



# FEATHER VANE, August/September 2023

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

The Executive Council meets Thursday, Sept. 14, 1 p.m. Contact is Martha Bunce, 530-713-0663. Tell Martha or any EC member if you want to attend Executive Council meetings and be appointed as an EC Member-at-Large.

## BRANCH MEETING – SEPT. 16

When: Saturday, September 16

Time: 10 a.m. Door opens at 9:30

Where: Hillcrest Catering, 210 Julie Drive, Yuba City (on the back side of the Hillcrest Plaza Mall)

Speakers: 2023 Tech Trek girls

Menu: Lunch Buffet following speaker

Cost: \$20. RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED (pay at meeting/no cancellations) Tell your emailer (Gwyn Baker) or your caller (Joan Young). if you are coming, YES or NO, by the Monday prior to the meeting. Not sure you have confirmed reservations? Contact Gwyn Baker, 530-632-4336.



2023 Tech Trekkers are (L-R) Mia, Ravneet, Turan, Olivia, and Violeta. They will be our speakers at the September 16 branch meeting. Here they are on May 12 at the get-acquainted pizza party in Kelly Swanson’s backyard before they attended July Tech Trek camp. photo by Joann Nixon.

- Mia Magallon**, Butte Vista School (Sutter County)
  - Ravneet Pabla**, Riverbend Elementary School (Sutter County)
  - Turan Welcome**, Aero STEM Academy (Sutter County)
  - Olivia Marquez**, Twin Rivers Charter School (Sutter County)
  - Violeta Gentry-Morales**, Yuba Environmental Science Charter Academy (Yuba County)
- (Editor’s note: See thank you letters from girls on back pages of this *Feather Vane*.)

## Program Notes by Gwyn Baker

Welcome back! The September 16 speakers will be our newest Tech Trek girls, and they may be joined by some of the members of TTAG (Tech Trek Alumni Group).

Other programs planned for this year include the following. All meetings are on Saturday mornings.

### Mark your calendars now:

- October 21 – Kelly Evans, Farmer
- November 18 – Jenna McKaye, Human Trafficking
- December 9– Coalition Holiday Brunch at Peach Tree
- January– no branch meeting because of STEM Conference
- February 17 – speaker TBA
- March 16 – Gretchen Cupp, Yuba Sutter Domestic Animal Disaster Assistance (YSDADA)
- April 20 – Annual meeting, speaker TBA
- May – no branch meeting because of Garden Tour
- June 1 – speaker TBA

## Council Chat by Martha Bunce

In June, our Branch meeting featured Ameya Scanlon, who described the role of Tri County Diversity, a 501c3 non-profit group engaged in organizing activities, peer support, resources, education and social events for and about LGBTQ+ in the Y-S area. She referred feelingly to the over 450 laws that have been passed nationwide restricting rights, education, freedom, and privacy of LGBTQ+ people. AAUW California’s Public Policy priorities include “...equity for women and girls through advocacy... consistent with our values of achieving fair and equitable opportunities for our diverse society.” A complete discussion of what these policies promote, enhance and ensure can be found in this link:

<https://www.aauw-ca.org/2023-proposed-public-policy-priorities> .

I don't know if you saw the same campaign posters for the last local school board elections that I saw -- at least one promised, "I will protect your children." This sounds like a strong and narrow agenda about what facts should and should not be taught -- what facts? We have a golden opportunity to be allies of our friends, neighbors, relatives, and acquaintances in our LGBTQ+ community by joining AAUW California branches in a statewide, branch-based effort to ensure that local school boards' policies and actions reflect our priorities to advance equity for women and girls. AAUW-CA is partnering with *Equality Coalition*, whose mission is to free schools from book banning and curriculum censorship. Local AAUW branches will be asked to help select qualified candidates in NON-PARTISAN school board elections and to endorse qualified candidates in an effort to provide quality, factual education for all students. For more information about the "School Board Project" see this link: <https://www.aauw-ca.org/aauw-california-public-policy-committee-launches-the-school-board-project/>. I look forward to AAUW Maryville-Yuba City's participation in this project. It's a policy based, nonpartisan effort that fits right into our local mission "To advance equity for women and girls through education and networking within our diverse community."

(editor's note) You can find the article announcing the launch of the School Board Project [HERE](#). Included at the bottom of the article is a link to the recording of a presentation that Kathi Harper made on June 25, 2023, to the Los Angeles Interbranch Council (IBC) explaining the issue, the project, and how AAUW California members can help.



**THANK YOU** – Thank you to Ameya Scanlon for her presentation about Tri-County Diversity at our June 3 branch meeting. *Photo by Mary Mayfield*



**Tenacious Twins** – Here is Joyce Smith receiving her award for being the #1 ticket seller of 2023 Garden Tour tickets while Martha Bunce looks on. *Photo by Mary Mayfield*



These TTAG (Tech Trek Alumni Group) members joined our new Tech Trekkers at the get-acquainted pizza party at Kelly's home on May 12. *photo by Joann Nixon*

TTAG members from TT2018 and TT2019 are shown here with their mentor, Joann Nixon, at the May 12 pizza party. Abi, Latoya, Lydia, Chloe, and Madie. That's Joann in the center. *photo by Donna Long*



**VISIT OUR BRANCH WEBSITE:**  
[mvyc-ca.aauw.net](http://mvyc-ca.aauw.net)



A quick check in from our two junior counselors at Tech Trek camp in July. (R) Muskaan Wadhava, (TT2017) and (L) Chloe Nguyen (TT2018) "We are so happy to be here," they said.

## Here's a look at how these TTAG members are excelling

**TTAG Feather Vane Report: June 2023.**

by Joann Nixon 2018 Advisor

I contacted the 2018 TTAG Team by text this month. They graduated from high school, and I asked what their plans are for this fall. Four Team members are continuing their education at Yuba College and most of them are connected to each other on Instagram social media.

**Latoya Green**, excelling in dance. She is dancing in the Alvin Ailey Theater in New York this summer. Future goals, major in dance with double major in Biology.

**Lydia Donaldson** plans to transfer to UC Davis, interested in Clinical Lab Science.

**Abi Thompson**, tentative plans to transfer to UC Davis.

**Larissa Fecue** is studying for a realtor license this summer to support herself in college, career goal is "exploring finance or maybe considering law."

**Chloe Nguyen** has been accepted to UC Irvine.

**Trinity Gomez** has been accepted at the U of Arizona; she will be pursuing a Bachelors in RN (nursing) to transfer to PA (Physician Assistant). She will continue her love of volleyball and play collegiate ball.

**Natalie Buzzin** is working as a summer camp staff/leader for Yuba City Parks and Rec. In the fall she will be attending UC Santa Barbara for Computer Engineering and has a goal of interning at the Yuba Water Agency, etc.

**Aemi Thompson** (TT2016) has been accepted at UC Davis for the fall.

We are so proud of these young women that have strong career goals. It all started when their teachers recommended them, and they followed through with an essay and an interview to be selected for Tech Trek UC Davis summer camp, They have amazing careers ahead. We will keep in touch.

## Interview with Tech Trek Junior Counselor Muskaan Wadhava

by Julie Goldwyn

Joann Nixon and I had lunch with Muskaan Wadhava at the Four Sisters Café in Roseville on Wednesday, July 19, 2023. Muskaan Wadhava (TTAG 2017) and Chole Nguyen (TTAG 2018) were both junior counselors at the 2023 Tech Trek camp at UC Davis from 7/10/23-7/14/23. Muskaan shared that there were nine junior counselors and two senior counselors.

Each junior counselor was responsible for ten girls who had just completed 7<sup>th</sup> grade. The girls in her group were from Gridley, the San Francisco Peninsula, and from Davis. Three of these girls were very shy and Muskaan tried to encourage them to become more involved with the group. During Teck Trek camp 2023, the girls had classes in the morning which focused on Technology, Engineering, Astronomy, and Human Anatomy. In the afternoons, the groups worked with retired nurses who taught the girls how to properly take each other's blood pressure, how to care for burns and puncture wounds, and how to properly administer CPR. They also saw a film of a human baby being born. On the last day, all of the Teck Trekkers participated in a class sponsored by Safe Credit Union, which taught the girls how to manage their expenses, how to budget, how to write a check, and how to balance a checking account. There was also a Professional Night where the girls were able to listen and talk with speakers who were women working in many different STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) fields.

Muskaan attended Butte Vista School in Yuba City for elementary and middle school. Her family then moved to Rocklin where she attended Whitney High School. She was one of the Valedictorians of her graduating class. She now attends Loyola University Maryland, which is a private Jesuit Catholic college. Muskaan will be returning there for her sophomore year in two weeks. She is a Biopsychology major with a Human Information minor. She is enrolled in a pre-medical program with the goal of becoming a doctor. We enjoyed our visit with Muskaan and look forward to hearing about her future success.

## Did you know?



Happy Birthday to all who have birthdays in JULY, AUGUST, and SEPT. Our **September** birthdays are Gretchen Cupp, Kathy Nehl, Jeanine Rounds, Susan Santilena, Kathryn Medley,

and Tanna Thomas. In **August** Marilyn Elliott, Cindy Gaven. Julie Goldwyn, Judy Hale, Mary Mayfield, Yvonne Pierre, Kelly Swanson, Janet Van Alstyne, Cynthia Fontayne, and Katharine Klevinskas celebrated; and in **July** Beverly Balfour, Terri Burroughs, Roberta D'Arcy, Lisa Mikel, Ellen O'Neil, Janet Staser, Corky Ulrey, and Linden Reynolds celebrated their birthdays.

If we missed you, or got it wrong, please let us know right away. We plan to list birthday months in the upcoming Yearbook/aka Roster and want to get it right!

**Did you know** that you can sign up for the TWO-MINUTE ACTIVIST and make your voice known? Just click here: <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist>

### Did You Know that the Tech Teck program is 25 years old this year?

Sandy Davini reported that member **Karen Villalobos** recently received the State ACSA award as Superintendent/Principal of the Year and her success at Twin Rivers Charter School was noted in ACSA statewide publication. This is beyond the Region 2 award which Karen received this spring and was noted in an earlier Feather Vane. **Congratulations Karen!**

**AAUW FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS PROGRAM -** We are proud to announce AAUW awarded \$6.3 million in funding to 285 individuals through our Fellowships and Grants program – a new record! On August 1, we will begin accepting applications for the 2024-25 award year. Find out more by clicking this link: [Please spread the word about this incredible opportunity](#)

**Find us on our branch Facebook pages: AAUW Marysville Yuba City, AAUW-MVYC Group, & Art in the Gardens**

### Feather Vane Staff

Artis Buerki – Editor/e-mailer [artisb@comcast.net](mailto:artisb@comcast.net)  
Joan Young – Proofreader/Snail Mailer  
Corky Ulrey – Proofreader  
Joann Nixon – Photographer  
Mary Mayfield – Photographer  
Linda Zall - Communications Leader

## Woman of the Year by Gwyn Baker



On August 3rd, Martha Bunce was honored as Yuba County's Woman of the Year by Assemblyman James Gallagher. Martha was nominated by Gwyn Baker for

her tireless efforts as our Executive Council Leader, Garden Tour Chair, and numerous other ways she has helped with AAUW projects and her community. Martha was joined by her two daughters at the award luncheon in Chico where one woman from each of Gallagher's five counties had been selected.



(Editor's note, read about all the women selected from the counties in Gallagher's district on last page of this Feather Vane.)

**Let's think about fundraising.** Linda Zall and Kathy Nehl are now collecting items for the gift baskets for the Coalition Brunch event. Think coffee baskets, tea baskets, wine baskets, etc. for the Dec. 8 opportunity drawing. It's not too early to pass on your ideas and collectibles/old and new.

At this same time Joyce Smith is working on the Garden Tour sponsorship project with Artis Buerki and Linda Zall. Let us know if you have a friend that would benefit from being a Garden Tour sponsor? We're focusing on women-owned businesses, and we can post their business cards in the *Feather Vane* pages and on our Facebook pages.

**Lowe's is our newest Garden Tour Sponsor.** Lowe's has donated this Craftsman edger. Value is \$150. Let's raise some \$\$\$\$\$. Buy your drawing tickets at our fall branch meetings!



**American Painters** in Yuba City is a new sponsor of our May 2024 Garden Tour. Thank you to Judi Gordon and her company for saying "YES" to Joyce Smith when she was asked them



judigordon@comcast.net  
text 530-908-6024  
americanpaintersyubacity.com

csib# 1065643  
530-755-6489



**Interbranch Council (IBC)** met in Yuba City at the Olive Garden on August 2 for dinner and sharing ideas. It was attended by all six AAUW branches who are in the Interbranch Council. *Photo by Mary Mayfield*

**MEMBERSHIP** - If you have a friend who is interested in AAUW please invite them to a meeting and let Lee Jones know so she can provide membership information. Contact Lee Jones, [lee@harkeyhouse.com](mailto:lee@harkeyhouse.com). These new members joined this summer. Please add them to your roster.

**Sharyl Simmons**, 719 12th St., Marysville, CA 95901; 530.743.3741; 530.338.8947; [sds719@yahoo.com](mailto:sds719@yahoo.com)  
CSUS: MA in History, Sharyl was invited by Lee Jones. Sharyl's interests include history, reading, and stained glass.

**Phyllis Smith**, 1054 Maple Ave., Yuba City, CA 95901; 530.301.7044; [phylesmith@aol.com](mailto:phylesmith@aol.com)  
CSUS: MPPA in Public Policy and Administration. Phyllis was invited by Sharon Wonder. Phyllis's interests include history, volunteering, reading, gardening, and movies.

**Martha Woods**, 914 Brentwood Drive, Yuba City, 95991. [mrbwoods@comcast.net](mailto:mrbwoods@comcast.net); 530.218.6296. BA from Humboldt State University-Social Science.

Martha is a retired teacher who taught many years at Johnson Park Elementary School. Her interests in addition to teaching are sewing, reading and travel. Lee Jones, Martha's former principal, encouraged her to join AAUW.

**Harjot Kaur**, 1794 Donald Court, Yuba City, CA 95993. [harjotkaur2003@gmail.com](mailto:harjotkaur2003@gmail.com); 530.255.4425. UC Davis-Political Science degree expected in near future. Harjot is a student at UC Davis, majoring in Political Science. As you may know, Harjot is a Yuba City USD Board Member, elected not long after her graduation from Yuba City High School! Her interests are politics, music, and community. She was invited by Joyce Smith.

**Leslie Williams**, 999 Dolphin Court, YC 95991; 530.755.6640-Cell; [lwilliam@yccd.edu](mailto:lwilliam@yccd.edu) (not williams). CSU Chico: BA & MA-Biology. Leslie is a friend of Jeanine Rounds.

**Jennifer Jones** re-joined after a year's lapse, thanks to Linda Zall. She's listed in old Roster/Yearbook, but here's her contact info: 1700 Del Lago, YC 95991; 530.713.6234; [jenbjones33@gmail.com](mailto:jenbjones33@gmail.com)

## Meet new member Cynthia Fontayne

Cynthia joined our branch in February and was invited by Lee Jones.

Cynthia Fontayne has worked in corporate, institutional, and marketing communications for more than 50 years, with a primary focus on tourism, lifestyle, culture and the arts. She has been a trusted advisor to government officials, heads of state, CEOs, and senior leadership in both the public and private sectors. She decided to join AAUW because of its commitment to women's rights, education and career opportunities and equity.



Before founding The Fontayne Group in 1982, she headed Swissair's North American PR dept., which set the course for its international perspective. Her clients have included the national tourist offices of Austria, Switzerland, Singapore, Hong Kong, Liechtenstein, Egypt and Nepal, and the European cities of Vienna, Salzburg, Innsbruck, Basel, Montreux and St. Moritz. She's also consulted on tourism projects funded by the EU for Bulgaria, Turkey, and Ethiopia. Closer to home, she's marketed tourism for the State of California, Sonoma Co., South Placer Co., Yosemite and Sequoia, Mammoth, San Francisco, Long Beach,

Los Angeles, San Diego, West Hollywood, and Santa Monica.

She has served on the Boards of major national and international associations, has conducted seminars and town halls, and been a keynote speaker at U.S. state tourism conferences and at UN World Tourism Organization assemblies in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East, on topics ranging from destination development to crisis communications. Long committed to sustainability, her firm served as *pro bono* consultants to the International Institute for Peace Through Tourism and the Tiger Trust of India. Other *pro bono* work supported programs addressing food scarcity, homelessness, human rights, and healthcare.

Born in New York, Cynthia is a graduate of Vassar College, and did post-graduate work in small group theory at the New School for Social Research. Cynthia moved to Marysville in late 2007, after purchasing and restoring a 1920 Julia Morgan home. A life-long "spare time artist", she is a member of the Women's Creative Circle, has participated in several local group shows, and taught workshops in writing, collage and altered book art. Locally, she has contributed her marketing skills to Yuba Sutter Arts, Friends of the Packard Library, Rideout Foundation, Bok Kai Festival, Peach Festival, & Bridges to Housing. She has served on the Vestry of St. John's Episcopal and the Bounce Back Marysville Steering Committee, as VP and president of Yuba Sutter Arts, president of the Friends of the Packard Library and chaired three cycles of "The Big Read," with grants from the National Endowment for the Arts. She was co-organizer of a 2015 regional conference on food scarcity, which led to the Y-S launch of "A Simple Gesture", which collects food for three local pantries. In 2022, she was honored to be named one of Congressman John Garamendi's "Women of the Year" in recognition of her community service.

## Meet new member Phyllis Smith

I was born and raised in Yuba City, graduating from YCHS in 1974 along with my best friend since kindergarten, Sharyl Simmons. I attended Yuba College and Sac State but took a break to work. Later I returned to school – it took 18 years, but I graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, and a Master's of Public Policy and Administration. My career was mostly in judicial administration.

I worked at the Municipal and Superior Courts in Sacramento, then returned to Yuba City as Court Administrator for the Sutter Superior Court. I followed

that by serving as a consultant to courts both domestically and internationally, doing projects in Hong Kong, Nigeria, Egypt, Rwanda, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, Montenegro, Hawaii, Illinois and North Dakota, as well as California. I finished my career as a technology consultant to government agencies. I retired in 2019.

I now spend most of my time volunteering – it’s pretty much my full-time job. I volunteer with the Sutter County Museum, Oregon-California Trails Association, Friends for the Preservation of Yuba County History, South Sutter Heritage Alliance, Sutter County Library and Red Cross. In my free time, I like to work in my yard, play Mexican Train dominoes, go to movies, and sometimes I find time to read.



### Meet new member Sharyl Simmons

I was born in Marysville but grew up in Yuba City. I graduated from Yuba City High School and went to Yuba College for two years. I transferred to Sac State and graduated with a B. A. in History. While in college I worked in Medical Records at Sutter General Hospital and supported myself working as a medical transcriptionist in Sacramento and later in Yuba City. I decided to go back to school and get a teaching credential and after taking all the classes in history I’d need for a secondary credential; the head of the history department took me aside and explained that I was half way to a M.A. in history should I choose to pursue it. I did. I continued working as a medical transcriptionist while attending graduate school and after graduating began working as an adjunct history teacher at Yuba and Sierra Colleges in 1994.

I was already involved with the Sutter County Museum when the position for assistant curator opened up. I applied and got it. I worked at the museum for 20 years doing all the things that have to get done in a museum with a staff of two and retired in 2022. Outside of the job, I worked on co-writing, editing, designing, and laying out several books on local history that are available in the Museum gift store. In 1992 I became the co-editor and some-time

contributor to the Bulletin, a local history publication first published by the Sutter County Historical Society in 1959 and continued by the Museum when that group disbanded.

In my first year of retirement, I’m getting my toes wet with some volunteering at the Museum and helping Phyllis Smith with a project for the Friends for the Preservation of Yuba County History. I’m sure there will be more volunteering in my future.

### Meet our new Executive Council

Our AAUW fiscal year began on July 1, 2023. Your new Executive Council is made up of the following:

**Martha Bunce, Sandy Davini, Ellen O’Neil, Christy Estabrook, Linda Zall, Lee Jones, Gwyn Baker, Liz Skelly**

Current EC Members at large (MAL): **Barbara Alves, Betty Bonner, Artis Buerki, Carol Clark, Gretchen Cupp, Mary Mayfield, Kathy Nehl, Joann Nixon, Joyce Smith, Tanna Thomas, Joan Young.**

### What did you do this summer?



Mary Mayfield went to Africa in May. Here she is shown at the Cape of Good Hope, the most southwestern point of the African continent.



Artis & Chuck Buerki explored the Upper Mississippi River on a 9-day cruise from St. Louis to St. Paul on the paddle wheeler, American Countess.



Martha Bunce said “One daughter and two granddaughters joined me in Ashland for two Shakespeare plays in July.

“Twelfth Night” in this theater was such fun! The two 16-year-olds laughed until they were in tears! So did the mom and Nana.”



This is the American River in front of Joan Young’s family summer cabin built by her grandfather in the 1930s and where she went in July and spends time each summer.

***Where did you go this summer? Send a photo and short caption for the next Feather Vane to [artisb@comcast.net](mailto:artisb@comcast.net)***

**MOVIE REVIEW –  
Book Club, The Next Chapter**

Five of our hearty Movie Lovers got out early on May 16 for the matinee of Book Club, The Next Chapter at the Yuba City Cinemark. The movie is a sequel to the 2018 movie, Book Club. Both starred four familiar faces: Diane Keaton, Jane Fonda, Candice Bergen and Mary Steenburger. Here is what some of our members had to say about it:

“The movie makes you want to get on a plane ASAP to go to Italy,” **Gretchen Cupp** said. “Each of the 4 main characters learned things about themselves from the others with the intro, ‘Best Friends, tough love’.”

“I needed a little no brainer rom com instead of the real sad stuff on nightly news. Scenes of Italy were beautiful and of course the ‘old gals’ were spunky and funny,” **Joyce Smith** said.

“I thought it was fun to see all those actresses again,” **Carol Clark** said. “My favorite is Candace Bergen. She really nails the comedy. I also enjoyed seeing such beautiful scenes from Rome, Venice, and Tuscany. It was an entertaining film, and the men in their lives were pretty good looking too.”

**MOVIE REVIEW – About My Father**

The latest Robert De Niro movie did not disappoint. In this family comedy/drama De Niro plays Sergio, a traditional Chicago hairdresser Sicilian dad to Sebastian, his adult son played by comedian Sebastian Maniscalco whose girlfriend, played by Leslie Bibb, is from a different social level and conflicts and funny situation were well portrayed not always for the laughs. If you haven’t caught About My Father, it is worth getting a copy to watch at home. I think this one may be around for a while to be watched over and over again.

*Review by Artis Buerki*

**INTEREST SECTIONS - All branch members are welcome to participate.**



**ADVOCACY & ACTION**

To receive advocacy and action alerts by email, contact Martha Bunce email [buncehall@yahoo.com](mailto:buncehall@yahoo.com) and ask her to add you to her email contact list.



**ALL AROUND TOWN** – The next dinner out will be Wednesday, **Sept. 13** at 5:30 p.m., the location is still to be

determined. For more information and the location of the next dinner, contact Linda Zall, 530.713.0552 or [email lindazall66@gmail.com](mailto:lindazall66@gmail.com) . In May we went to the City Café. *Photo by Mary Mayfield*



**MOVIE LOVERS** - Would you like to go to a daytime movie in Yuba City about once a month with some friends? In

May we saw Book Club, The Next Chapter. Read our review on this page.. To be on the Movie group email list please contact Artis Buerki, [artisb@comcast.net](mailto:artisb@comcast.net) or Mary Mayfield 530-591-0336. Send us your movie ideas.



**RABID.READERS** – The book club meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month.

They will meet at 10:00 a.m. on **Sept. 15** at the Sutter County Library. For more information, contact Linda Zall, 530.713.0552 or [email lindazall66@gmail.com](mailto:lindazall66@gmail.com). Here we are at our July 21 meeting. *Photo by Mary Mayfield*





**TALKING ON PAPER** – New members who like to express themselves on paper (writing about travel, family, new experiences, memories, or poetry) are welcome. We have a good time sharing, laughing, and empathizing with each other. See you there on **Sept. 12** in the meeting room at Sutter County Library. Call Joan Young for details, 530-713-1279.



**TRAVELING GOURMET** goes to lunch once a month to restaurants within about a 50-mile radius of Yuba City on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month and will meet on **Sept. 28**

location TBD. We will carpool and meet in the Yuba City Bridge Street Raley's Shopping Center parking lot (at the east end between Wendy's & Huckleberry) at about 10:15 and leave at 10:30.

Reserve by the Monday prior to the lunch. Call co-chairs Carol Clark 530-301-2164 or Christy Estabrook 530-713-5223 if you want to be added to the contact list for future meetings of the Traveling Gourmet.

In May we went to Cirino's in



Grass Valley. *Photo by Sharon Wonder.*



In July we went to Wine Villa in Lincoln. *Photo by Mary Mayfield*



**Executive Council Report – May 11**  
*Submitted by Ellen O'Neil, Secretary*

The Marysville-Yuba City branch Executive Council met on May 11 at 1 p.m at the Sutter County Library. In attendance: Carol Anderson-Clark, Christy Estabrook, Artis Buerki, Ellen O'Neil, Linda Zall, Lee Jones, Martha Bunce, Gwyn Baker

The meeting was called to order at 1:08 p.m. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved with no corrections or additions.

A motion was made and seconded to retain the following members as Members-At-Large on the Executive Council: Gretchen Cupp, Kathy Nehl, Carol Anderson-Clark, Joyce Smith, Betty Bonner, Artis Buerki, Joann Nixon and Tanna Thomas. The aye vote was unanimous. Martha will contact Joan Young and Mary Mayfield to ask if they want to also remain as Members-At-Large.

The next Branch Meeting is June 3rd. The speaker will be from Tri-County Diversity. This coincides with Pride Month.

Artis mentioned the article about it in the recent Feather Vane, supplied by Kim Talbert from the Public Policy post at the state AAUW. It was suggested that the article be reprinted and available on the tables at the June 3rd meeting.

Other Public Policy Issues: Martha discussed the failure of the United States Senate to set aside the deadline to approve the ERA.

Membership: Lee showed an example of the "invoice" that the national office of AAUW is sending to members. It is confusing as local members need to send their dues to our branch post office box. If money is sent to National, the local branch does not get a portion and dues are still owed. This process has been outlined in the Feather Vane. However, Linda Zall, as Communications Chair, will send notices to each member explaining the process and why dues are important.

Nominating Committee: In the first meeting of the new year, the Executive Council will form a Nominating Committee which will begin contacting potential Executive Committee members. A slate will be presented to the membership before the deadline as required in the by-laws.

Communications: Linda regularly updates information for next year's Yearbook (formerly Roster). She suggested that it be ready to hand out at the October meeting since new members choose to join in September and everyone agreed it should be done. Linda complimented Artis on her work with the Facebook page and the Feather Vane.

Programs: Gwyn will send out invitations on May 19th with an RSVP deadline of May 29th. About 7 members receive phone calls rather than emails. Donna is no longer able to call so Joan Young is the solitary caller. Gwyn already has a list of suggestions/possibilities for next year's speakers: Kelli Evans, farmer, Jenna MCKaye regarding human trafficking, member Gretchen Cup who heads YSDADA (Disaster Response for Domestic Animals), perhaps a Julia Morgan homes speaker and Dan Flores from Marysville Community Development.

Garden Tour: The bad news is that "Day-Of" sales were down by nearly half. The good news is that preliminary data indicates the likely net proceeds exceeded \$7000.00. Gwyn suggested we all go on the Facebook page and "like" the posts referencing sponsors. An extra \$1000 was collected from them this year.

Tech Trek: May 12 is the pizza party where the girls who have been chosen will meet each other and some TAG girls. The 5 chosen and the 1 alternate represent 6 different schools, including one in Yuba County. A committee met to reorganize the tasks needed to accomplish Tech Trek. Carol will still be the lead, however, others will take on the various responsibilities. A person to work with the parents to complete paperwork is still needed. Some of the girls who apply have immigrant parents for

MARYSVILLE-YUBA CITY, CALIFORNIA, AAUW BRANCH  
whom the paperwork is challenging, especially due to language.

Historian: Lee Jones reported that Karen Tuttle will no longer fill this role. She has given the paper records she had to Lee Jones. Past written records are housed in the California Room of the Yuba County Library. Lee will confirm that there is no more space for physical archives in this location. Digital archives are a better way to keep records at this time.

From this day on the following historical records will be found on the "Members Only" section of the [mvyca.aauw.net](http://mvyca.aauw.net):

Feather Vane Newsletters (posted on website by Artis Buerki)

Minutes of the Executive Council-found in the Feather Vane Rosters/Yearbooks (maintained by Linda Zall)

Garden Tour Brochures (kept by Linda Zall)

Photos of the Garden Tour will be posted on the Marysville Yuba City AAUW Facebook page, AAUW-MVYC and Art in the Gardens Group pages and/or published in the Feather Vane and/or the Branch website. AAUW Projects and Community Service Activities can be found in the archives of the Appeal-Democrat newspaper or other publications in which they are printed.

Sunshine Announcements: Janet Theiss, whose mother was a founding member in 1955 of the MVYC AAUW, is currently living in Bridgeview Acute Care, 521 Lorel Way, Yuba City, CA 95991.

Janet designed the AAUW roster as well as the Garden Tour brochure and the Feather Vane. We continue to use her formats. She's been a strong contributing member of AAUW for many years. To contact her, members can call 530-301-2653. She is very appreciative of cards and notes as well as calls.

Lee Jones announced that Harkey House will be hosting Blue Zones on May 24th and the topic is "Finding Your Purpose." The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m. The next meeting will be June 8th.



## ***Executive Council Report***

### ***Planning Meeting – June 8***

*Submitted by Ellen O'Neil, Secretary*

The Executive Council met on June 8 at the home of Martha Bunce. The meeting was called to order by Martha at 10:44 a.m.

In Attendance: Martha Bunce, Artis Buerki, Kathy Nehl, Joyce Smith, Mary Mayfield, Liz Skelly, Joyce Smith, Sandy Davini, Joan Young, Christy Estabrook, Linda Zall, Carol Anderson-Clark, Lee Jones, Gwyn Baker and Ellen O'Neil.

The first order of business was regarding elected Executive Council members. All holding current positions are willing to continue with their 2023 jobs. Terms ending in June

*Feather Vane, AUG/SEPT. 2023*

2024: Christy Estabrook, Gwen Baker and Lee Jones. Sandy Davini, as Treasurer, must be elected annually.

Mary Mayfield and Joan Young wish to continue to be Members-at- Large and the EC appointed them.

Library Memorial: Lee Jones asked that someone replace her for purchasing the memorial book. Christy Estabrook agreed to take over that responsibility.

Martha asked if there were any issues or problems with Executive Council job descriptions and there were none. Sandy will not be able to present the budget for approval at the September 16th general meeting. Martha will do so.

Garden Tour Committee: Martha reported that they will continue to meet on the first Thursday of every month at 10:00a.m. in the Sutter County library. There was a discussion regarding the challenge of recruiting hostesses for the tour. It was suggested that the title sounds daunting and perhaps homeowners expect too much of the hostess. A title change from hostess to "Greeter" might be more effective for recruitment and job description.

STEM: Sandy will make reservations at the Sutter County Office of Education for the 2nd Thursday of each month at 10:00a.m.

Executive Council: Meetings will remain at SCOE on the 2nd Thursday at 1:00p.m.

Tech Trek: Carol stated that there is not a current monthly meeting but considers it a good idea and will check with the library regarding the 3rd Thursday of the month. Meetings will begin in October.

Nominating Committee: The By-Laws state that the Executive Council appoints a Nominating Committee by the first meeting in the Fall. The committee recruits a slate of officers for those positions in which a current office holder terms are expiring.

Scholarship: Liz provided some history and updates regarding the Yuba College Foundation process for distributing funds from other entities including AAUW. The money was awarded in the Fall last year and only 2 weeks were provided to review 60 applications. The money must be in the account by June 30th, therefore, AAUW only had \$500 to give last year.

Jeanine Rounds made donations totaling \$100,000, therefore AAUW could give up to \$1500 each to 3 students.

### **M/S/C Sandy/Carol/Unanimous to award, "Up to 3 scholarships of \$1500 each."**

Applicants must be continuing students in a STEM field. A computer program puts them in the appropriate slots for the scholarship whose requirements they appear to meet. The student essays are generic as they do not know that AAUW is one of the entities awarding money.

Liz will need help reviewing the applications. Kathy Nehl, Linda Zall and Ellen O'Neil volunteered.

Discussion proceeded with the concern that Dr. Jeanine Rounds should be recognized as the donor.

**M/S/C Mary/Linda/Unanimous. The scholarship be renamed the “AAUW-Dr. Jeanine Rounds Scholarship”.**

Artis requested that she receive a press release when the money is awarded. Liz agreed to provide that.

Budget Priorities: Martha initiated a discussion of what is important to the Branch. There was verbal agreement on the ongoing programs:

- STEM and Tech Trek are priorities
- It was suggested that EC look into scholarships for High School seniors.
- STEM discussion items included Gwyn’s conversations with teachers as to how much has changed in what works to engage students since the pandemic. The attendees completed surveys regarding their experience. Kathy suggested that the membership receive the results. Sandi can send a brief to the Executive Council and Artis could do a write up of perhaps the top 10 comments for the Feather Vane and a press release.

The scheduling of next year’s STEM conference is also challenging given that it is the day after the MLK holiday. It is the start of the new semester. A later start time is needed since the schools have changed the start time of the class day. Contact needs to be made with Dr. Dotson at Yuba College. Liz will contact her.

Another suggestion is to pivot to “STEAM”, which includes the arts. STEM committee has a lot to consider in their initial meetings.

- Another priority is to advance equity for girls of different ages. Currently, no group is a recipient of the monthly funds allocated for an organization that has a mission to aid women and/or girls. “Girls on the Run” is a group that the EC would support, and Artis will investigate whether it is still operating in Yuba or Sutter County.
- Liz suggested we consider an honorarium for the TTAG girls as seniors, perhaps a gas card.
- Diversity was mentioned as something that should be a priority. Networking with AHA, Rotary, etc. might be a means of achieving more diversity among the membership. The topic will be on the EC agenda come Fall.

LEADERSHIP ISSUES REQUIRING PLANNING:

1. Tech Trek needs a parent liaison due to the stack of paperwork required of the parents from state AAUW. The teachers and principals helped with it this year. It is a limited term position to be completed after the students have been nominated. Martha suggested contacting Grace Espindola regarding assistance for the Spanish speaking parents.

2. Garden Tour: Martha is phasing out as chair of Garden Tour. Someone will need to work with her to pass it on. She will note this in the Feather Vane under “Council Chat.” Seven or eight gardens are possible for next year in Yuba City.

Announcements: The Sutter Museum is offering a discount for AAUW members. More than \$600 was raised at Garden Tour from artist sales.

Communication: Linda: reports that Yearbook updates with new information will be ready in September. She suggests doing an addendum mid-year for new Members. New members will get a calendar by e-mail.

Treasurer’s Report and 23-24 Budget: Sandy presented the combined 22-23 Treasurer’s Report and 23-24 Proposed Budget reviewed by the Budget Committee (Martha, Liz, Joann, and Sandy). Proposed budget categories were updated for anticipated changes in income and expense as a status quo budget before Executive Council discussion of priorities at 6/8/23 meeting.

After discussion, motions were made to increase three categories.

**M/S/C Artis/Carol/13-1 vote, a donation of \$250 to Girls on the Run was added.**

**M/S/C Liz/Carol/Unanimous, \$1500 was added to award \$250 to each TTAG girl (6) who graduated from high school this year. \$250 per girl should be budgeted annually for future TTAG high school graduates.**

**M/S/C Mary/Artis/11-2 voted, \$250 was added to pay AAUW-CA membership (@\$20) for college students who join our branch.**

Including these 3 amendments, 23-24 Proposed Budget Income is \$36,703: Proposed Expenses, \$39,048 for a projected \$15,772 reserve.

**M/S/C Linda/Christy/Unanimous accepted the Budget as amended to be presented to members for ratification at September 16, 2023 Branch meeting.**

Membership: A letter is going out to remind current members to send in their dues. There was a discussion of how to support new members. No clear decisions were made.

Public Policy: CA. State AAUW is partnering with the Equality Coalition whose mission is to free schools from book banning and curriculum censorship. AAUW will be asked to help seek qualified candidates in non-partisan school board elections and to endorse qualified candidates.

Women’s Coalition: DKG is being disbanded and this will be the last year of their involvement. A chair for the December 2024 brunch is needed.

Meeting adjourned at 2:20p.m. The EC will meet again in September.

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

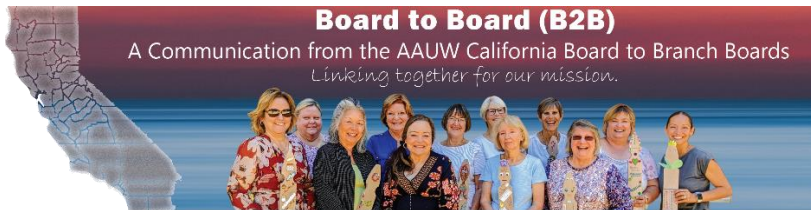
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**SAVE LOGOS**



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**Program Notes** 

**Council Chat**