

OCTOBER 2022 Volume 8 No. 10

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NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

I am happy to say we had another successful Fall Dinner at Rivino Winery. The weather was perfect despite the threat of cold and rain; the attendance was comforting and fulfilling; the

dinner was once again delicious and plentiful thanks to our honored chef Big Earl and his staff; and we were excited to have our two-time scholarship winner, Lisa Baker attend. It is always inspiring to meet a scholarship recipient and to hear of the effect of receiving this award on their lives and careers; it returns the energy manifold to the output by all of us of participation in our mission.



On this note, Earl Chavez again created a cake that reminded us of our goal and service with the following statement made by Marion Talbot, the founding woman of the AAUW written on it:

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Continued on the next page







Page 2

Tim Karas, President of Mendocino College was present and told us a little about Naoto Horiguchi, the college Student Life officer. He also confirmed that on November 1 we will have an AAUW Table at their College Diversity Day to formally open the AAUW Student Club. Lisa Baker accepted our invitation to become a founding member of the club and will try to be present at our table, along with Norma Marks, Janet Chaniot, Gretel Palmerin and Rocio Ortega. This is getting very exciting!

Another subject of "breaking news" is that we have two new members - our first male AAUW member Jonathan Middlebrook has been a member of AAUW National for several years. The second new member is Susan Sher. Susan is running for a seat on the Ukiah City Council. There are also a couple of other supportive men who have expressed interest in joining our membership. Several members have expressed concerns about male members and the Board plans to have a discussion concerning this on our agenda. We welcome any input you care to offer. Please address this to me and I will bring it up before the Board. Of course, you are welcome to attend this meeting in person as well. We will post the date of the board meeting that will have this subject on the agenda to discuss—most likely in November or December.

Ideas for the upcoming annual Fundraiser is on the agenda for the Board meeting on October 3. If you have any input and creative ideas for the form this fundraiser can take, please send them to any of the Board members to bring into the discussion.

One more important matter, please be sure to read the article on Member Participation in your yearbook, page 4, and consider to what you can personally commit. It would be helpful for those who plan the meetings to know who we can contact for needed assistance.

Thanks again to Peggy Weber for doing work to create the yearbook and for helping make possible our offering the yearbook in e-book form—for which about ten people opted to receive in lieu of a printed copy. Also, we are grateful to Katie Gibbs and Mary Ann Villwock for their work on the Scholarship Committee, and of course to Kyle Mayers for taking care of our finances and a multitude of other related and unrelated tasks; to Rocio for her inspirations and carry through on initiating social media involvement and for the ongoing development of our Programs along with Janet C; and to Janet Chaniot and Norma Marks for keeping the college relationship alive and progressing; to Sharon for the secretarial workings; to Val for her untiring political focus and outreach. Special thanks to Sue Mason, Nicole and husband Kyle for helping with serving the dinner as well as to Irma Turner and Mary Ann Villwock for coming early to help set up; and appreciation to Gretel and to Nicole and her husband Kyle, for being such active volunteers for this and that.

Be Well, always happy to hear from you,

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Valley View

Page 3

WHEN WOMEN VOTE, THEY CHANGE THE CONVERSATION!

AAUW California supports the passage of Propositions 1 and 28 on the November ballot in California Proposition 1. The decision by the Supreme Court of the United States to overturn Roe v. Wade dealt a serious blow to the rights of women to make their own decision about their bodies. This spurred many state legislatures to act to ban abortion, some with no exceptions for rape, incest, or endangering the life of the mother. Abortion bans in other states have already taken effect. Yet polls in many states show a majority in support of protecting the rights of women to choose to have abortions. Currently women are coming from other states to obtain abortions in California. An Abortion Access website is being formed in our state to enable and assist out-of-state women with travel arrangements, housing, medical appointments and other matters.

California Legislators, recognizing the remote possibility that at some future time state legislation could ban abortions, took timely action in June to pass SCR 10. This put Proposition 1, the Constitutional Right to Reproductive Freedom, on the November ballot. Passage of Prop 1 will amend the California Constitution, stating "Section 1.1 is added to Article I thereof, to read: SEC. 1.1. The state shall not deny or interfere with an individual's reproductive freedom in their most intimate decisions, which includes their fundamental right to choose to have an abortion and their fundamental right to choose or refuse contraceptives. This section is intended to further the constitutional right to privacy guaranteed by Section 1, and the constitutional right to not be denied equal protection guaranteed by Section 7. Nothing herein narrows or limits the right to privacy or equal protection."

AAUW CA has begun a Social Media campaign to educate and encourage voters to support Prop 1. Weekly messages contain important facts. If you don't use social media, we urge you to email the messages to others who do!

Proposition 28. In the context of AAUW CA's Public Policy Priorities in support of Education, AAUW CA supports Proposition 28, The Arts and Music in Schools – Funding Guarantee and Accountability Act. Studies on educational achievement prove that arts and music education improve student learning. Music education has been shown to improve cognitive development and spatial reasoning while the dramatic arts improve reading comprehension. Arts and music education has also been shown to improve school attendance and individual self-confidence and motivation to learn, particularly among poor and other at-risk students. Yet these programs are usually the first cut when school budgets are reduced. Prop 28 would provide a minimum source of annual funding coming from the state General Fund to K-12 public schools to supplement arts education programs. School districts would be held accountable to use the funds for hiring certificated employees and purchasing supplies and materials.



Valley View

Page 4

Read the full propositions on the Secretary of State website, *www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ballot-measures*

Become informed, and Vote on November 8, 2022!!

PLEASE NOTE: There was an error in the AAUW California September Newsletter article. The article provided a link to National's Get Out the Vote Toolkit, however, the link was to their old site. The site has been updated and the new and correct link is: *https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/advocacy-toolkit/*

Val Muchowski Public Policy Chair



Wendy DeWitt





Page 5

AAUW Bookmarkers

Please NOTE calendar changes from our regular schedule

October Wednesday, October 12, at 2:00 p.m. **Pompeii** by Robert Harris, novel last days of Pompeii

November Wednesday, November 9, at 2:00 p.m. **People of the Book** by Geraldine Brooks, novel inspired by the journey of the 15th century Sarajevo Haggadah

December Wednesday, December 14, at 2:00 p.m. **The Colony** by Audrey Magee, a painter and a linguist on a tiny island off Ireland...

New members welcome, meetings are at the home of Katie Gibbs, 4561 Eastside Calpella Road, Ukiah, telephone (707) 228-6143.



Valley View

Page 6

REGISTER NOW FOR "WOMEN IN THE ARTS AND EDUCATION"

As mentioned during the Fall Dinner at Rivino Winery, we are taking into account members' suggestions. Program directors, Rocio Ortega and Janet Chaniot, will offer some changes in 2022-23 programming.

The first will occur during brunch on Friday, November 4, at 11 a.m. Camille Schraeder will serve as host for the brunch at the Saturday Afternoon Club. The program will feature two aspects of the theme: "Women in the Arts and Education."

We will honor several women who have succeeded in the arts, and we will acknowledge the gifts to women and the community that through their talents, have enriched all of us.

Laurel Near will give a history of SPACE (School of Performing Arts and Cultural Education). We're also hoping for some surprise mini-performances that will add delight to your experience.

Also featured, will be a renowned mural artist, Lauren Sinnott. She will take us on a guided tour of her own journey as a female artist. She will describe the work on the mural depicting the history and its essence as drawn by people of Mendocino County. We urge everyone to visit the mural located next to, and across the street from, the Saturday Afternoon Club.

We have also invited Arts Council representatives and STEM Representatives to speak on STEM and the importance of STEM for women, in the lives of women who participate, and the roles of women in the arts for future generations.

In closing we will hear from Val Muchowski about coming elections and political events.

Reserve your seat today for the "Women in the Arts and Education", contact:

Janet Chaniot (707) 972-6722 kiks@pacific.net

The event is free; however, contributions to defray the costs of the program, scholarships, or other AAUW-Ukiah Branch activities are welcome.



Valley View

Page 7

Please note that *Valley View* advertising is available to local businesses for \$25/year starting this month. Just scan or send a business card and a check to Kyle Mayers at P. O. Box 1626, Ukiah, CA 9482





Wil Gonzalez, AIFD



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