



Feather Vane, MAY-JUNE, 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, **May 13**, 1 pm, via Zoom. **June 10** is the Planning Meeting for next year. We hope to meet in person, location TBD. All members are welcome to attend. For details contact Liz Skelly, 530-635-0821.

Program Notes

Gwyn Baker, Program Leader

MAY 15, 2021 – 10 am via Zoom

Julie Shuffield., Casa de Esperanza



Our special guest at the May 15 branch meeting will be Julie Gill Shuffield who is the President of the Board for Casa de Esperanza. Julie is also the President of Power of 100, immediate Past President of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission, and one of the founders of Back the Badge. Julie said

that her greatest accomplishment is her two amazing children. Addison and Grayson drive her every day to make her community and industry better than she found it. Julie is proudly married to a member of a local law enforcement agency.

She is also President of Sutter Buttes Advisors, a consulting firm focused on working with clients for their regulatory, governmental affairs, public relations and communications needs. Julie spent 5 years working at the Sutter County District Attorney's Office. Since then, Julie has focused on electric infrastructure for more than 20 years - starting at the California Independent System Operator for 10 years before joining AES, a global Fortune 200 power company for 10 years. We look forward to hearing from Julie on May 15 as she brings us up to date on Casa de Esperanza.

Nominating Committee Report, by Martha Bunce, Gwyn Baker, and Lee Jones

The vote of the membership of the Marysville-Yuba City Branch of AAUW is unanimous. The slate is elected. Thanks to Janet Theiss for coordinating the voting. She reports that this method was very successful as more members voted than at in-person meetings. Thank you to these women who agreed to stand for election to office. Their new terms will begin on July 1, 2021:

Sandy Davini -Treasurer (one year)

Lee Jones - Executive Council (three years)

Christy Estabrook - Executive Council (three years)

Gwyn Baker - Executive Council (three years)



Council Chat

Liz Skelly, Executive Council Leader

Welcome to our last *Feather Vane* before the summer hiatus. I know I'm looking forward to some summer travels as are others. Being fully vaccinated brings some peace of mind although I still wear my mask and keep my distance. Whether it's a big trip, camping or traveling to see family I hope everyone has an enjoyable summer and stays healthy. Then, we're back at it again in September.

We had about 20 members Zoom in for our April 17 branch meeting. Our speaker was awesome! "Kay" (the pseudo-name I've given her to respect her under-cover status) was a very self-motivated individual from an early age. She felt her calling to be a firefighter when most teenagers are worried about proms and such. She enrolled in the Fire Explorer program at age 15 (the program is open to young adults ages 14 – 21) to learn first-hand what it means to be a firefighter, and later became an advisor for the program as her way of giving back.

Working as a seasonal Cal Fire firefighter, a Heli tack firefighter, she loaded tankers, worked for the fire departments in the city of Coachella, transferred to Riverside County, and then San Diego. After three years as a permanent employee she was promoted to Engineer, thereafter taking the test for Captain and decided to pursue the law enforcement side of Cal Fire (which I didn't even know existed!). She has coordinated the fire law enforcement academy at lone and still teaches arson investigation. Now this talented woman is a Battalion Chief and one of just 164 Cal-Fire law enforcement officers in the State of California. She gave us some insight on how they investigate arson cases. Definitely a person who had a goal in mind, she worked hard to achieve it, and is quite an example to us all.

On May 15 our branch meeting speaker will be Julie Shuffield, who will let us know what's going on with Casa de Esperanza. Mark your calendar! Remember we don't have a June branch meeting this year.

Don't forget to vote for both the State and National elections that are due in May (see page 2). It's super simple to do, just click the links in the emails and click on a couple of boxes and you're done. Dues are also due for next year so don't forget to send those to the PO Box (see page 2). We're hopeful that we can resume in-person meetings by fall so it's important that you maintain your membership. It will be fun to see everyone again!



AAUW National Election

APRIL 7 to MAY 17

I just voted, and it was easy.

If you haven't voted yet, there is still time.

EVERY VOTE COUNTS -- Voting opened on April 7 and will close May 17, 2021, 2:00 p.m. PDT. If you have an email on file with AAUW, you will receive an email with a link to the ballot.

Members will vote regarding a membership requirement that creates a barrier to those who share our mission of equality for all women and girls, but who do not hold a college degree. By eliminating the college degree requirements, AAUW can become a more diverse and inclusive organization and be better aligned with its mission and needs of women today.

IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO VOTE BY EMAIL, you can request a paper ballot by phoning 202-785-7700 before April 17. Paper ballots must be postmarked by April 30 to be counted.



Congrats 2021-22 Fellows and Grantees

AAUW is excited to announce nearly \$5 million in funding to more than 260 awardees for AAUW's 2021-22 [Fellowships and Grants](#). The exceptional recipients will pursue academic

work and lead innovative community projects to empower women and girls. Applicants were notified by email on April 15.



AAUW California Election – VOTE BY EMAIL UNTIL MAY 7.

By now you will have received an email ballot from [AAUW California](#) for the election of officers, approval of the changes in bylaws, and Public Policy. **VOTE NOW.**



Your Annual Membership Dues are DUE

Mail your check written to AAUW for \$95 (\$62 AAUW National + \$20 AAUW CA + \$13 branch) **to AAUW, PO Box 3031, Yuba City, CA 95992.**

FREE MEMBERSHIP DRAWING --Dues that are postmarked by June 7 will be entered in the DRAWING FOR A FREE MEMBERSHIP for 2021-22 dues. Winner's name will be drawn at June 10 Executive Council Meeting. If you have questions, please contact our Treasurer, Sandy Davini, 530-713-1390.

MEMBERSHIP

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

I am happy to report that we have gained 7 new members this branch year. I hope that you have had a chance to meet **Terri Burroughs, Louise Miller, Amy Molina-Jones, Debbie Naylor, Miriam Root, Joyce Smith, and Karen Villalobos**, and have read their new member bios in our *Feather Vanes* this year. Read about Karen in today's issue. We are pleased to see new members join our branch even during this time of holding our meetings by Zoom, and we look forward to hopefully having in-person meetings when we resume in September. AAUW normally goes dark during the summer, so **May 15** is our final branch meeting for this AAUW year. Watch your emails for the link to the Zoom meeting. Some of the Interest Groups may continue to meet in the summer. **Your membership dues are now due. (See the article on this page for details)** Our branch membership now stands at 77. If you have a friend who is interested, please invite them to attend a branch meeting, and contact me for an application.

Meet new member--Karen Villalobos

Karen Villalobos joined our branch early this year. She was recruited by Bal Dhillon. Karen is a graduate of University of Pacific where she earned a doctorate in Education Administration. She also holds a BA and Masters in International Relations from CSU Chico.

"I love gardening and my work in education has supported my focus on underprivileged youth," Karen said.

She is currently Superintendent and Principal of Twin Rivers Charter School. Karen says that she is especially interested in the Tech Trek program. If you haven't already met Karen, please make her feel welcome.



Happy Birthday to **Miriam Hatamiya** (May), **June Wilcox** (June), **Lisa Mikel** (July), **Roberta D'Arcy** (July), **Corky Ulrey** (July), and **Marianne Heenan** (August).

TEM Committee

Joann Nixon

The TEM Committee contacted the four current years of Tech Trek girls, that we are actively following (2017, 2018, 2019, 2020). We sent each of them a link to the **2021 Virtual North Bay Science Discovery Day**. It was a full day of outstanding STEM programs the girls could choose to watch. We are pleased that one of the 2018 Tech Trek Team, **Abi Thompson**, was



able to watch programs of her choice. Abi responded that she “was able to watch two of the webinars and they were very interesting and informative, thank you for bringing this opportunity to our attention!” We were happy to recognize her participation with a Jamba juice gift card. Way to go Abi, we look forward to keeping in touch and forwarding other opportunities.



Here is the 2018 TEM Team. They are the girls who attended Tech Trek from our branch that year. Shown L to R: Trinity Gomez (Brittan School), Chloe Nguyen (Butte Vista), Lydia Donaldson (Paragon Collegiate Academy), Abigayle (Abi) Thompson (Barry School),

Natalie Buzzini (Butte Vista), and Latoya Green (Paragon Collegiate Academy). Absent: Larissa Fecceu (Foothill Intermediate School) *Photo by Joann Nixon*



Helping our Sisters in Service

Joan Young

My daughter, Christy Estabrook, reminded me of a Soroptimist request in a previous edition of the Appeal Democrat for clothing and personal needs, as well as encouraging and uplifting notes to go into backpacks. These backpacks will be given to women and girls who have been victims of human trafficking.

Since Tuesday, April 6, was our AAUW Talking on Paper (T.O.P.) writing group meeting, seven of us wrote on 31 note cards, all with personal uplifting and inspiring messages for these victims of abuse. Christy and I then took a large envelope full of these messages to the old Kmart parking lot on Gray Avenue in Yuba City on Wednesday afternoon to where Soroptimists were taking donations from the public.

Our arrival was enthusiastically welcomed and applauded by many young Soroptimist women waiting to accept donations. Two ladies came to our car where we explained what that packet we were giving them represented, and we told them that we were from AAUW’s writing group, T.O.P. They were greatly impressed by our efforts and were grateful for our thoughtful project on their and the victims’ behalf. Although these two ladies weren’t familiar with AAUW, we gave them a quick description of AAUW’s mission and told them that we also help support Girls on the Run, and attended the combined Women’s Coalition Holiday Brunch of Soroptimist and AAUW members and other women’s clubs held at Peach Tree Country Club in pre-Covid times.

Christy and I drove away high spirited, knowing our group of AAUW writers had made new friends.

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Editor's Note: Cindy Gaven is one of our branch's talented artist members, who has participated in most of the recent Garden Tours as an Artist in the Gardens. I asked Cindy to send me one of her favorite paintings. Doesn't this make you want to see more of her work?

I live on a 2 acre walnut orchard, and there are beautiful wild chickens along my street...all left behind years ago by a neighbor who moved. They frequent all of our yards along the street. This is my watercolor of some of the blond hens pecking around in a bark pile in my back yard. *Cindy Gaven*

The following is a story by one of our branch's creative writers, Donna Long. You might remember reading her poem of Vaccination Celebration last month and The Journey about falling leaves in the January Feather Vane. I can't wait to see what Donna will write next.

The Secret Lives of Inanimate Objects (or Pandemic Ponderings)

Donna Long

For many years I have been mentally recording observations of a number of inanimate objects around my home. Their lives, which often go unnoticed by many, contain many mysteries and strange rituals which have often fascinated and puzzled me.

Take dust bunnies for an example. Many people do not notice them for a long while, and when they do are all too quick to haul out the electric dust bunny exterminator and have done with them. But upon closer observation, they are quite effective community organizers. Lightly skipping across the floor at the slightest puff of air, they gather every like-minded speck of dust, crumb, hair and particle and hurry to a secret location to hold a rally. Usually their meetings are held under a sofa, table or bed, however corners

are also popular meeting sites. Many other bunny splinter groups somehow find the same location (although my observations have not yet revealed how they communicate with each other) and they join in the convention. Sadly, their lives, once discovered, end up in a dustpan all too soon.

Another common object that comes to mind is the pencil. Each room in the house may have a desk, holder, cup or jar filled with freshly sharpened pencils, and yet when one is needed, the desk, holder, cup, or jar is empty. What causes them to migrate to unknown regions is still a mystery to me. They do not appear to be ambulatory or have wings, and yet they are usually missing. Their least favorite locations seem to be the cup next to the telephone or by the grocery list. I can only assume that they suffer from social anxiety when they disappear.

Almost everyone has observed the peculiar mating habits of socks. While normally inclined to mate for life, the washing machine and the dryer have been fatal to many a sock relationship. Sometimes the sock spouse never returns, leaving his/her partner to languish in the drawer haunted by unanswered questions. Where did he/she go? Will he/she ever come back? However, in other cases, the outcome is much happier, as the errant partner is returned after being discovered snuggled up inside a pair of pajama pants.

Many inanimate objects have issues with population density. Clothes hangers for example. Two hangers left alone in a dark closet have pups frequently. If left unchecked, the large hanger pack that results will resort to in-fighting and hostilities, leaving the pack members tangled, bent and maimed. Coins seek the darkness at the bottom of a purse to reproduce. Magazines and junk mail will congregate and destroy your habitat unless you frequently thin the herd.

Studying these common inanimate objects may result in startling insights, however more questions than answers will arise. But one thing is certain, I certainly amused myself for a time in writing about this topic.



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 before the 15th of any month.

INTEREST SECTIONS- All branch members are welcome to participate.

ADVOCACY & ACTION

To receive advocacy and action alerts by email, **Contact Martha Bunce, buncehall@yahoo.com**



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.**




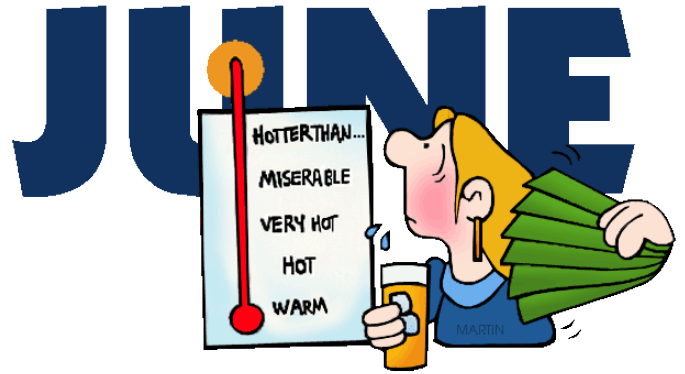
BRIDGE As our AAUW bridge group has gotten older we have morphed into more of a community bridge group. We play at the Marysville Art Club twice a month. **Anyone interested in playing please contact Jan Wallace, 743-1060.**



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.**

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.**

 **Sunshine Callers** - if you want to help our calling committee by contacting one or more of our members on a regular basis, please get in touch with Joan Young, 713-1279, and she will assign a member of our branch to you. This will help us stay in touch with our less mobile or computer savvy members, especially during this time of being apart.



Find AAUW on Facebook



“The things that make me different are the things that make me, me.”

Piglet

“Sometimes the smallest things take up the most room in your heart.”

Winnie the Pooh



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/ AAUW National: www.aauw.org



Secretary's Notes

Nancy Johnston, Secretary

AAUW Executive Council Mtg.--April 8, 2021, 1:00 p.m.

Those in attendance were: Liz Skelly, Executive Council Leader; Gwyn Baker, Programs; Sandy Davini, Treasurer; Lee Jones, Membership; Artis Buerki, By-Laws. Members at Large present were: Joann Nixon, Joan Young, Christy Estabrook, Carol Clark, Linda Zall, Kathy Nehl

Call to Order, 1:04 p.m.

The March 11 minutes were approved.

Information/Action Items -- Action was taken to approve the addition of a May branch meeting. Action was taken to approve the deletion of the June branch meeting.

Reports from Executive Council

EC Leader's Report: Liz asked where EC should meet for our June planning meeting. Suggestions were to meet at Greenwood Park, Sandy's house, Liz's house or Martha's house. The park has no restroom facilities and it would be difficult to hear. Sandy said her backyard would be rather "close". Liz wasn't sure if there was enough shade at her house. The distance to Martha's house was an issue for several members. This will be discussed further at the May EC meeting.

Correspondences: Sandy reported there was only one item that had come in the mail.

Treasurer's Report: Sandy reported very little change to the Treasurers Report. She said she wanted to pay the two memberships (Mary Aaron Museum and Sutter County Museum) but hold up on the donations until discussion at the May meeting. The membership payments were approved. We received \$1,060 in Tea Bag donations but checks are sent directly to Washington D.C. so there is a delay in the checks being cashed. She did not want to institute monthly payments or the use of credit cards for payment of dues. Sandy said the Budget Committee (Sandy, Liz, Joann) would meet prior to the May Exec Council meeting.

Public Policy, Advocacy: No report.

Membership: Lee Jones reported our membership remains at 77 with no new memberships this month.

Nominating Committee: Gwyn will get in touch with Janet regarding the results of the voting and will forward the information to Artis for the Feather Vane.

Bylaws: No report.

Communications: Artis said the deadline for articles for the May/June Feather Vane is Monday, April 19.

Joan said the Talking on Paper group had written some notes of inspiration that she presented to the Soroptimist organization when they held their Prevent Human Trafficking backpack event. The notes would be put in the backpacks.

Lee asked if it would be possible to just do an update to our Roster rather than print the entire roster. It was decided that this approach is more labor intensive so we will continue with the current process. Discussion about moving the roster file to Nancy or Artis to relieve Janet.

Programs: Gwyn reported we will have the Cal Fire representative at the April 17 branch meeting. Artis volunteered to send the Zoom invitation out for the branch meeting. Our May branch meeting will feature Julie Shuffield representing Casa de Esperanza. Sandy will host the May 15 Zoom branch meeting since Liz will be traveling that day. The Program Committee wants to continue the 10 a.m. meeting structure with a brunch (if possible). Discussion ensued about in person meetings and meeting locations. Sandy will touch bases with Nancy about exploring possible meeting sites. Gwyn said the Program Committee will meet May 6.

Projects: STEM: Sandy reported she has set up a STEM meeting for May 13, 2021 at 10:00 to begin discussing the possibilities for next year's STEM conference.

Garden Tour: No report.

Tech Trek: No report.

TEM: Joann said she is receiving things from the State AAUW and sending them to the TEM girls.

Scholarships: No report.

Other Reports -- Interbranch— No report. Historian— Karen Tuttle: No report. Sunshine—Gretchen Cupp: No report. Coalition Drawing – Kathy/Linda: The December event is currently being planned. Other Business – Next EC meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2021.

Respectfully submitted, Liz Skelly for Sec'y Nancy Johnston

STEM Conference Report

Sandy Davini, STEM Chair

We sincerely hope to bring the AAUW STEM Conference back in 2022. The STEM Committee will meet on **May 13 at 10 am** to discuss possible locations and scale for the 2021-2022 school year. Please contact Sandy by email, ddavini@comcast.net, if you wish to participate on the STEM Committee.

INTERBRANCH COUNCIL (IBC)

Janet Theiss, IBC Representative

The next quarterly IBC meetings are **May 3 at 6 pm** and **August 2 at 6 pm**. Both are Zoom meetings.

Email Janet and copy Liz Skelly if you want to attend and receive the Zoom link. If the meetings go back to in-person, you'll be told when you contact us.

Paycheck Fairness Act -- The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Paycheck Fairness Act in a 217-210 bipartisan vote on **April 15th**. As the legislation heads to the U.S. Senate, supporters need to double down on their efforts to get this critical law across the finish line. As the COVID-19



pandemic rages on causing record unemployment and housing crises, women and the families who depend on their income are disproportionately bearing the brunt. And the compounding injustices of sexism and racism are exacerbating these issues by widening the already yawning gender pay gap. This is unacceptable, and it is past time for Congress to act to stop it.

Feather Vane Staff

Artis Buerki, Editor and email distribution, artisb@comcast.net
Joan Young, Mailing and Proofing
Joann Nixon, Photographer
Janet Theiss, Communications Leader

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

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_____ 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**) _____ \$ _____



FEATHER VANE




Artis Buerki, Editor

P.O. Box 334, Sutter, CA 95982



MAY-JUNE, 2021

This is the last Feather Vane until September. Next FV deadline is August 15, 2021.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 
2	3 6 pm, Zoom IBC meeting	4 TBD Talking on Paper	5	6 TBD Program Com	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 10 am STEM Com. 1 pm, Zoom Executive Council	14	15 10 AM Zoom BRANCH MEETING
16	17	18	19	20	21 TBD Book Clubs	22
23	24	25	26	27 TBD Traveling Gourmet	28	29
30	31	1 	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 PLANNING MEETING/ all members are welcome.	11	12 Happy Summer 

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