

The Montage



Turlock/Modesto Branch

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Two Branch Members Named SCCW Women of the Year

The Stanislaus County Commission for Women (SCCW) has awarded their 41st annual Outstanding Women of Stanislaus County Awards and we may take pride that two of those who were recognized are associated with our branch. Both Dr. Ellen Junn and the late Mary Giventer will be honored in an award ceremony in Modesto later this year.

SCCW's Outstanding Woman of the Year



Dr. Ellen Junn

Dr. Ellen Junn, has a 33-year career with the California State University system. Fortunately for us, she became the eleventh president of CSU Stanislaus on July 1, 2016. She

joined our branch shortly after arriving in Turlock.

Dr. Junn is a native of Jenison, Michigan and received both a master's and Ph.D. in cognitive and developmental psychology from Princeton University. Of note, she is the first Korean-American woman to be named president of a four-year university in the United States.

Our local university has received both regional and national recognition under Dr. Junn's leadership with accolades too many to list here. Countless students have attained baccalaureate and graduate degrees through her commitment to advocating pathways for the underserved.

Besides her on-campus duties, Dr. Junn serves on the board for the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley and is the President of the Central Valley Higher Education Consortium. She is a member of the Stanislaus Community Foundation's Cradle to Career Leadership Team, ITHAKA Higher Education Insights, California Association for the Education of Young Children and the Association for Psychological Science.

We take additional pride in Dr. Junn's recognition because this is the second

in a row for us. Just last year Hanna Renning was named Outstanding Woman of the Year.

SCCW's Outstanding Woman of History



Our late President Mary Giventer

At the time of her unexpected death on September 15, 2018 Mary Giventer, not for the first time, was simultaneously serving as President of the League of Women Voters and of our branch. Mary was passionate about equal rights for all persons. She was a champion of justice and fairness. This is why the League and AAUW, with their similar goals, were so important to her. She was not afraid to take on any leadership role and her style, which appeared to be relaxed, always got things done without fanfare.

Mary graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a degree in physical therapy. She married Prof. Lawrence Giventer and they moved to California in 1975. She became the Director of Physical Therapy for Doctors Medical Center and Modesto Rehabilitation Hospital.

Mary began her leadership in AAUW as president in 1978-79 while still working full-time and raising her children. She was an active member of the Scholarship Fundraising Committee for years, devoting many hours to this work. She was our

branch President from 2000-2003 and then served seven more times since 2010.

In her dual roles, Mary saw to it that AAUW and the League of Women Voters jointly sponsored informational forums and speakers. In her work with the League Mary was particularly noted for her lucid presentation of state proposition Pros and Cons and her calm and measured moderation of candidate forums.

We remember Mary fondly as one who showed us how to be engaged, effective community volunteers.

CSU Stan's Science Day



Branch member Patricia Williams' daughter Sarah Shackelford and granddaughters Clara, 9, and Charlotte, 2, at CSU Stanislaus' Science Day.

One of the fundamental goals of this March 7 event was to create excitement among young students for the fields of science and math. Our Board member Dr. Bjorg Johannsdottir, professor at CSU Stan, is an event organizer.

See more photos on Page 5 and also on our AAUW Facebook page, including those of our branch member Dr. Dave Menshew's Enochs High School forensic biotech class's annual visit. Maybe your children or grandchildren might want to go next year?

March Program Is Cancelled

In our Member Directory last fall the Program Committee announced its plan for a March event intended to honor women in leadership. To that end Committee Chair Pat Portwood arranged for us to see and hear a unique and timely story of women suffragists this month.

We were scheduled to enjoy a delightful, lighthearted Reader's Theater tale assembled by Turlock resident Rita Morgan. Rita was also to perform with fellow Turlockers Pat Weisel, Alice Schultz and our own branch member Sheila Younkin.

Interestingly, the program features lesser known history. For instance, what does an anti-slavery conference in England have to do with Women's Suffrage in the U.S.? And we know Mott, Stanton and Anthony. But who is Emily Bissel?

In addition to the Reader's Theater offering, branch member Wanda Bonnell prepared a special presentation focusing on several African American Suffragists.

There was a lot of excitement about this event and its particular relevance. After all it's in 2020 that we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment that insured women the right to vote.

However, the presence of the COVID-19 coronavirus in our community resulted in the cancellation of many events. Including ours. It's disappointing but our priority must always be the well-being of our members and the public.

But please remember what you've read here. This writer has heard there is a chance that we may yet enjoy this Reader's Theater event!

Membership Dues Reminder

The membership year for AAUW branches runs July 1–June 30 so it is that time again for our members to pay annual dues.

Renewal fees of \$95.00 are due by June 30. This total includes \$59.00 for the national organization, \$20.00 for California AAUW and \$16.00 that will remain with our branch.

If you have an email address listed you will soon receive an invoice and instructions to renew from **memberinfo@aauw.org**. Most arrived last year around April 3 with a subject line that said AAUW Membership Renewal. Please be looking for this unique-to-you message which will contain your AAUW identification and a *link just for you* to pay your dues. Those who used this method last year were very pleased with how little clicking was involved!

If you miss the email you can still pay online by going to www.aauw.org and logging in. If you have questions or want more detailed directions on how to accomplish this please call our Treasurer Sue Baldwin at (209) 668-2483 or email her at tobald@aol.com.

Renewing online takes just a few minutes, is efficient and is most helpful to our local branch for accounting purposes. If you do not have access to renew online, you may pay by check made out to **AAUW Turlock/Modesto** and mailed to **AAUW, PO Box 2373, Turlock 95381-2373**.

IMPORTANT – Members who have not renewed by July 31 will not be listed in our 2020-2021 Member Directory.



With deep sadness we report the passing of two long-time AAUW members.

Jo Harberson was a state officer for a number of years. She famously promoted the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund and for several years offered to match any donations members made to that fund. In addition, Jo was one of the originators of the Mooneen Lecce Giving Circle.

Even though Jo lived in the Mountain View area she attended several of our Turlock/Modesto branch activities with her daughter and our member, Kate Thornton.

Rita Twaddell, a Turlock/Modesto branch member for many years, died on December 12, 2019 at the age of 95. In addition to being involved in branch activities she was active in her church, Sacred Heart Catholic Church of Turlock, and was also a volunteer for Meals on Wheels. Rita will be well remembered.

Please, if you learn of the death of any of our branch members or of friends and supporters of AAUW and our branch, bring it to the attention of any of the Board members so that word may be shared with our members.

May Luncheon and Installation of Officers



Marilyn Hoobyar recognizing incoming 2019-2020 President Beverly Schlegel at last year's luncheon.

What: Introduction of the AAUW Scholarship recipients, followed by installation of 2020-2021 officers.

When: *If conditions allow Saturday, May 2, 2020, 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.*

Where: Pageo Lavender Farm, 11573 Golf Road, Turlock.

Please select your lunch from the following choices which include a beverage and dessert. Cost is \$20.00 per person.

- 1.) Summer - Blueberry Mango Strawberry Chicken Salad with raspberry vinaigrette lavender dressing
- 2.) Natural High Sandwich- Avocado, cucumbers, alfalfa sprouts, red onions, pepper jack cheese and cream cheese on whole wheat bread with a hint of lavender
- 3.) Passion Pear Sandwich- Turkey breast, sliced pears and bacon with pineapple cream cheese on a croissant with a hint of lavender.

RSVP your lunch choice by Monday, April 27 to Pat Portwood at 209-634-3592.

More From A Very Busy Science Day!



Bjorg and her crew

