help three or four women be able to return to college.

Speaking of furthering our programs, if you didn't attend the dinner, **please remember to send in your dues as soon as possible.** When we receive the payment, we will send you information about where to pick up your yearbook.

Janet Chaniot, our Vice-President of Programs, has arranged three stimulating programs based on this year's theme: *Supporting and Enabling an Equitable, Accessible, and Just World for Women.* In addition to information about each program in the yearbook, you will be receiving e-mails prior to each with updated details.

I want to thank Will Gonzalez of We/Flowers (on North State Street in Ukiah and also in Willits) for enhancing our tables by donating flowers. His creativity was especially evident in the Welcome Table arrangement.

All the best,

Sulin





Val Muchowski
Louise Simson
Tim Karas

SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATIONS

Thanks to everyone who donated to the scholarship fund for “Returning Women” at the Fall Dinner at Rivino on Tuesday. Our scholarship program for women who are pursuing their education at Mendocino College after a gap of at least five years is one of the main projects of our branch. It was inspiring and informative to hear from five scholarship recipients at the dinner: Betsy Bacony (2021); Christina Ochoa and Norma Trejo (2020); and Rossi (Jaymee) Jensen and Erin Orth (2019).



To keep up this traditional scholarship program and award three scholarships of \$1,000 in Spring 2022, we must raise at least \$3,000 in the next few weeks to make our commitment to the college. Letters with donation envelopes are being sent to members who did not attend the Fall Dinner. Please donate right away when you receive your envelope. Or—jump right in—and send your donation to: AAUW- Ukiah, P.O. Box 1626, Ukiah.

These women need our full support!

We also received the following letters from two scholarship recipients.

Hello,

I'm saddened to inform you that I will not be able to make it to the fall dinner.

I lost my mother Sunday morning unexpectedly after taking care of her 24/7 for the last 2 in a half years and I am devastated to say the least.

Will you please keep me and my family in your prayers and thoughts as I try my best to make it through this last semester so I can graduate I'm really going to need it.

Please also tell them I am forever grateful for the scholarship because it helped me to be able to care for my mother and get through school

The scholarship has helped me to be able to graduate with a certificate in Administration of Justice and my associate in science in Administration of Justice at the end of this semester.

Belle Peña

I hope this letter finds you all doing well. I feel honored and I want to thank you so much for the invitation. Unfortunately, the dinner is on the same night as one of my classes.

I was working as a freelance journalist and found that I genuinely loved the work. After Covid, however, I wasn't able to maintain employment, so, I decided to go back to school. Since talking to you last, I have attained a Liberal Arts degree with an emphasis in Science, and I am currently finishing a degree in Fine Arts.

As a woman, I've often found the workplace a difficult place. Being a single mom brings even more struggles. The biggest challenge, however, has been doing it alone. With no family, friends, or even work or church acquaintances, I've sincerely valued your support, especially your emotional support. I can't tell you how wonderful it was to see your faces at my graduation. I looked for you afterward and regretted not finding you for hugs. I often find myself feeling alone in this world. Your cause, and more specifically, you ladies, have always helped to encourage me just when I've needed it the most. I want you all to know how much your support has meant to me. I thank you for your continued encouragement and offer you the best of luck in all your endeavors.

Sincerely,

Donna Linvill

2020-21 Legislative Session Winding Down

How Did AAUW California-sponsored Bills Fare?

Several issues did not go particularly well, as it turns out! We started the year off with 39 bills we selected for varying degrees of support. We chose one bill to co-sponsor, AB 92, with four additional bills for top-priority attention (“A” level bills), five bills for “important” status (“B” level bills), twenty-two bills for low- (“C”) level attention, and seven bills to “watch.”

Over-all, 28 of our 39 bills have been designated “2-year” bills, which means they are dead for this year and likely will be taken up again in 2022. Our advocate, Kathy Van Osten, has explained that this is because Senate and Assembly leadership set a limit of just 12 bills that a member could move to the second house, so members had to pick and choose what would they wanted to move forward.

Some of our bills did not make the cut. Four of our five “A” bills, along with our co-sponsored bill, and four of our five “B” bills, did not make it through. These include AB 22, AB 92, AB 737, AB 966, AB 1361, and SB 245. However, several of them were converted into the Budget and Budget “trailer bills,” which will provide funding for childcare. Although we were not entirely successful in getting AB 92 passed (establishing a sliding scale for family fees for childcare through 2023), the state budget includes \$60 million for one year of relief for all families using subsidized childcare, increased reimbursement rates for childcare providers, and funding for 206,000 new childcare slots.

We are pleased that several bills have passed and been sent to the Governor, and we are working hard to secure his signature on these bills: AB 62 and AB 367, as well as 3 of our “C” level bills: AB 123, AB 1074, and AB 1461.

Thanks again to all our members who participated in Lobby Day and/or weighed in at critical junctures on social media. For descriptions of each of these bills and/or more information on their status, visit our Bill Tracker on the AAUW California website, Public Policy/Legislative Advocacy/Bill Tracking.

Val Muchowski

Public Policy Chair



Wil Gonzalez, AIFD

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Corner Gallery/Art Center Ukiah

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Hours 11-5, Tues - Sat • www.cornergalleryukiah.com

ART CENTER UKIAH: After a long tradition of art exhibits in France, known as Salons, the Salon d'Automne continues to pop up every October on Paris' celebrated Champs-Élysées. Here, artists from all walks of life are invited to exhibit fine art, decorative objects, and photography. In that tradition, Kate Gould, Art Center Ukiah board member, proposed the idea of Ukiah's own autumnal Salon show. We hope that here too, as in Paris, the art will promote lively conversations among groups of viewers. Participating artists include Kate Gould, Jazzminth Moore (new art instructor at Mendocino College), Holly Brackmann, Sue Sweet, Margo Frank,