



Feather Vane – December, 2020

AAUW National Mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. Our Branch Mission: To advance equity for women and girls through education and networking within our diverse community.



The December Coalition Holiday Brunch at the Peach Tree has been canceled. There is no branch meeting in December.

Council Chat by Liz Skelly, Executive Council Leader

November 22, 2020 -- WOW! Dr. Phoung Luu is an energetic force to be reckoned with. I was very impressed with her at yesterday's branch meeting on Zoom. What a dynamic young woman (although she's older than she looks, just sayin'). She's a first generation Vietnamese American who attended college in Washington State, then went east to John Hopkins and obtained a Masters in epidemiology. She then went to Tinian Island (part of the Northern Mariana Islands) and practiced in the primary care field. She became the public health officer for the islands and shortly thereafter weathered a super typhoon—much like she had to do here, except it was the COVID-19 virus. She is certainly a resilient woman. Dr. Luu has also been appointed by Governor Newsom to a 16 member work group tasked with giving guidance for the sequence of allocation of the COVID-19 vaccine. She is the only health director in the group. She is not deterred by critics and is intent on doing her job. In fact, Dr. Luu does have other tasks to deal with as Bi-County Health Officer (believe it or not!) such as TB, STD's, flu clinics, etc. This is one busy woman.



There is no branch meeting in December as the Coalition Holiday Brunch at the Peach Tree has been canceled, but we will have a very interesting session in January. Rhonda Cameron will be discussing cyber security—a topic we all should be aware of. With all the scams going on, this should prove to be very topical and informative.

One of the topics being discussed at Executive Council is the future of our local branch—how do we maintain membership, how do we handle future branch meetings, and where do we want to go? I'd like to see some input from our membership as to what objectives we as an organization want to achieve. So be on the lookout for a survey coming your way—probably in January. After all—it will be a New Year with new resolutions, etc., etc., etc.

Speaking of membership, it is good to see new members to our branch. Greetings to our newest members Debbie Naylor and soon to join Terri Burroughs. I love seeing new faces! By the time you read this we will have survived Thanksgiving and the holidays are on the horizon. I sincerely hope that this Chat finds all of you and your loved ones healthy. Pick up the phone and call your family and friends and stay in touch. It will amp up your mood—and theirs. Cheers! *Liz*

Executive Council Meeting is Thursday, December 10, 2020, 1 pm, via Zoom. Contact is Liz Skelly, 530-635-0821. Tell her if you want to join the Executive Council and attend EC meetings.

Membership

Lee Jones, Membership Leader, 530-674-1942, Cell 530-300-0214, or email lee@harkeyhouse.com.

At the moment we have 72 members. Here are the three members who joined our branch since August. Though you may not have been able to meet them in person, you can read about them in the *Feather Vane*. We expect two more new women to join soon. Stay tuned!



Amy Molina-Jones joined in August. She was recruited by Linda Zall, and her story was in the Oct. *Feather Vane*.



Joyce Smith joined in September. She was recruited by Jeanine Rounds before Jeanine moved to Utah, and her story was in the Nov. *Feather Vane*.



MEET DEBBIE NAYLOR

Debbie Naylor joined our branch in October and was recruited by Joan Young who took this photo. Here is what Debbie wrote about herself:

I was born and raised in the Yuba Sutter area, surviving the 1955 flood and growing up in Yuba City. During my

high school years, a friend invited me to join her at Obon dance practice. I've danced in Obon Festivals for many years, and will continue when they are held again. (The Obon Festival is a Japanese Buddhist summer dance festival.)

After graduation from high school, I left to attend college at UC Berkeley. I was to remain in the Bay Area for 32 years.

At Berkeley, I discovered international folk dancing and was an avid dancer for many years. I spent one summer in Europe, dancing at an international folk dance camp in Macedonia, attending folk dance festivals in what was then Yugoslavia, and traveling through Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, France, Italy, and England.

I returned to the United States and worked awhile, then transferred to California State University, Hayward. I continued dancing, taking classes in ballet, jazz, tap, and dance notation. After graduation, I realized I had all of the prerequisites for the Dance Therapy program, so I returned to California State University, Hayward, and studied clinical counseling and dance therapy. I completed the coursework for a Masters in Clinical Counseling/Dance Therapy.

After college, I worked in locked geriatric psychiatric facilities in the program department, leading movement groups, and all sorts of other groups. I especially enjoyed taking psychiatric patients on outings in the community. We attended various community events and dance concerts, went to the beach, and to Muir Woods.

As I moved towards administration, I worked in the Social Services departments of several skilled nursing facilities and as the Family and Patient Services Coordinator for the ALS Association, Bay Area chapter. I learned about ALS and have been able to refer people in Yuba City to ALS clinics in the Bay Area for further treatment.

I ended my career in the Bay Area as the director of a dementia unit. This was especially pertinent as my father had died of Alzheimer's disease many years earlier. During that time, I converted to Catholicism and felt a call to a monastery in Oregon. I moved up to Oregon and spent 2 years living in the monastery. However, I discovered I am too much of a rebel and I returned to Yuba City, where my aging mother was living.

I then began working as the Adult Services Program Coordinator for the Colusa County Department of Behavioral Health. I retired due to health issues and began volunteering at Hands of Hope and at the food closet at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church. I also became an Elder for the Presbyterian Church.

Eventually I became a full time caregiver for my 94 year old mother, who died in July of this year. I am now getting used to living without my companion as we were very close.

As I have been drawn to AAUW for many years, Joan Young recruited me and I decided to join. I have been interested in the STEM program since I served as a volunteer last year. I am also interested in the spring Garden Tour as I love gardens and the beauty they share with us. I look forward to meeting many of you as we work together to further the interests of young women in STEM careers. *Debbie*

Tech Trek Report

Carol Clark, Tech Trek Co-Chair

AAUW has canceled the summer 2021 Tech Trek camps in all states as the Covid-19 outbreak continues. We plan to go forward with our selection of girls from our area, and will work with the California Tech Trek State Coordinators as they develop a VIRTUAL PROGRAM from which the girls can benefit. The Virtual Camp curriculum is being worked out at UC San Diego and they are trying to make it a valuable and worthwhile experience. Please contact Carol Clark, 671-5286 or cel 530-301-2164 if you can help with our selection process in the spring.

Thank you to our six members (Joan, Carol, Liz, Barbara D. Linda, & Artis) who stepped forward to donate the cost of the book, Women in Science, 50 Fearless Pioneers Who Changed the World, which we will give to the 2020 Tech Trekkers in December.

TEM Report – Emi Thompson

Joann Nixon, TEM Coordinator

Tech Trek leaders received an email from AAUW CA offering a Zoom panel presentation by AAUW San Francisco in partnership with the Bay Area Science Festival providing a panel on STEM careers for women which is appropriate for Tech Trek alumni.

Discover the diversity of STEM disciplines and careers!

I offered this information to the TEM Teams and **Emi Thompson** participated. This is what she wrote:



I'm Emi Thompson, one of the 2016 Tech Trek attendees. Today I was fortunate enough to be able to attend the STEM Career Panel hosted by the Bay Area Science Festival. It was a truly fascinating experience, since we got to hear from women involved in a wide variety of STEM fields. We

were all invited to ask questions in the webinar Q&A section, and I was lucky enough to be one of the few people who had their question answered directly by the panelists! The question that I asked to the STEM ladies was "As a current high school senior who has an interest in all STEM fields, what suggestions do you have to help me narrow down a

field of study/major? I'm currently applying to colleges and I am going in undeclared for the most part, with a potential concentration in applied statistics."

Their responses to my question were super reassuring, and the general response that I received was to not worry about it at the moment. Since as a high school senior, I have no college experience, and can't possibly know *exactly* what I want to do for the rest of my life. The only way to get an idea of a major/concentration is to gain experience in college through exploring courses, perhaps meeting an influential professor, or learning through a job internship.

This was very insightful, as all my life I have been pressured to know exactly what I wanted to do. Their final word of wisdom was to let all things flow naturally. Eventually everything will fall into place, and I'll find my true calling. Overall, it was a very enlightening experience, and I feel as if I have a better understanding of what to expect in the future. I had a great experience and am extremely grateful to have been given this opportunity. *Emi*

STEM Report

Sandy Davini, STEM Chair

Local county and school prohibitions and precautions against the spread of COVIC-19 have caused AAUW to cancel the "in person" January 2021 STEM Conference for 8th Grade Girls at Yuba College. Our commitment strongly supports helping students learn about the myriad of fascinating STEM careers open to them. The STEM Committee is working on a virtual program featuring video links that will introduce **8th grade students** (male and female) to interesting STEM careers. The plan is to make these links available to science teachers to share with their students through Google Classroom.

The STEM Committee will meet **December 10**, at 10 am via Zoom. Please contact Sandy, ddavini@comcast.net, if you wish to help with this project.

Garden Tour Report

Martha Bunce, 530-713-0663, Garden Tour Chair

The Garden Tour Committee will meet via Zoom or by email on December 3 at 11 am. Watch for additional email information. Please contact Martha if you wish to be added to the Garden Tour Committee.

Interbranch Council (IBC)

Janet Theiss, IBC Representative

The [IBC Zoom meeting](#) was on [Monday, November 2, 2020](#), at 6:00 p.m. IBC decided to deposit our limited fund into the Gridley branch bank account, a decision made because we lost \$300 in the Paradise fire.

Tech Trek will be a virtual camp for 2021, but most of the details have not been worked out yet. For instance, there is ongoing discussion among the directors over whether to use the already completed virtual robotics program or whether to develop other programs so the girls have a choice. The cost is also under discussion. The present proposed \$400 is objected to by many as unjustifiable for a virtual camp. There will be no limit to the number of girls. The interviewing process will still take place, but it will be virtual as well. The camp will run for five days.

Several California branches have past-Tech-Trek groups (our branch has TEM, Team of Extraordinary Minds) doing amazing things. See “Keeping in Touch with Tech Trekers,” [AAUW.ca.org](#).

STEM Adventure is on hold until there is a COVID-19 vaccine.

The **Interbranch Luncheon** will be a **Zoom meeting on Saturday, February 6, 2021, at 11:30 a.m.** This decision was made after a thorough discussion of other possibilities, including a webinar, dropped after several of us pointed out that many attended for the camaraderie as much as for the program. Our Liz Skelly will set up and co-host the Zoom meeting with Chico’s Jan Britton. The program speaker will receive a gift card(s) instead of the usual gift basket. Registration will not be necessary. There will be a Zoom meeting January 11, 2021, to address any “Luncheon” problems.

All were invited to join our November 21, 2020, Marysville-Yuba City branch Zoom meeting with Dr. Phuong Luu, Bi-County Public Health Officer.

Chico’s Jan Britton, who already did a virtual birdhouse build with their 2020 Tech Trek girls, will be leading bridge building for their next encounter. The girls will receive Popsicle sticks and will have an engineer guiding them, including a discussion of why some bridge styles don’t work. Other branches’ girls are welcome to participate by Zoom. Jan will send the link.

The final IBC meeting, **Monday, May 3, 2021**, will be Zoom unless we are out of these COVID times.

LETTER FROM AAUW NATIONAL



Dear Members,

At its October 16, 2020 meeting, the AAUW Board of Directors voted to increase Individual Member dues for the next three years. The dues will rise by \$3 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, \$5 for FY 2023 and \$5 for FY 2024, making the total dues amount for those years \$62, \$67 and \$72, respectively. All but \$3 of your annual dues remains tax deductible.

This decision wasn’t made lightly. The board members couldn’t be more grateful for our members — or prouder of the work you’ve done this year. We also recognize that all of us are navigating numerous challenges in these uncertain times. However, in order to preserve the viability of this organization we all love, the board needed to take action. Simply put, this measure is essential for AAUW to continue our mission to achieve gender equity.

Most nonprofits adjust their dues annually or every other year to keep pace with inflation and rising expenses. However, due to prudent budgetary management, AAUW has been able to keep its dues flat since July 2018. That means that, by the time the first scheduled increase takes effect, we will have maintained three years of dues stability.

Moreover, in recognition of the difficult economy we’re in, the board planned for the initial adjustment to be the most modest. Over the course of the year, it works out to be only an additional 25 cents per month — what we hope is a small price to pay for maintaining our important work and community.

Current life members will not be affected by this change. New life memberships acquired after July 1, 2021, will reflect the higher dues’ amounts. College and university membership fees will remain unchanged.

Please [reach out to us](#) with any feedback or concerns. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to AAUW and our mission. On behalf of the AAUW Board, we are grateful for your understanding and look forward to continuing our work together.

Sincerely,

Julia T. Brown, Esq., AAUW Board Chair





STORY REQUEST

If you have a story that you'd like to include in the *Feather Vane*, please send it to us. It should be approximately a column long, in 11 point type, and include a photo or drawing. Send to artisb@comcast.net before the 15th of any month. Your stories will be printed, with your by-line, as space is available in the upcoming *Feather Vanes*. This is just one more way to get to know each other during this time of staying at home.



History of the Christmas Tree

Did you ever wonder why almost every house has a Christmas tree? What does it symbolize? Why is it part of our culture? As long as I can remember there was a tree in our living room most of the month of December, going up shortly after Thanksgiving, and coming down at New Year.

My Grandmother Sophie, whose parents were born in Germany, always said that “the tree needs to be removed before the beginning of the New Year or it is bad luck.” I think that this was because of fire, especially since candles were used on trees prior to the common use of electricity.

So where did this tradition of every home having a Christmas tree come from? Here is what I found out about the History of the Christmas tree, and how it became an American and European tradition:

Prior to Christianity the Egyptians and Romans used evergreens to celebrate the Winter Solstice, and to remind them that summer would come again. The Druids believed that evergreens meant LIFE.

1521– Was the first recorded mention of a Christmas tree in Germany. In the 1500s, Martin Luther, a leader in the Protestant Christian Reformation, was sometimes credited with the idea of the Christmas tree or with adding candles to the trees.

1700s -- German Settlers and sailors brought the idea to America, but the Puritans believed in NO Christmas decorations. The use of any tree or decoration was a crime.



1830 – The first public tree was recorded in America. In the mid-1800s Queen Victoria & Prince Albert made it popular to have a Christmas tree in the house.

From this research I've learned that the tradition of having a

Christmas tree started as a pagan symbol of new growth and restoration of life after the long hard winter; and that Christianity took on the concept of a Christmas tree to symbolize Everlasting Life and the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. I learned that the Stars and Angels that we put on our trees represent Jesus' birth as both Stars and Angels are part of the traditional Bible story of His birth. And I've learned that presents under the tree represent the gifts of the Wise Men at the birth of Jesus Christ.

Artis Buerki

INTEREST SECTIONS- All branch members are welcome to participate.



ADVOCACY & ACTION

To receive advocacy and action alerts by email, contact **Martha Bunce**, 743-0306, or email buncehall@yahoo.com and ask her to add you to her email contact list.



BOOK CLUBS

Book Explorers normally meets at 10 am the third Friday of the month. Contact is **Paulette Almeida**, 415-5588.

Rabid Readers normally meets at 10 am the third Friday of the month. Contact is **Marilyn Elliott**, 673-2840, or **Pat Jones**, 674-0114.



BRIDGE As our AAUW bridge group has gotten older we have morphed into more of a community bridge group. We play at the Marysville Art Club twice a month. **Anyone interested in playing please contact Jan Wallace**, 743-1060.



TALKING ON PAPER – normally meets the first Tuesday of the month. Joan Young will contact us about a December gift exchange. **Call Joan Young**, 713-1279, if you like to write and want to be a part of this group. For now we are exchanging our stories by email.



TRAVELING GOURMET Traveling Gourmet normally meets on the fourth Thursday of the month but is not meeting now because of COVID 19. **If you want to be on the Traveling Gourmet phone list please contact Carol Clark**, 301-2164, or **Joan Young**, 713-1279.

Applications for 2021–22 Fellowships and Grants Now Open

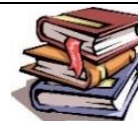
Do you know any women pursuing postgraduate studies, furthering their careers, or working on a program to benefit women and girls? Point them to our [fellowships and grants](#) applications.

Deadlines run from **November to December**.

www.aauw.org

Find out how your congressional representatives have voted.

Go to: <https://www.aauwaction.org/voter-education/congressional-voting-record/>



What are you reading now? Tell us about a book or an author that you like, and we'll include it in the *Feather Vane*. This is just one more way that we can stay in touch with each other during this time apart. Email to *Feather Vane* editor, artisb@comcast.net before the 15th of any month. You do not have to be a Book Club member to participate.

BOOKS I've enjoyed –

Alexander McCall Smith has written a series called The # 1 Ladies Detective Agency that is one of my favorite reads. The first of the 20-year-long series came out in 1998, and McCall Smith has produced a book a year in this series ever since. Set in Botswana, his heroine is Mma Precious Ramotswe, a traditionally built 30-something-year-old African woman, who owns the only Ladies Detective Agency in Botswana; and she travels around the region in her little white van, solving problems big and small with wit and ingenuity. Come meet her beau Mr. J.L.B. Matekoni, her secretary Mma Makutsi, and her friend Mma Silvia Potokwane who runs the Orphan Farm, all regulars in the books.



The author, Alexander McCall Smith is a British Zimbabwean writer who is Emeritus Professor of Medical Law at University of Edinburgh. You may also know him from his Isabel Dalhousie book series which is set in Scotland, the Portuguese Irregular Verbs series, or the 44 Scotland Street series.

Book number 21 in the #1 Ladies Detective Agency series will be out on November 24, 2020. It is called HOW TO RAISE AN ELEPHANT. Can't wait!

Review by Artis Buerki



Secretary's Notes

Executive Council--November 12, 2020

by Martha Bunce, Secretary pro tem

Present were Liz Skelly, Sandy Davini, Martha Bunce, Lee Jones, Gwyn Baker, Janet Theiss, and MAL Carol Clark, Joann Nixon, Linda Zall

1. Call to order, Minutes, Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 and the minutes of the October meeting were accepted as submitted. No added agenda items

2. Information/Action Items

The **dues** increase passed by national AAUW was discussed, and information to our members will be sent out with the December Feather Vane. The **November Branch meeting** will feature Dr. Luu, the Bi County Public Health Director. Other branches nearby have expressed interest in joining the Zoom meeting, and Gwyn will contact Dr. Luu's office to see if that is agreeable to her. The Council discussed the **format of our Branch meetings**, especially as we look to "After Times" when we are not as restricted in how we can gather. The direction from California AAUW is that we will meet via Zoom for the foreseeable future. There are advantages and disadvantages to Zoom meetings and all members will be included in decisions about how our branch meetings are designed post Covid-19.

3. Reports from Executive Council

Sandy Davini (**Treasurer**) reported that there has been little activity the past month and there are no budgetary issues.

Martha Bunce (**Public Policy**) reported that CA AAUW is becoming more active in Public Policy and that she will follow up.

Lee Jones (**Membership**) that we now have 72 members, and despite Covid-19 we are gaining new members. Janet Theiss (**Communications**) reported that the Roster is at the printer and will be mailed to members soon. The December Feather Vane deadline is November 23.

Gwyn Baker (**Programs**) reported that Dr. Luu is scheduled to speak at the November 21 meeting. Janet will send out the Zoom invitation to members and will arrange for an article in the Appeal Democrat prior to the meeting. Martha will write a letter to the editor afterward supporting Dr. Luu and the Public Health office.

There is no meeting in December. Sandy is contacting a person to speak at the January meeting and Martha is contacting two other speakers for future meetings.

Projects: Sandy reports that the progress in finding appropriate videos for the virtual **STEM** that we are planning is difficult. The **Garden Tour** planning is going forward, but unless the infection rate slows, CA AAUW may not provide the needed insurance, and we will have to cancel. Carol Clark reported that **Tech Trek** will be a virtual week-long event this year. Much planning still needs to be done at the CA level. Joann Nixon reported that CA AAUW is providing information and ideas for our efforts to keep **TEM** (previous years' Tech Trek girls) involved. She is gathering information about what other branches are doing.

4. Other Business

Interbranch is meeting via Zoom. At the last meeting Liz and Janet learned that Chico is planning a virtual workshop, featuring an engineer, for Tech Trek girls who missed out when the pandemic prevented the event to take place. Joann is going to follow up to see if our girls can participate. Our branch is responsible for setting up the February 6, 2021 meeting. Liz is working with Chico branch to organize that Zoom format.

Editor's Note: Please contact Executive Council Secretary for the final approved minutes after the next Executive Council meeting.

Feather Vane Staff

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Joan Young, Mailing and Proofing
Joann Nixon, Photographer
Janet Theiss, Communications Leader



FEATHER VANE

Artis Buerki, Editor

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 Our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/AAUW.MVYC/>
 Our branch website: <http://mvyc-ca.aauw.net/>
 AAUW California: www.aauw-ca.org/ AAUW National: www.aauw.org

DECEMBER, 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Via email Talking on Paper	2	3 11 am, Zoom Garden Tour Committee	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 10 am, Zoom STEM Committee 1 pm, Zoom Executive Council	11	12
13	14	15	16 DEADLINE JANUARY FEATHER VANE	17 TBD Traveling Gourmet	18 Via email Book Clubs	19
20	21	22	23	24		26
27	28	29	30		January 1, 2021 	

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**YOUR GIFT TO OUR SCHOLARSHIP AND OTHER PROGRAMS ENABLES
WOMEN TO BROADEN THEIR HORIZONS THROUGH EDUCATION**

Please send this form with your check(s) to AAUW, P.O. Box 3031, Yuba City, CA 95992

Donor's Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

_____ In memory or honor (circle one) of: _____ \$ _____

_____ Yuba College Scholarship (Check to **Yuba College Foundation-AAUW**) _____ \$ _____

_____ Tech Trek Fund (Make check payable to **AAUW CA SPF**) _____ \$ _____

_____ Yuba College Book Fund (Make check payable to **AAUW**) _____ \$ _____

_____ Local Branch Operations /helps fund local activities (Make check payable to **AAUW**) _____ \$ _____

_____ AAUW Educational and Training Fund (Make check payable to **AAUW/ Note ET-4450 on memo line**) _____ \$ _____

_____ Legal Advocacy Fund (make check payable to **AAUW/note "LAF" on memo line**) _____ \$ _____

