

SEPTEMBER 2023

Volume 9

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Ukiah • California

*ukiah-ca.aauw.net*

**NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Hello Members,

Hope you all have managed to acclimate to our record-breaking hot summer! I am glad I

decided to take a summer break from most of my usual jobs and get to some indoor upgrades

that have been on my “to do” list. I have been enjoying the refreshing changes.

We have some updates to report. Lately Kyle and I have been working on the next yearbook in anticipation of having it ready before the Fall Dinner on Tuesday, September 19. As it

happens, we will be having our Fall Dinner as usual at the beautiful Rivino Winery. The only

change is to plan to arrive at 5:00 p.m. instead of 5:30 p.m. Fortunately, chef Earl will still be able to cater a delicious meal for us, and we will need two or three volunteers to help serve again as at the Spring Dinner meeting. Please let us know if you are available to help with that and please save the date.

Also, **with regard to the Fall Dinner, please RSVP as soon as possible and include your choice of either the Salmon or the Chicken entrée.** The price will be $35 again this year and inviting guests is encouraged as usual.

Katie Gibbs and Kristana are contacting a few scholarship recipients and Tech Trek gals who we hope will be able to attend the dinner. Julie Bawcom will talk about her firsthand experience working at the Tech Trek Camp. It is always inspiring to hear about personal experiences and about our mission intentions in action.

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Pertinent to the September *Valley View* Newsletter, this year we will offer mostly digital

copies, we hope, and some printed copies when needed. Also, for your convenience, at our Fall

Dinner we will distribute printed member contact lists and copies of our by-laws to further

educate ourselves on the “proper” workings of our Ukiah Chapter.

**Please return an e-mail to me or Kyle with “yes” you can receive a digital yearbook, or “a printed copy please”** **– *sulinbell@gmail.com* or *mayers4ky@gmail.com*** **as soon as possible.**

We discovered an *Officers & Committees Manual* from 2015 in our files and have begun

to update the descriptions and responsibilities of the various positions. We plan to be able to

incorporate this information more fully this year and have an even more effective Chapter. At

the Fall Dinner we will be voting to elect some new officers, review the workings of the

Committees and hopefully inspire more members to join committees.

In addition to all our devoted Board Members, I want to take the opportunity to thank several

members who have consistently and continuously offered their help with various aspects of our

programs: Sue Mason, Vergilia Dakin, Katarzyna Rolzinski, Madelyn McCauley, Kristana Arp,

Laura Fogg, Gretel Palmerin, Camille Schraeder, Beverly Spence, Mary Ann Vilwock, Katie Gibbs and Marie Pera.

Also exciting to report: progress has been made on our intention to form a Mendocino

College AAUW Student Club, and this year’s dates for the annual Candidate Forum and for the

Women’s History Event have been determined as December 19 and March 2 respectively.

The Board has been discussing and projecting some interesting programs, so stay tuned

to e-mails, texts, and *Valley View* Newsletters to learn more about these developments. And

don’t forget to check in to our fabulous website to view news as it develops and to see pictures

of our beautiful Selves!

Hope to see many of you soon,

Cheerfully

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**Public Policy**

AAUW California Public Policy Committee to host webinar on How to Prevent Book Banning and Curricula Censorship in California By Kathi Harper, Chair “School Board Project” Sub-Committee:

In a 2023 survey, our membership made it clear that they were alarmed by the nationwide

movement to ban books and censor curricula in K-12 schools, particularly as this censorship

denies students’ access to historically accurate information pertaining to marginalized groups.

This is perhaps unsurprising as AAUW members’ concern with access to high-quality education has been long standing.

When AAUW was founded in 1881, its stated purpose was “for practical education work, for collection and publication of statistical and other information concerning education, and in general, for the maintenance of high standards of education.” Today, AAUW California continues to support this purpose in the second pillar of our Public Policy Priorities, “Equal Access to Quality Public Education for all Students.”

Earlier this year, at the urging of the state Public Policy Committee, the state board adopted and

membership approved the addition of an important bullet point under this second pillar, “Access to diverse staff and curriculum that represents historically accurate information.” In furtherance of that goal, the Public Policy Committee has established “The School Board Project” (SBP) designed to ensure school boards up and down the state include members who are committed to “the maintenance of high standards of education” for all students–including access to diverse and historically accurate information.

Whether you are aware of problematic censorship happening in your district, you fear it may be

coming, or you just want to learn more about what AAUW California is doing, we hope you will join us virtually on September 21 at 7:00 p.m. for the presentation of “Book Banning and Curricula Censorship in California? AAUW California to the Rescue!” Kathi Harper, SBP Committee Chair, will explain the project, what we are doing, and how all AAUW California members can help. A representative from our collaborative partner, Equality California, will be in attendance to help you understand why this project is so important, and members from the League of Women Voters will be on hand to provide guidance on how to speak out effectively and civilly at school board meetings. We hope to see you there.

Registration is now open, and the link can be found on our website *https://www.aauw-*

*ca.org/webinar-book-banning-and-curricula-censorship-in-california-aauw-california-to-the-*

*rescue/* Additional information about our guests and collaborators can be found at League of Women Voters—Equality California.

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**AAUW BOOKMARKERS**

September book is *Demon Copperhead*by Barbara Kingsolver.  We will meet at Mary Ann Villwock's “new” house, 509 Jones, at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 13.

For October, we chose a non-fiction book suggested by Helen, *How to Stand Up to a Dictator* by Maria Ressa, from the Philippines, a 2021 Nobel prize winner.  An investigative journalist, she talks about the media landscape and how it tends to favor the dictator.  There are interesting You Tube articles about it.  It seems particularly appropriate for the moment.

As we begin a new AAUW yearbook calendar, we would like to welcome new members to Bookmarkers.  Please join us, even if you haven’t read the book.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING**

The next Board meeting will be on September 5 at l1:00 a.m. Anyone interested in attending needs to e-mail Sharon at *sharonjeanmarshall@gmail* for the location still to be determined.



**Licorice – Official Mascot 2023**