



# *Feather Vane – February, 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, Feb. 11, 2021, 1 pm, via Zoom. Contact is Liz Skelly, 530-635-0821. Tell Liz, or any EC member, if you want to join the Executive Council and attend EC meetings as a Member at Large.**

## *Program Notes*

**February 20, 2021--10 a.m.**

*Speaker -- Dr. Tawny Dotson, Yuba College*

Our next branch meeting will be Saturday, Feb. 20, at 10 a.m. 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 Thursday, Feb. 18, please email Gwyn Baker, gdcaryl@yahoo.com, to receive it.



Our guest speaker will be **Dr. Tawny Dotson** who is the new President of Yuba College since July 2020. She began her career as an active duty Air Force Officer at Beale Air Force Base. After transitioning off active duty, she worked at post-secondary education institutions in Oklahoma, Washington, and California. She has served as a guest lecturer and adjunct faculty in

Marketing, Photography, Communication Studies, and College Success. Her career includes serving as Director, Special Assistant to the President, Chief of Staff, and Vice President before her present role at Yuba College.

Dr. Dotson holds a BA from Washington State University, an MA from the University of Missouri, and her EdD from Oregon State University is in Community College Leadership. She is an Aspen Institute Rising Presidents Fellow. She also continues to serve in the California Air National Guard as a Lieutenant Colonel. We look forward to visiting with her at our February 20 branch meeting on Zoom. *Gwyn Baker, Program Leader*

## *Interbranch Council (IBC)*

**February 6, 2021--1:00 p.m.**

*Speaker – Kathleen Harper, AAUW-CA*

The Feb. 6 Interbranch Luncheon will be a Zoom meeting at 1:00 p.m. (Time change is because we aren't having lunch together.) **Kathleen Harper, AAUW-CA Public Policy**



**Co-Director** (shown here) will tell us what new programs have been developed by AAUW California's Public Policy Committee. These include AAUW's policies relating to issues of race and how local branches can reach out to

develop relationships and recruit new members, working together to eliminate racial divisions in our state. Do join this Zoom meeting! The final IBC meeting, Monday, May 3, 2021, will be Zoom unless we are out of these COVID times. *Janet Theiss, IBC Representative*



## *Council Chat*

We had a great turnout for our January Branch meeting on January 16th—about 30 members! The speaker, Rhonda Cameron, was very informative and we had a lot of

questions (and answers) regarding cybersecurity.

For starters, I zeroed in on several of the cyber threats Rhonda discussed: hackers, phishing, and computer viruses. You need to check with your internet provider to see what type of cyber protection they provide. I'm with Comcast/Xfinity and they provide Norton free of charge. I found out that having two virus protections is not a good idea so I have deleted one of them since they will "fight" with each other and will not get the job done. Be sure to run your "scans" frequently. Rhonda runs her scans daily. Another thing I learned is that you can get rid of those darn

ads that show up by turning on your pop up blocker! You need to have long passwords including numbers, letters and special characters and I change mine every few months just to be safe. As for social media like Face Book, be sure to not include your birth year on your profile. Not only do we not need to let our “friends” know our age but it can be used by hackers. Make sure any site you go to has “https” in the URL (the “s” means it’s secure).

Above all, do NOT respond to unsolicited phone calls or emails. I had a very real looking email from Amazon about my Prime membership but you need to look at the URL (address) to ensure it’s valid. Also, I get emails from PayPal saying my account is frozen so I do not click on their link but rather go directly to the website and check it out (FYI, it’s not frozen). Furthermore, delete the email and then delete it from the “trash”.

All in all, a great meeting and a big Thank You to Rhonda for spending her morning with us. Next month we have Dr. Tawny Dotson, President of Yuba College, as our speaker so be sure to join us on Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. Happy Valentine’s Day to all! *Liz Skelly, Exec. Council Leader*



## Tea Bag Fundraiser

In February, each of our branch members will receive a tea bag in the mail, and a letter explaining our annual Education and Training Tea Bag Fundraiser. Your donations support opportunities for women. Please participate in this event by writing a check for \$15 or more to: AAUW and write ET-#4450 in the memo line.

**Mail your check to AAUW, PO Box 3031, Yuba City, CA 95992, by March 15, 2021.** Total donations of \$750 will allow us to designate a branch member for the AAUW National Award for outstanding service: the Education and Training Opportunities Named Gift Honoree Award. If you have any questions contact our Treasurer, Sandy Davini.

## Two Charter Members of our Branch -- Dorothy Jang and Beverly Balfour

Last year two Charter members of our branch, Beverly Balfour and Dorothy Jang, were Named Honorees for 2019-2020. Both women lived and worked in the Yuba-Sutter area until they retired out of the area to be closer to their families. Several years ago I interviewed both of these wonderful women.

**Dorothy Jang** is now living in San Francisco. Her parents migrated from China before Dorothy was born, and they settled in San Francisco where her father and his two brothers had a seafood business. Dorothy graduated in 1949 from UC Berkeley with a Business Administration degree.

“At that time, there were 10 times more men than women studying business administration at Berkeley, partially due to the reentry of men to education after WWII,” she said. She was the first person in her family to achieve a Bachelor’s degree. Soon married, Dorothy moved to Marysville where she and her husband, Woodrow Jang, owned Jays at 520 D Street until 1965, always working together. But Dorothy missed the intellectual stimulation of University life, and when **Mary Elizabeth Shedd** started the new AAUW branch, Dorothy recognized it as an opportunity to work with like-minded women toward a common goal of encouraging higher education for women and girls.

The newly organized AAUW Marysville-Yuba City branch, was chartered mid-year 1955. That same year AAUW supported the first federal legislative proposal for pay equity for women, and established the AAUW Educational Foundation. Over the 65 years, Dorothy has always been an active member of our branch attending monthly meetings and supporting our fundraisers. Even though Dorothy lives away now, she keeps in contact each time when she receives the *Feather Vane* by email.

**Beverly Balfour** now lives in Thousand Oaks. She is a graduate of Carleton College in Minnesota, where she earned a degree in Sociology in 1949. She grew up in Grand Haven, Michigan, in a family that placed great value on education. Her father was a doctor, and her mother a nurse. Her brother became a doctor, and all of her sisters completed their college education and two chose medical careers.

Beverly moved to Yuba City in 1953, and was invited by **Virginia Pierce** to become a member of the newly established AAUW Marysville-Yuba City Branch. At the time Beverly had two young children and was expecting another. Then the flood came.

“Our home in Yuba City was under six feet of water in the flood,” Beverly said, “and my graduation information got wet. I needed either a transcript or a diploma to join the new AAUW branch, so I had to rely on my mother to send to me what I needed from home.”

With due diligence and an attitude to go forward with the plan, Beverly located the necessary paperwork and joined as a charter member of the branch. Until her move to Thousand Oaks, Beverly was active in our branch as a garden hostess for the Garden Tours, and she said she always enjoyed the Bridge groups, and Traveling Gourmet.

*Artis Buerki, Editor*

## **Moving Toward a Diverse Organization --AAUW Board of Directors Statement on Open Membership**

January 11, 2021 -- The AAUW National Board of Directors strongly supports elimination of the degree requirement for membership and will put the requirement up for a membership vote this spring. This important change is a critical step in bringing AAUW's bylaws and membership requirement in line with our mission of advancing equity for women and girls. While AAUW is fiercely committed to educational attainment for all women, given our commitment to inclusion, this is simply the right thing to do.

Proposals to eliminate the degree requirement for membership have come before the membership for vote a number of times. The Board feels very strongly that, while the degree requirement made perfect sense at AAUW's inception, this requirement is now counter to our mission and limits our ability to build the capacity needed to increase our impact as an organization.



Members can comment on the proposed amendment from January 11 through February 5, 2021, 5:00 p.m. ET.  
**Voting will open on April 7 and close May 17, 2021, 5:00 p.m. ET.**

We encourage respectful debate, which has always been a hallmark of the AAUW community. Please send any [comments](#) to let the Board know of your thoughts on this proposal and exercise your vote this spring. For more information: [Open Membership Toolkit - AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](#)



## **Membership Report**

*Lee Jones, Membership Leader, 530-674-1942, Cell 530-300-0214, or email [lee@harkeyhouse.com](mailto:lee@harkeyhouse.com).*

Membership now stands at 75. If you have a friend who is interested, please invite them to attend a branch meeting, and contact me for an application. Currently everyone with an AA or higher degree is eligible to join our AAUW branch. We welcome new members even during this time of holding our meetings by Zoom, and we look forward to in-person meetings sometime soon.

## **AAUW Art Contest – How Voting Works**

The art contest winners are chosen by AAUW members. The images that receive the most votes will appear on note cards that are mailed to tens of thousands of AAUW



members across the country. **The voting period is February 10 – March 3, 2021.** Use this link to vote: [Art Contest – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](#) You can vote only once, but vote for your 10 favorite images. This year our member, **Marilyn Warmee**, has entered this beautiful nature painting.

## **Garden Tour Report**

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

The Garden Tour Committee met on January 7, and has decided that we cannot continue to plan a Garden Tour for May 1, 2021. The situation with the Covid pandemic is still too unknown, and it is prudent to make the decision now to cancel this, our only fund raiser, the second year in a row. This of course impacts our financial position significantly, but with the cancellation of the STEM Conference and Tech Trek projects, outgo is controlled significantly to carry us through this year with the prospect of a successful and enthusiastic support of a Garden Tour in May of 2022.

## **STEM Conference Report**

*Sandy Davini, STEM Chair*

As we reported in the December Feather Vane, AAUW had to cancel our long-held STEM Conference for 8th grade girls again this year due to the pandemic. We had hoped that in lieu of the conference we would be able to distribute educational videos to the schools. Unfortunately we have encountered too many issues with unwanted advertisements and copyright issues to make this plan feasible.

We sincerely hope to bring the AAUW STEM Conference back in 2022. The STEM Committee will meet on May 13, at 10 am to take a first look at possibilities for the 2021-2022 school year. Please contact Sandy by email, [ddavini@comcast.net](mailto:ddavini@comcast.net), if you wish to participate on the STEM Committee.

**Unity: For the strength of the Pack is the Wolf,  
and the strength of the Wolf is the Pack.**

*Rudyard Kipling* (quote contributed by Joan Young)

# Tech Trek Report



Carol Clark, Tech Trek Co-Chair

Here is what some of the girls said about the book that we gave to each of our 2020 Tech Trek girls at Christmastime, Women in Science: 50 Fearless Pioneers Who Changed the World

“I thought this book was very interesting. It was exciting learning about how women made such big differences to the people around them. I especially found very interesting the part in the Introduction about how Emmy Noether was also a genius mathematician along with Albert Einstein. I did not know this. I have just always heard Albert Einstein. Now that I know this, next time I will think Emmy Noether and Albert Einstein. Learning that all of these women came from normal homes, some even poor, gives me hope that I can learn and make a difference.”  
**Avneet Jande, Barry Elementary School**



“First of all I loved the book. It was really cool to read all about these women that had a great impact on the STEM field. I liked learning about how these women were able to overcome the fact that they worked in a male dominated space.



One woman in particular stood out to me and that is a psychoanalyst named Karen Horney. I think it’s really bold of her to point out flaws in the Freudian theory that, at the time, were the basis of women psychology. She was able to create her own field of feminist psychology and I just think that is so cool. It makes me more curious and I want to learn more about social psychology and its impact on women in the STEM field. Thank you again for the book. I really enjoyed reading it over Christmas break.”

**Marcella Marquez, Butte Vista School**

“The book, Women in Science, showed me that there are many women who have achieved life changing events in the field of STEM. Although I enjoyed reading about all the women, my favorite person to read about was Valentina Tereshkova. It was empowering to know that she was the first and youngest woman to go to Space. She had fallen and gotten hurt but recovered, and that showed me that we are strong. It was motivating to read all the stories. I also really enjoyed the book because at the bottom of each story it was followed by an empowering quote directly from the women. This book taught me that women can do anything they set their minds to. I can be successful in the STEM field and I feel more empowered after having read the book. Thank you for this special gift and thank you for continuing to include us despite not being able to meet in person due to COVID.”  
**Izabella Cortez, Riverside Meadows School**



“During Winter Break, I was able to read an inspiring and eye opening book called “Women In Science: 50 Fearless Pioneers Who Changed The World.” This book has shown me that Women are just as capable as anybody else and have changed the world in many



ways. The book has many great stories about ordinary women who were able to change science forever. One who stood out to me was Hedy Lamar. She was an amazing actress who had a secret workshop behind the scenes. Her work is used for wifi, bluetooth, and more. After reading about the hard working and talented women who went on to do great things, I am inspired to one day become as courageous and hard working as them.”  
**Tavleen Kaur, Barry Elementary School**

“Hello! Thank you so much for the book, I appreciate it very much! Although I have not completed reading the entire book, I have really enjoyed it so far! The design of the book is really intriguing and enjoyable with fun facts and short, but in-depth text. Something about the book that really stood out to me was, even if there were, for example, two women that were geologists, both had different interests and discoveries while being in the same field. One specific woman that really interested me was Elizabeth Blackwell. Her story was really admirable and encouraging because this is the career that I am planning on going into. She had a major breakthrough for women because she became the first woman in America to receive a medical degree, and this was a huge milestone! Elizabeth Blackwell also was one of the first, not just women but men as well, to recognize that



good hygiene could prevent the spread of diseases such as typhus. This book is encouraging to young girls, like me, to see just how much women have accomplished in the past, and will accomplish in years to come! I would highly recommend this book for this reason. Thank you again!”

**Hadassah Moore**, CORE Charter School

“I decided to write about May-Britt Moser because her story interested me the most. I hope you like my summary.

In 1963, a young girl with the name of May-Britt Moser was born in Norway. Although her parents never went to college, her mother encouraged her to follow her dreams and become a doctor. May-Britt decided to study psychology at the University of Oslo, where she became close with a boy named Edvard Moser. After working



together they decided to get married and became lab partners. May-Britt was a very curious individual. One time she asked her professor while studying lab rats, “Can you go into the brain?” In 1995, Edvard and May-Britt both graduated with PhD neurophysiology, and set off on a journey to make a discovery.

The couple wanted to learn how to understand the human brain better.

They monitored the brains of rats as they went through mazes, and discovered a new type of nerve cell, called grid cells, in 2005. This cell formed in the entorhinal cortex and interacted with place cells in the hippocampus. In their

experiment they found that a “coordinate” map was created out of these grid cells as the rats in the experiment ran through mazes. These cells are known to help people and animals remember important things such as places and events that happened in the past. Grid cells are crucial to memory, and when they are damaged they greatly affect one's memory and process of thought. Normally they cause people to become forgetful. Understanding how these cells work can help aid in treating memory-related illnesses such as Alzheimer's. Both May-Britt Moser and Edvard Moser paved a new pathway in the field of neuroscience by understanding the way the brain processes knowledge through grid cells. May-Britt Moser was one of the few women to dive into the depths of neurophysiology. She is a great example of female representation in the STEM field. She and her husband also won a Nobel Prize for medicine and physiology in 2014. May-Britt still continues to learn more about the human brain and how it functions at the age of fifty-eight. **Harleen Dosanjh**, Butte Vista School

## TEM (Tech Trek Alumni)

The TEM Committee is making phone contact with the TEM Teams to confirm accurate contact information and to remain in touch. We are keeping track of four years now. The 2017 girls are juniors in High School. They are planning career goals and preparing for college choices. They will need to be ready to send in applications about this time next year. One of our 2017 TEM Team, **Muskaan Wadhwa**, lives in Rocklin now. However, we are still able to keep in touch.



Muskaan is shown here when she was at Tech Trek camp in 2017. She is interested in Medical School, thinking of UCLA Pre Med. She watched a webinar that we offered to the girls and found it interesting. Muskaan wants to keep in touch with AAUW because she knows we have resources. The TEM Program is quite new and in the process of development. It is exciting keeping in touch with the Teams and being part of their journey. Let me know if you are interested in joining the Committee.

*Joann, Nixon, TEM Coordinator, 530-680-0359*

**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](mailto: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 Paulette Almeida, 415-5588.**

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



**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. We're all about having fun, sharing and inspiration. **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, and we will notify you when we meet again.**



Tell us about a book or an author that you like, or send us your story or poem 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](mailto:artisb@comcast.net) before the 15<sup>th</sup> of any month.

**Getting Old-(er)**

*by Anonymous, contributed by Barbara Douyon*

Just a line to say I'm living  
That I'm not among the dead,  
Though I'm getting more forgetful  
And more "mixed-up" in my head.

I've got used to my arthritis  
To those "brown spots" I'm resigned,  
I can manage my bifocals,  
But, dear God, I miss my mind!

For sometimes I can't remember  
When I stand at the foot of the stair  
If I must go up for something  
Or, I've just come down from there.

And before the fridge, so often  
My poor mind is filled with doubt;  
Have I just put food away,  
Or have I come to take some out?

And there's time when it is dark  
With my nightcap on my head  
I'm not sure if I'm retiring  
Or just getting out of bed.

So, if I'm due to write to you,  
There's no need for getting sore.  
I may think that I have written  
And don't want to be a bore.

So, remember, I DO LOVE YOU  
And I wish that you were near  
But now it's nearly mailing time  
So, I'll just say, "Goodbye, dear."

Here I stand beside my mailbox  
With a face so very red  
Instead of mailing you this letter,  
I just opened it instead.

###



# Secretary's Notes

*Nancy Johnston, Secretary*

## AAUW Executive Council Meeting January 14, 2021 – 1:00 p.m.

Those in attendance were the following: Liz Skelly, Executive Council Leader; Gwyn Baker, Programs; Sandra Davini, Treasurer; Lee Jones, Membership; Janet Theiss, Communications; Martha Bunce, Projects; Artis Buerki, By-Laws; Nancy Johnston, Secretary. Members at Large present were: Joann Nixon, Carol Clark, Linda Zall, Joan Young, Christy Estabrook, Barbara Alves

**Call to Order, 1:05 p.m. Information/Action Items:** Last month's minutes were approved by all. Janet Theiss sent out a reminder for the Branch meeting on Tuesday and Friday, this week prior to the branch meeting.

### Reports from Executive Council

EC Leader's Report: Liz Skelly reported on the change to membership requirement proposed by AAUW. Martha elaborated on the issue. See Public Policy Advocacy below.

Correspondences: Nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report/Amended 20-21 Budget: Sandra Davini reported on the 2021 budget items that were cut due to lack of fund raising. Our bank balance after the cuts on 6/30/21 drops from \$5,890.71 to \$3,845.71. Martha moved to accept the revised budget and accept the balance below \$5000. Joan Young seconded. All attendees approved the motion.

Public Policy, Advocacy: Martha Bunce: AAUW national sent an email explaining an issue which is up for vote in the spring. Originally, in 1881, women with a university degree could join, currently women and men with an AA or higher degree can join. New policy, if approved by members in spring election, will allow anyone to become members. The AAUW National Board believe it's time for a change, and with the emphasis on inclusion now, would like to broaden the admission rules to allow anyone to become members who shares the belief in our AAUW mission, "to advance equity for women & girls". The February *Feather Vane* has a write up on this issue.

Membership: Lee Jones: It was reported that our current membership is 75. Christy Estabrook was appointed today as a Member at Large of the Executive Council.

Bylaws: Artis Buerki reported we need a report from the nominating committee to the EC by February EC meeting. Martha, Gwyn, Lee.

Communications: Janet Theiss sent out first reminder for Saturday's branch meeting. Check your Junk mail if you don't find it. Artis Buerki reported the deadline is January 22nd for

articles to appear in the February 2021 *Feather Vane*. Joan Young reported she and her committee called all the members that do not have internet access, and they are typically not interested in attending the branch Zoom meetings, but do like to chat and keep in touch. The calling committee will continue to call them.

Programs: Gwyn Baker reported she will set up a meeting soon to make a recommendation to the EC for a May speaker.

Projects: Martha Bunce

**GARDEN TOUR:** Martha Bunce reported the Garden Tour is cancelled for 2021. AAUW CA has not yet given their approval for in person meetings.

**STEM conference.** Sandra Davini reported we are not going to create a video for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade kids to watch due to the commercials contained within. We will send an email to the schools and let them know we will continue with the STEM conference as soon as possible.

**TECH TREK:** Carol Clark reported she's gotten 3 girls write ups on the books they received from us. She's contacting the other girls. The write ups will be in the February *Feather Vane*.

**TEAM OF EXTRAORDINARY MINDS (TEM):** Joann Nixon reported she received an email from the State AAUW on Cyber Security and the jobs available. She passed the information on to the TEM girls. She also received an email which states the group we call TEM is being called K (keeping) I (in) T (touch) at the state level. She's looking into changing our TEM team name to KIT.

**SCHOLARSHIPS:** Nothing to report.

**Other Reports:** Interbranch— Next meeting 2/6 at 1pm via Zoom. Historian—Karen Tuttle: no report. Sunshine— Gretchen Cupp: no report Coalition Drawing – has been cancelled. Other Business – Nothing to report.

**Future Agenda Items:** Nominating Committee report.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Johnston, Secretary

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

## Happy Valentine's Day!

### **Feather Vane Staff**

Artis Buerki, Editor and email distribution – [artisb@comcast.net](mailto:artisb@comcast.net)  
Joan Young, Mailing and Proofing  
Joann Nixon, Photographer  
Janet Theiss, Communications Leader



FEATHER VANE

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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://mvyc-ca.aauw.net/>  
 AAUW California: [www.aauw-ca.org/](http://www.aauw-ca.org/) AAUW National: [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

## FEBRUARY, 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Via email <b>Talking on Paper</b>	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 1 pm, Zoom <b>Executive Council</b>	12	13
14 <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i> 	15	16	17	18	19 Via email <b>Book Clubs</b>	20 10 AM Zoom <b>BRANCH MEETING</b>
21	22 <b>DEADLINE NEXT FEATHER VANE</b>	23	24	25 TBD <b>Traveling Gourmet</b>	26	27
28						





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