



Feather Vane – January, 2021

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.

Executive Council Meeting is Thursday, **January 14, 2021**, 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.



CYBER SECURITY

Program Notes – January 16, 2021

Our branch will meet via ZOOM on Saturday, January 16, at 10 am.

Members will receive the ZOOM link from Janet Theiss by email the week of the meeting. If you do not receive the ZOOM link by Friday, Jan. 15, please contact Gwyn Baker, by email gdcaryl@yahoo.com and she can send it to you.



Our guest speaker on January 16 is **Rhonda Cameron**. She will talk to us about Protecting Yourself in a Cyber World. Rhonda is a local Information Technology Consultant and web builder. She is a popular speaker at our STEM Conferences.

Rhonda was born in London, and immigrated to the U.S. with her family in 1977. She enlisted in the Air Force in Maryland, was first stationed at McClellan AFB, and traveled to Okinawa, Japan, and back to Beale AFB, where she retired.

She crafted her skills and knowledge in the Air Force and through on-going technical training in the private sector. Rhonda has an Associate's degrees in Liberal Arts from Yuba College, Education and Training from Community College of the Air Force, and Bachelor degree in Workforce Education Development Training from Southern Illinois University.

Rhonda believes in giving back to the community. She is a member of Kiwanis and is a Key Club Advisor. She is a board member of REST (the Regional Emergency Shelter Team) working with volunteers to provide winter shelter for our homeless community. We look forward to meeting her on Jan. 16. *Gwyn Baker, Program Leader*



Council Chat

Liz Skelly, Executive Council Leader

Guess who's ready to get back on track and make the most of 2021? Me me me! Hopefully everyone else too. 2020 was definitely challenging to everyone but let's look ahead to what we can accomplish in the New Year. My closets are clean and I'm ready to sally forth and see what challenges and opportunities are in store for me.

Our branch has definitely had some setbacks—no STEM conference, no Tech Trek, no in-person branch meetings—but hopefully we'll be able to keep our Garden Tour on track for 2021. Our programs for the monthly branch meetings are lined up (see next page) and sound interesting. I'm hopeful that we have more members Zoom in and participate.

As always, our branch is still active and committed to our mission. One of our members, Martha Bunce, said it so well that I am taking the liberty of repeating it. "It's so distancing now. But I think of our fore mothers who lived lives of extreme isolation—geographical, physical, emotional, cultural, and ways I haven't yet learned about. We are blessed by the enormous effort by them to make women's lives an integral part, not a side note, of what is considered American Life and the American Dream. And there is still work to be done for equity and inclusiveness and equality." Well said Martha.

Moving forward, I want everyone to take care of yourselves, focus on some personal goals, get out and walk every day, donate to your favorite charity, the list goes on. I'd like to finish with a quote from the late

MARYSVILLE-YUBA CITY, CALIFORNIA, AAUW BRANCH
great Ruth Bader Ginsburg, "There's a sense that time
is precious and you should enjoy and thrive in what
you're doing to the hilt".

Cheers to a productive new year! *Liz*

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*Did You Know – That all of these projects
began in the 80s and 90s?*

1985 -- STEM Conference/Math-Science Conference
1992 -- Garden Tour
1993 -- Women's Coalition Holiday Brunch
1998 -- Tech Trek

COMING SOON – Mark your calendars

Here are the dates of the upcoming branch program
meetings planned for 2021. Please mark your calendar.

January 16 – Rhonda Cameron: Protecting Yourself in a
Cyber World, 10 am via Zoom

February 20 – Dr. Tawny Dotson, President of Yuba
College, 10 am Zoom

March 20 – Colonel Shannon Juby from Beale AFB

April 17 – Cal Fire representative

May 1-- Garden Tour (depending on COVID status)

June 5 – Possible in-person luncheon and Yuba College
Scholarship winners

Gwyn Baker, Program Leader

Garden Tour

Martha Bunce, Garden Tour Chair

The Garden Tour Committee will meet via Zoom or by
email on **January 7** at 11 am. Watch for additional email
information. Please contact Martha if you wish to be added
to the Garden Tour Committee.



Dear Branch Members, At the Executive Council
meeting on Dec. 10, it was decided that we would not
be participating in the AAUW Virtual 2021 Tech Trek
Camp next summer. The logistics were just too
difficult. Also due to the cancellation of the May 2020
Garden Tour fund raiser, and questions about the
feasibility of a 2021 Garden Tour, it impacts our
budget to the point where we wouldn't be able to
support the Virtual Camp.

I have mixed feelings. I was feeling sad when we
voted not to continue to pursue it, but it's so logical
that I am relieved that we don't have to try to
implement all the "stuff" that would be required to
mentor the girls during the camp.

On a happier note, Joann Nixon and I delivered our six
books that we bought for the 2020 girls as Christmas
gifts. Joann took a picture of each of the six girls and
she will introduce them to you on page 7 of this
Feather Vane as **TEM Report**.

As far as I'm concerned, this hiatus from working on
this year, will allow us to focus more energy on getting
ready for next year, and maybe we can find ways to get
the 2020 girls involved in TEM and any other activities
as we go along. *Carol Clark*

Interbranch Council (IBC)

Janet Theiss, IBC Representative

The **Interbranch Luncheon** will be a **Zoom meeting**
on **Saturday, February 6, 2021, at 11:30 a.m.** 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.

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

Follow us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/AAUW.MVYC

Check out our website: mvyca.aauw.net

Membership

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

If you have a friend who is interested in AAUW, invite them to one of our meetings. Please contact me for membership forms. Two new members joined since the last *Feather Vane*. Please add Karen and Terri to your Roster. Our membership count is now at 75!

Karen Villalobos, 464 Jones Road, Yuba City, CA 95991; 530.218.1909; khv0305@gmail.com (0305 are all digits). University of the Pacific, Ed.D.-Education. She was recruited by Bal Dhillon.

Terri Burroughs, 3484 LaPorte Road, Marysville, CA 95901; 530.743.6634; terri.burroughs@att.net. CSU Chico, BA in American Studies. She was recruited by Barbara Solheim and Martha Bunce.

MEET OUR NEW MEMBER Terri Burroughs

I am a native of Texas. My family lived in Houston before moving to Shaker Heights, Ohio, and Lafayette, California. I always returned to Texas to visit relatives during vacations. I loved country living.



In high school, I visited my sister in Yuba City on weekends. She was teaching Third Grade at Bridge Street School in Yuba City. I was often recruited to cut out letters for bulletin boards, make folder games for reading groups, or sort books in the class library. I discovered an interest for the future: Reading in elementary

grades. I followed my sister to Chico State.

When I graduated from college, there was a huge surplus of teachers in Northern California. I pivoted into agriculture business for a time. I found the perfect job in 1987, teaching Third Grade at Ella School in Olivehurst. By then, I was married to Mike Burroughs, and living the good life in District Ten.

I loved working with students and dedicated staff at Ella School. I pursued additional credentials in Special Education, and an Administrative credential. Eventually I worked for Yuba County Office of Education as a Program Specialist and SELPA Administrator. I had the opportunity

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to work with all of the district, county and regional programs. I retired in 2008.

I wasn't very good at retirement. Mr. Gadberry invited me to work a few hours each week at Wheatland High to help through a review process. I worked at WUHSD for the next ten years.

Today I work part-time as a Special Education teacher K-12 for CORE Charter School. I am glad to have the opportunity to work with students directly again. My main interest is transition planning for post-secondary education and employment. **Terri**



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 -- Jamie Ford--Author

A few years ago I came across a book that has stuck in my mind ever since, and I think that is the description of a good book, don't you? -- One that you can't forget. The subject matter of *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* is the Japanese internment on the West Coast during World War II. The story was handled in an interesting way, as seen through the eyes of two 12 year olds with flash backs from the early 1940s into 40 years into the future. The children are Henry Lee, a boy of Chinese heritage, and his school friend, Keiko, who with her family is sent off to the internment camp as Japanese were at that time of fear and mistrust in our history. The story happens NOT in California, which you may be familiar with, but in Seattle in the early war years. This novel brings the insecurity of that era to our consciousness, as seen from the children's perspective.



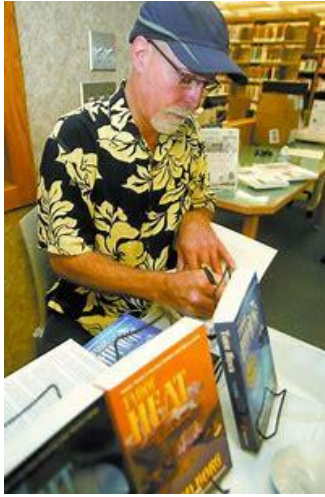
This was the first novel (written in 2009) by author **Jamie Ford** who grew up in Seattle's Chinatown. It is certainly worth a read if you haven't had the opportunity yet to do so. Or in my case, it is worth a re-read. I think I'll go and do that right now!

Review by Artis Buerki

Todd Borg – Author

I met **Todd Borg** and his artist wife, Kit Night, at their frame shop in 2001. He closed their shop after 27 years, became a fulltime author, and in August 2001 I attended his first book signing.

TAHOE DEATH FALL was excitedly received by Tahoe locals. Fourteen year old Jennifer had requested the assistance of detective Owen McKenna to find the murderer (on the West Shore) of her twin sister when she was 6. With the assistance of Owen's girlfriend Street, and his Great Dane Spot, he fights crime aided by his previous experience as retired police officer with SFPD. Farther into the series I could see how Todd's writings have matured from novice to a prize winning



author.

I recently pulled TAHOE CHASE (2013) off the shelf for a re-read and was again impressed with the suspense, intrigue, often brutal action and underlying humor of his books. Owen deals with a woman's boyfriend's abuse and his anger that results in several murders. Secrets are revealed, love and compassion displayed. Victim, Simonne, escapes her boyfriend to experience her freedom on a solo ski trek up into frozen Desolation Valley. Owen and Joe rush on a snow cat, riding across frigid Echo Lake and into Desolation to intersect the chasing murderer. If you know the Lake Tahoe area, you can visualize the action.

Owen, Spot and Street, assisted by witty friend police sergeant Diamond Martinez, and an aging ski racer Joe Rorvik, help solve this mystery set in and above Lake Tahoe. His many volumes (18 at last count) are all set in and around Tahoe area's shores, have shown great literary improvement from his first book, TAHOE FALL to his most recent TAHOE HIT (2019). What will be the plot of his next book, out August 2021? He refuses to tell.

Todd's mysteries, addressing unique adventures (scuba diving, sky diving, origami, anyone?) and causes like autism, art forgery, fear, and other human frailties, and his exquisite scenic descriptions recalling Sierra Nevada's gem - Lake Tahoe, always get my attention. He writes about real places, assuring that the descriptions are accurate, because the eyes and ears of the locals are paying attention! I support his efforts and buy his books because Todd and Kit are my friends. You can find out more about Todd Borg on his website, toddborg.com.

Review by Joan Young



You may have heard about the young inventor **Gitanjali Rao**, or you might have seen her on the cover of the December 3, 2020 Time Magazine. Gitanjali is the 15 year old from Lone Tree, Colorado who, just last month, was selected as the **2020 Kid of the Year**. This is a 'first ever' Kid of the Year award given by Time Magazine and Nickelodeon. She competed against about 5,000 other students, ages 8 to 16, with her inventions including a device to test the lead levels in water.



"I was inspired by the Flint, Michigan water crises where people were being poisoned by the lead that they didn't know was in their drinking water. And I thought there should be a simple way to solve that problem."

When she was 12 years old, Gitanjali entered a national science competition and was awarded a \$25,000 grant for her research. The tool she invented, called Tehys, uses carbon nanotube sensors to detect lead in water. She has recently developed an app, called Kindly, to detect cyber bullying. "You can type in a word or phrase to see if it is bullying, and it gives you the option to edit it out or send as is," she told Time Magazine.

"Focus on a problem that excites you," she suggested in a television interview. "As a girl of color I hope to inspire diversity in the STEM fields and encourage other girls to be brave and step out into fields they might otherwise ignore." To learn more about Gitanjali Rao, Kid of the Year, research her name on line. Thank you, **Linda Zall**, for bringing this young woman to my attention. This is one young woman to watch! *Artis Buerki, Editor*



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 about 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 an upcoming *Feather Vane*. This is just one more way to get to know each other during this time of staying at home.



The Journey

Constant companions
From the springtime of their youth
The girls clustered together as they always did
Whispering their secrets, gossiping in
The language no one else has learned.
Trembling in anticipation and excitement,
And some anxiety as they discuss the journey ahead.

Giddy with anticipation for the
Long awaited changes of the seasons.
Brilliantly awash with colors
That they never wore in their youth –
Scarlet, crimson, ochre, amber
So impressed with their boldness
Yet strangely embarrassed to be so arrayed.

Their lives had just been a process of becoming.

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Now they were fully realized,
Thin and fragile, holding on by a twig
To their former lives, their former selves.
They now appeared brilliant and glorious,
Each a masterpiece newly discovered and appreciated.
Yet they were as they always had been
In the artist's mind – perfect and significant.

As the sun sank lower they truly glowed, beautiful
In a way they had never been in their youth.
Confident in the knowledge they had gained
From a lifetime of sunny, summer hours,
Wet, and windy weather and harvest moons.
Experience had taught them their purpose,
They had seen their true worth.

They had provided life, shelter, comfort, and food
Inspired love and poetry from those around them,
Offered cooling shade and rest to weary travelers
Sang with joy whenever the soft breezes blew.
And now that the autumn winds make them tremble
They wore their new coats with pride and joy
And made ready for the journey ahead.

As the gusts grew stronger and the skies darkened
One by one they took their leave.
Letting go of their inhibitions and limitations
Setting off on the winds of change
To a new reality, a new purpose,
Whispering goodbye to her old companions
Each leaf setting off on a journey all her own.

Donna Long

INTEREST SECTIONS- All branch members are welcome to participate.



Secretary's Notes

Executive Council—December 10, 2020

Martha Bunce, Secretary pro tem

Present: Liz Skelly, Sandy Davini, Martha Bunce, Gwyn Baker, Janet Theiss, Nancy Johnston, and (MAL) Carol Clark, Linda Zall, Kathy Nehl, Joann Nixon
Meeting called to order at 1:05, minutes approved by consensus, no added agenda items. No information/action items on the agenda.

Reports: Council Leader -- Liz proposed surveying the membership re: format of meetings, etc. and possible partnering with other organizations. **Treasurer**-- Sandy reported no issues. Budget will be brought for revision at the next meeting. **Public Policy Chair** -- Martha noted that AAUW is asking members to contact Congress to pass new pandemic relief legislation. **Membership**-- Lee was not in attendance: we have 75 dues paid members. **Bylaws** – Artis was not in attendance. **Communications** – Janet reminded us the FV deadline is Dec 16 (15 is better), Joan Young had a letter to the editor published in the Appeal Democrat, and the Roster has been mailed out to all members.

Programs – Gwyn noted that January, February, March are set. April is in the works. All meetings will be by Zoom. She suggested we try to determine whether members who are not attending Zoom are planning to. Information about the general meetings will be in the AD with a phone number to call for Zoom link information.

Projects—STEM (Sandy) in person conference was canceled several months ago, and a plan to offer a video or two of STEM careers was planned. However, this option is probably not viable. **Garden Tour** (Martha) is probably not going to be held on May 1 due to pandemic orders. We might be able to do it in June or July, depending on how effective the effort to control the spread has been. **Tech Trek** (Carol) in person was canceled by AAUW CA, and a virtual camp is being offered. The cost is \$400 per girl and each participating branch must provide a mentor for each enrolled girl (5 days, 8am to 9pm). As our fund raiser is in jeopardy and the mentor requirement is not feasible for us, Council regretfully voted (m/s/c Davini/Nehl/unanimous) not to participate this year. **TEM** (Joann) will put articles in the FV. **Scholarship** (Liz) no report as Yuba College offices are closed.

Interbranch (Janet) will meet via Zoom on January 11, 2021. No report from Historian. Sunshine – two members will receive cards. Coalition Drawing (Kathy, Linda Z) not being held this year. No other business. Agenda item for next meeting – budget revision to reflect decreased revenue and expenses.

Feather Vane Staff
Artis Buerki, Editor and email distribution – artisb@comcast.net
Joann Nixon, Mailing and Proofing
Joann Nixon, Photographer
Janet Theiss, Communications Leader

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.**

TEM Report -- December 15, 2020 - It was fun meeting the 2020 Tech Trek recipients when Carol Clark and I presented them with the book the branch members provided for them: Women in Science: 50 Fearless Pioneers Who Changed the World.

I asked about things they have been doing. Of course, on-line school is a big part of their day. One girl said the only place she goes is to the grocery store. A couple of the girls that know each other from school do Face Time. One of the girls said she was on the school basketball and volley ball teams when school was in session and another was playing competitive soccer, and one girl even wore her Tech Trek shirt that day that we'd given her. In one home the girl was helping younger children with on line school. These are well rounded girls and no doubt were active in many activities. They are very resilient in these tough times as you can see by their bright smiling faces. We reassured them that as soon as we can, we will have a pizza party for their 2020 team so they can meet each other. I can't wait for us to plan a party with the girls. They deserve it! *Joann Nixon*



Isabella Cortez, Riverside Meadows



Harleen Dosanjh, Butte Vista School, with Carol Clark



Avneet Jande, Barry Elementary



Tavleen Kaur, Barry Elementary



Marcella Marquez, Butte Vista, with Carol Clark



Hadassah Moore, CORE Charter School



Top 5 member webinars of 2020

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic brought unprecedented economic uncertainty, devastating public health consequences and sweeping social distancing measures to curb the spread of the virus. The crisis upended how we live, educate and work.

While we were unable to meet in person this year, our virtual programming made it possible for us to connect with more AAUW members and supporters than ever before.

In all, we hosted 35 free webinars and virtual events, extending our reach to more than 18,000 people. As this challenging year draws to a close, we are proud of everything we accomplished together, thanks to the generous support of AAUW members, allies and corporate partners.

We look forward to creating more virtual opportunities in 2021. In the meantime, we thought you might want to check out—or revisit—the top 5 member webinars in 2020:

[Holding Space: How to Start and Continue Conversations on Race, Equity and Inclusion](#) AAUW Fellow alumna Dr. Taharee Jackson leads this conversation on why being able to talk about race is critical to achieving equity.

[Interview with Diane Rehm](#) CEO Kim Churches talks with renowned radio host and author Diane Rehm about how she has managed to remain resilient in the face of challenges and loss.

[Archeology of the Self: Sustaining Racial Literacy in the Movement for Change](#) AAUW Fellow alumna Yolanda Sealy-Ruiz takes us on a collective journey of the “Archeology of the Self” — an action-oriented process requiring love, humility, reflection and a commitment to working against racial injustice.

[Is Your Perspective Inclusive?](#) Lisette Garcia, Ph.D., Pamela Fuller and Sheila Amo explore unconscious bias and what it means to have an inclusive perspective.

[Perspectives from the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund: Justice Ginsburg’s Legacy and the Future of the Court](#) AAUW’s Public Policy team discusses Justice Ginsburg’s legacy and AAUW’s role in shaping history.

Wishing you all the best for a safe, healthy and prosperous new year,

Nichia P. McFarlane

**Engagement Associate, Advancement & Partnerships
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Artis Buerki, Editor

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To find us on line just CTRL+LEFT CLICK on any of these underlined links
 Our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/AAUW.MVYC/>
 Our branch website: <http://mvyca.aauw.net/>
 AAUW California: www.aauw-ca.org/ AAUW National: www.aauw.org

JANUARY, 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 	2
3	4	5 Via email Talking on Paper	6	7 11 am Zoom or email Garden Tour Committee	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 10 am, Zoom or email STEM Committee 1 pm, Zoom Executive Council	15 Via email Book Clubs	16 10 am Zoom Branch Meeting Protecting Yourself in a Cyber World
17	18	19	20 DEADLINE FEBRUARY FEATHER VANE	21 TBD Traveling Gourmet	22	23
24 -----	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

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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**) _____ \$ _____