



Feather Vane – DECEMBER, 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, DEC 9, 1 pm. LOCATION TBD.** Contact is Liz Skelly, 530-635-0821. Tell Liz, or any EC member, if you want to attend Executive Council meetings and be appointed an EC Member at Large for a year.



COALITION BRUNCH—DEC. 4 Brunch buffet, Raffles, Entertainment

Bring socks and toiletries for Hands of Hope. This is our only branch meeting in December.

WHEN: Saturday, December 4, 2021

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

**WHERE: Peach Tree Country Club,
2043 Simpson Dantoni Road, Maryville**

COST: \$25, RESERVATIONS REQUIRED by Nov. 20—Contact Sandy Davini 530-713-1390 if you have mailed in your reservations and you don't know if your reservation has been received yet. Space is limited and payable in advance. See Coalition flyer in the Oct. and Nov. *Feather Vanes*. See Coalition history on page 2 of this *Feather Vane*.



Council Chat

Liz Skelly, Executive Council Leader

We had the best turnout ever for our November 20 branch meeting! Basically a full house. The Program Committee outdid themselves—asking the superintendents from Marysville Jt. Unified School District and Yuba City Unified School District to tell us how their respective districts have survived the challenges due to the pandemic and the impact on student learning. **Dr. Fal Asrani** is the new superintendent for MJUSD, hailing from southern California, and **Doreen Osumi** is the superintendent for YCUSD. Both women surprisingly had similar beginnings in their careers, having started in Special

Education and Speech Pathology. Very dynamic women indeed and it was a pleasure to meet them.

The speakers were asked three questions and each given time to respond plus some questions from the members at the end. Both districts had similar responses to the questions and indicated the pandemic highlighted the need to



shift the focus from an emphasis on academics to looking at the socio-emotional side of the whole child/family, a finding

they already knew but one that became very evident as time progressed. Additionally, teachers were forced to embrace technology at a whole new level and move away from the traditional pencil and paper.



We're all aware of teacher fatigue and the difficulty they experienced in

switching back and forth from in-person teaching to on-line teaching plus dealing with COVID-related issues in the classroom. And, of course, we all know the staffing shortages that are besetting the districts (both Ms. Osumi and Dr. Asrani did some recruiting at the meeting!). But the news wasn't all negative, some positive outcomes noted were that staff came together and became problem solvers, and technology was embraced now more than ever.

While some students suffered learning loss, the impact which will be felt over the next decade, others flourished. Bottom line, learning and teaching will look much different in the future.

I want to remind everyone that there is no branch meeting in December due to the Coalition Brunch so our next branch meeting is January 15th.

I want to wish all our members a happy holiday and good health. Enjoy your time with your loved ones!

SCHOLARSHIP WINNER -- AAUW/YC Women's Club had one \$500 scholarship to award this year at Yuba College. The selection is **Sara Johnson**. She is a Vet Tech student and taking 15-16 units a semester. Her GPA is 3.73 and she submitted her transcripts and a letter of recommendation. I believe she embodies the mission of AAUW and am hopeful she can attain her goal of becoming a Veterinarian.

Did you know?

The Women's Coalition began in 1993 with an idea from our long time member, **Barbara Palsler**, who was branch president that year. The idea was that we have a joint event with other local women's service clubs sharing the expense and the planning of a nice holiday brunch while enjoying some networking time together and learning about other clubs. Thus the Coalition was born.

Other Coalition projects over the years followed, **Linden Reynolds** said, including the Women's History Month program for the schools and an International Women's program. **Barbara McCarty** said that there was a Children's Art Contest at the Yuba City Mall in the early years of the Coalition that local schools were involved in, and we purchased women's history books for the libraries for years.

Today, this elegant morning at the Club, provides an opportunity to network with like-minded women (and men) from these six local organizations: Delta Kappa Gamma Society/Iota Sigma branch; Soroptimist International of Marysville-Yuba City; Marysville Art Club; Bridges to Housing; P.E.O. VU; and our AAUW branch. We will collect socks and toiletries for HANDS OF HOPE, hear some holiday music, and meet old friends and make new ones. Each group will hold a drawing to raise funds for their club projects. See you at the Brunch.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our all of our members with December birthdays including **Barbara Douyon, Christy Estabrook, and Donna Long**

What do you know that you'd like to share in the next *Feather Vane*? When is YOUR birthday? Tell all. Contact Artis Buerki by 15th of the month, artisb@comcast.net

DONATIONS are still NEEDED for the DECEMBER 4 COALITION BRUNCH DRAWING TABLE –

Please contact us right away if you have donations for our AAUW Drawing. Need \$\$\$ to fill in the baskets and wrap them. See Nov. *Feather Vane* for needed items or call us very soon to see what we need. We want to have this 'wrapped up' by **December 2** at the very latest. Contact *Linda Zall, 530-713-0552* or *Kathy Nehl, 530-632-6050*

Garden Tour -- Martha Bunce, GT Chair

We are on track to hold the Garden Tour on May 7, 2022! There is a lot of pent up energy and enthusiasm for the tour, and we think it will be one of the best ever. Please remember that members will be asked to purchase at least two tickets (You can give them as Christmas presents! Just put a lovely picture of a garden plus a hand written voucher for one - or two - tickets into a Christmas card!) The next committee meeting is **Dec. 2 at 10:30 a.m.**

Tech Trek --Carol Clark, Tech Trek Chair

We will just be sending four girls to camp this coming summer. We've heard they are raising the price, but it hasn't been decided yet. To be on the safe-side, we've cut our request by two. Let me know if you're interested in helping with the application and essay process. Also those of you who are on the Interview committee and the Essay reading committee, please let me know if you are still willing to stay on those committees. Contact Carol, 530-671-5286 or 530-301-2164, to find out more.

Interbranch Council (IBC) --Liz Skelly, IBC Rep.

The Interbranch Council meets quarterly, and all members are welcome to join us. There are three evening meetings and one lunch time meeting during the year. IBC is made up of Gridley, Oroville, Chico Paradise, and Marysville-Yuba City branches. Contact Liz, 530-635-0821 about **February IBC luncheon date and location.**

STEM Career Awareness Conference

Sandy Davini, STEM Chair

The STEM Committee is moving forward with a scaled-down STEM Career Awareness Conference for 8th grade students, to be held at Yuba College on Monday, March 28, 2022. We'll need help from many of our members. More details will be available as plans progress. The STEM Committee will meet on **Thurs., Dec. 9, 11:00 am via Zoom**. Please contact Sandy by email if you wish to participate on the STEM Committee. ddavini@comcast.net,

Membership Report – Lee Jones,

Membership Leader, 530-674-1942, c/ 530-300-0214, or email lee@harkeyhouse.com

If you have a friend who is interested, please invite them to attend a branch meeting, and contact me for an application. We always welcome new members.

Roster corrections: **Terri Burroughs'** phone number on pg. 13 should be 530-743-6634. It is correct on pg 11.

Barbara Douyon's new home phone number is 530-870-9729. Her cell number remains the same.

In October **Tanna Thomas** joined our branch and was recruited by Joyce Smith. Her story follows. On November 20, three more wonderful women joined. They are: **Betty Bonner, Mary Mayfield,** and **Jennifer Jones**. Look for their new member stories in the next *Feather Vane*, and please add this information to your Roster now:

Jennifer Jones is renewing after a 1-year break. Here's her info from 2019: 1700 Del Lago, Yuba City, CA 95991; 530.713.6234; jenbjones33@gmail.com; CSU Sacramento-Masters of Physical Therapy.

Betty Bonner is a retired Yuba College Nursing Instructor. 920 Brentwood Dr., Yuba City, CA 95991; 530.301.2265; bettyboo6419@att.net; Univ of Ariz Tucson-Bachelors of Nursing (BSN); CSU Chico Masters of Nursing (MSN). Betty is also a member of DKG, Iota Sigma and is interested in book clubs and gourmet lunches.

Mary Mayfield is interested in luncheons, dinners, reading, gardens. 1338 Hunn Road, #17, Yuba City, CA 95991; 530.755.0116 or c/530.591.0336
marymay22@comcast.net; CSU Chico-Bachelor of Arts.

Tanna Thomas, 1532 Germaine Drive, Yuba City, CA 95993; 530-751-2234; tanna.thomas@comcast.net
Yuba College, AA Business Administration.



Meet our new member Tanna Thomas

I grew up in Oroville, CA, graduated from Las Plumas High School, married, and moved to Yuba City in 1970. I have one son, he and his family also live in Yuba City.

I worked 34 years for the Yuba Community College District in numerous positions including Student Registration, Public Information, Public Events, and Curriculum and Scheduling Technician, before retiring as the Instructional Support Analyst in 2010.

I have been a member of the California School Employees Association (CSEA) since 1976 and served in various capacities at the state level for more than 25 years. I am currently a member of CSEA's Retiree Unit.

In 2006 I was appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger to serve on the California Community Colleges System Board of Governors and was appointed to additional 4-year term in 2008. During my service on the Board I served as vice chair of the Student Services and Special Programs committee, vice chair of the committee on Equity, Diversity and Human Resources, Board Budget Liaison, and chair of the Joint Advisory Committee on Career and Technical Education. I am very proud to have successfully initiated and then helped develop the Board of Governors Annual Community College Classified Employee of the Year awards program.

After retirement I shifted my focus from higher education to learning about the interests and needs of older adults and how I could be an advocate. I served 4 years on the Sutter County Commission on Aging, and the Yuba City Senior Commission for the past 8 years, currently serving as chairperson. Additionally, I am a member of the 7 county regional Agency on Aging Area 4 Advisory Council. My other interests include traveling and exploring within the United States, and spending time with friends and family members.

INTEREST SECTIONS- All branch members are welcome to participate.



TRAVELING GOURMET

Travelling Gourmet is back. We are meeting on the 4th Thursday in January, and we are going to Fats in Roseville. As usual, we will carpool. If you're uncomfortable with that because of COVID, you're welcome to meet us at Fats at 11:30. If you are carpooling, we will meet by 10:30 in front of the old Round Table Restaurant on Gray Avenue. I would ask that everyone be fully vaccinated as we are still dealing with COVID.

I will be the host for January, and my co-chair for Traveling Gourmet, Christy Estabrook, will host the luncheon on the fourth Thursday in February. I'll bring a sign-up sheet to in January for hosting. We choose restaurants within an hour traveling time such as Chico, Grass Valley, Davis, and Sacramento/Roseville.

Please let me know if you are willing to drive. The driver is paid \$5.00 by each passenger so the bigger the car, the more money you make.

I had a sign-up list for TG at the Branch Meeting, but if you weren't there and still want to participate, let me know. You don't have to go to every luncheon, and if you are hesitant at this time, you can still sign up on the TG list for later. Call me if you have any questions. **Carol Clark, 530-301-2164.**

New ideas: ARE YOU INTERESTED?

Would you like to be a part of a **late afternoon or early evening book club? Dinner group? Other evening group?** Chico has a group called Whine and Dine (that's right, whine as in.....you got it.) Here's an opportunity for our working members to meet up after work. Please contact **Linda Zall, 530-713-0552** if this appeals to you.

Would you like to restart the **Movie Group** and go to a movie matinee in Yuba City once a month? Contact **Artis Buerki, 530-671-5665** if you can help pick the movies for the next couple of months. This group recommends Covid vaccines and booster for everyone attending the indoor movie theater.

ADVOCACY & ACTION



To receive advocacy and action alerts by email, contact **Martha Bunce, 530-743-0306, or email buncehall@yahoo.com** and ask her to add you to her email contact list.



BOOK CLUBS

Book Explorers Book Club normally meets at 10 am the third Friday of the month. Contact is **Paulette Almeida, 530-415-5588.**

Rabid Readers Book Club -- Interested in books? The Rabid Readers continue to meet on the third Friday of the month at 10:00 a.m. for a lively discussion about a book (and maybe more). At the November 19 meeting, we discussed the book, When the Apricots Bloom by Gina Wilkinson, our December meeting, and our plans for reading during the first few months of the New Year. For more information, contact **Linda Zall, 530-713.0552 or email lindazall66@gmail.com**



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, 530-743-1060.**



TALKING ON PAPER, the fun-filled writing group of Marysville-Yuba City branch, welcomes new members who like to write (poetry, personal experiences, historical items, humor, travel stories, etc.) two typed pages (for brevity) to share their stories with our T.O.P. members. On **December 14** we will meet at Yuba City's Senior Center on Ashley Avenue, arriving around 9:30 for socializing with meeting beginning at 10 am. Questions? Call **Joan Young 530-713-1279.**

BOOKS I'VE ENJOYED



Waiting To Be Heard

(pub. 2015) by Amanda Knox

This book is a 'cannot put it down' type of book. Amanda Knox was a young (age 20), typical lady raised in Seattle, Washington. After about 2

years at the University of Washington she decided to study Italian at a university in Perugia, Italy. She arrived in Perugia late summer 2007 and rented a room with another young lady named Meredith Kercher who was from Great Britain. They were friends but not super close friends. Tragically, Meredith was murdered in their apartment November, 2007. Needless to say Amanda was immediately a person of interest. And there were other persons of interest such as Amanda's Italian boyfriend of 1 week Raffaele and a drifter kind of guy named Rudy Guede.

Unfortunately for Amanda she was very intensely interrogated by the local Perugia police without legal representation and, as a result, kind of unraveled. She implicated another person of interest as the killer -- a man named Patrick -- who had absolutely nothing to do with the crime. Patrick was the owner of a local tavern where Amanda worked for awhile on a part time basis. Subsequently she was arrested as a participant in the murder and ended up spending almost 4 years in an Italian prison. You can imagine how a young lady from another country who did not commit murder nor was not involved in any way in the death of her roommate dealt with the situation. Worse than a nightmare! The prosecution's case was Amanda, Raffaele, and Rudy all were participants in Kercher's murder via a sex game/encounter that went horribly wrong. Amanda was convicted and sentenced to 26 years in prison. Same for her former boyfriend Raffaele. Rudy was sentenced to 30 plus years but, inexplicably, had his sentence reduced in half to 16 years.

After about 2 years the Italian version of an appellate court ruled that Amanda and Raffaele were not guilty and innocent of the murder. So Amanda flew home to Seattle to start her life again. Then nightmare no. 2 arises. Another Italian court threw out the appellate acquittal and re-convicted Knox. Sentenced her to 28 years in prison. Needless to say, Amanda had numerous attorneys involved by that time who would have vigorously fought extradition but, in the meantime, the very highest Italian court in 2015

ruled that she was innocent of the crime and thus exonerated forever.

It is a fascinating read! As a postscript I noticed that Amanda Knox -- who is 34 years of age now -- just had a baby daughter. Amanda is a writer in Seattle and also is involved with an organization that helps and supports people all over who are wrongly accused and convicted of crimes that they did not commit.

Review by Steve Clark

Where to buy cheap books

I love CLARK HOWARD, the consumer guru, and listen to his podcasts and receive his newsletters. I also love to read and I belong to the AAUW Reading Group, **The Rabid Readers**. I don't love the fact that there are so few bookstores, especially used bookstores, in this part of California. So when I saw that Clark's latest newsletter contained an article on "Where To Buy Cheap Books," I was excited.

He said that 10 of the Best Places to Buy Cheap Books are: Abe Books, Alibris, Amazon, Better World Books, Biblio, Books-A-Million, Daedalus Books, Half Price Books, Powell's Books and Thriftbooks. For each of these, he includes information about the price range of the books sold, shipping costs, and the types of books they have --new, used, recent best-sellers, textbooks, etc.

Other information is included. For example, for every book they sell, Better World Books donates a free book to someone in need. Libraries are a good resource for books, but if you are a book lover, and one of those who prefers to own your own copy, check out this website: <https://clark.com/save-money/where-to-buy-cheap-books/>

Review by Pat Jones



Secretary's Notes

**AAUW Executive Council Meeting
November 18, 2021 – 1:00 p.m.
Annex 1, Sutter Co. Supt. of Schools**

Those in attendance: Liz Skelly, Executive Council Leader; Sandy Davini, Treasurer; Martha Bunce, Public Policy; Christy Estabrook, Bylaws; Linda Zall, Communications; Gwyn Baker, Program; MAL: Carol Clark, Debbie Naylor, Kathy Nehl, Joan Young.

Call to Order, 1:03 p.m. The October 14, 2021 minutes were approved by consensus.

Information/Action Items: There are still no volunteers to take over the Secretary vacancy even though Artis is actively recruiting, so Liz agreed to continue to do the "notes".

Reports from Executive Council

EC Leader's Report: Comments will fall under agenda items.

Correspondence: Sandy said she had received a donation request from the Master Chorale.

Treasurer's Report: Sandy reported that there has been very little activity and we remain in good shape fiscally.

Public Policy, Advocacy: No report.

Membership: Lee was not in attendance but it was reported that we have 71 members, including Tanna Thomas and Steve Clark and there will be two additional members at the branch meeting.

Nominating Committee: No report.

Bylaws: Christy reported she reviewed the bylaws and a quorum is five leaders.

Communications: Feather Vane: Linda reported that Artis said November 22 was the deadline to submit articles to the Feather Vane. Reservations: Joan reported that she and her helpers have made contact with members regarding the Branch meeting on Saturday. Gwyn is handling the emails. Roster: No report.

Programs: Gwyn said that the Appeal-Democrat press will be at the November branch meeting. The speakers are Doreen Osumi (YCUSD) and Dr. Fal Asrani (MJUSD). There was concern that outsiders may try to attend due to the topic and speakers but the

committee has developed questions to keep the program on track. The next Program Committee meeting is December 2 after the Garden Tour meeting.

Projects:

STEM: Sandy said March 28, 2022, is the date of the STEM conference at Yuba College. We will follow whatever COVID guidelines are in existence at the time and the schools are responsible for overseeing student vaccination status. The conference will be limited to the first 400 students who respond. There will be no campus tour and Liz has not heard back from the college food service regarding lunch. Liz and Martha are meeting with Dr. Dotson on December 14.

Garden Tour: Martha said the Garden Tour is a "go" for May 7, 2022. She has at least six gardens (and more!). Since Janet is no longer active, she is trying to have others fill in her duties. Judy Zukas is also inactive but Carol said she and Steve will fill in for Judy.

Tech Trek: Carol said she still needs someone to co-chair Tech Trek. She also needs a computer person to assist her plus help with grading essays and applications. It was agreed that due to the projected increase in cost (from \$900 to possible \$1,500) that we only send four students (instead of six). The State AAUW is requiring that we select a second choice for a campus. UC Davis is our first choice and Sonoma State is our second choice. Carol would like the contact information for the schools from Janet Van Alstyne and Barbara Alves so she can contact the 7th grade teachers.

TEM: No report.

Scholarships: Liz reported that we have one \$500 scholarship to award and she is reviewing 63 applicants. Leslie Williams and Barbara Alves were unable to help during the time frame so she is going to select a candidate by herself. EC members said we should not award to anyone who did not submit a complete application to include a transcript or a letter of recommendation.

Other Reports Interbranch— Liz reported she was unable to attend the November 3 IBC meeting so she has no information on the February luncheon. Our branch is responsible for registration.

Historian—Karen Tuttle: No report.

Sunshine—Gretchen Cupp: No report.

Coalition Drawing – Linda and Kathy are working on donations for the Coalition Brunch drawing. Kathy has received some items for a garden basket from Bald Mountain Nursery. Discussion ensued about whether all donations should come from EC members and/or business donations. Debbie volunteered to help sell tickets at the Brunch.

Other Business – An item was requested to be put on today’s agenda: Processes and calendars for EC positions. However,

there was not time to address this item so it will be put on the December agenda. Meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Liz Skelly, substitute Secretary

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

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**) _____ \$ _____

Women who have helped change the world – these are worth repeating



Malala Yousafzai (b1997-Pakistan) is the youngest ever Nobel Prize recipient. She was author of I Am Malala about her experiences in a near fatal Taliban attack while advocating education for girls. She is now studying in Britain where she lives with her exiled family.



Mother Teresa (1910-1997) was an Albanian Indian Catholic Nun and missionary who worked with the poor people on the streets of Calcutta. She is honored in the Catholic Church as Saint Teresa of Calcutta, and was canonized by Pope Frances in 2016.



Helen Keller (1880-1968), was an author and a disability rights activist. Born in Alabama, she became blind as a very young child. She went on to attend Radcliff College of Harvard University and was the first deaf and blind person to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree. During her lifetime she toured the U.S. and 35 countries advocating for those with vision problems.



FEATHER VANE, Artis Buerki, Editor

P.O. Box 334, Sutter, CA 95982

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

DECEMBER, 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 10:30 am GARDEN TOUR COM. TBD PROGRAM COM.	3	4 9:30 am COALITION HOLIDAY BRUNCH
5	6	7	8	9 11 am STEM COM. 1 pm EXECUTIVE COUNCIL	10	11
12	13	14 10 am TALKING ON PAPER	15	16	17 TBD BOOK CLUBS	18
19	20 DEADLINE FEATHER VANE	21	22	23	24	 25
26	27	28	29	30	31 	

We are all wonder women!



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