



# FEATHER VANE, October 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, Oct. 12, 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 for a year.

## BRANCH MEETING – OCT. 21

When: Saturday, October 21

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)

Speaker: Kelli Evans

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.



Sept. 16, 2023 - Thank you to our newest Tech Trek girls who talked about their experiences at camp. They are Violeta Gentry-Morales, Turan Welcome, Olivia Marquez, and Ravneet Pabla.

## Program Notes *by Gwyn Baker*



Our October 21 speaker is Kelli Evans. She is a third-generation rice and almond farmer who has a role on numerous boards and advisory committees, including the CA Almond Board, Blue Diamond Grower Liaison Committee and Sutter Resource Conservation District. She will share experiences from her 17 years of farming in Sutter County as

well as the work she is doing to preserve pollinator and monarch habitat. Kelli runs Evans Agricultural Consulting company and is active in the education of her 7yr-old daughter and 11-yr old son.



Here are our recent high school graduate TTAG members who were at the Sept. 16 meeting and talked to us about their college plans. They are: Larissa Feccu, Latoya Green, Lydia Donaldson, and Natalie Buzzini. *Photos by Sue Graue*

**VISIT OUR BRANCH WEBSITE:**  
[mvyca.aauw.net](http://mvyca.aauw.net)



# Council Chat

by Martha Bunce

We are up and running for a new AAUW year! Our calendar is sort of like a school year's Academic Calendar --- we "start" in September and "end" in June. Of course, there's a lot going on in the summer months. Tech Trek for sure. As the Executive Council noted in its June planning meeting, Tech Trek is our biggest priority in terms of budget allocation, and our September Branch meeting treated us to the results of that effort. Not only did the elementary school girls who went to UC Davis this past summer share their experiences, but several alumni of the program also spoke to us as well. What a joy to meet these young women and see them growing up and out. Your efforts as AAUW Marysville-Yuba City members really pay off!

The "School Board Project" that I described last month has been scaled back. AAUW CA realized that our organization does not endorse candidates, so that will not be part of what we as a branch will be encouraged to do. What AAUW does is develop policy positions (through discussion and vote of all members). We will probably participate in candidate interviews and forums to understand how school board candidates stand on issues that reflect AAUW priorities. More about this effort as it develops. We will have time for this new project in part because we are not able to organize the STEM Conference in January. Just too many logistical problems of calendars, room availability, changes in elementary school start times, and bussing schedules to ensure a quality experience for the girls. The hiatus will allow us to do a good job of evaluating the scope and design of the event and make changes that might serve Yuba-Sutter girls even better!

## Loadel Piner memorial service is Oct. 20

We are sad to hear of the passing of Loadel Piner, a faithful member of our branch for many years. The service will be on October 20, 1:30 p.m. at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Yuba City. Please attend if you can.

## Memories of Marjorie -



Marjorie Muck passed away in 2020, but she is not forgotten. Marjorie was extremely active in our branch for many years. She served as president twice: in 1991-92 and 1985-86. Recently her son, Jim, was kindly sent her award pins (Past president, EF Fund Honoree & CA logo pin) to us. Marjorie's daughter, Chris McCormick, has been

auditing our books for years and we appreciate the chance to remember Marjorie once again.

## Did you know?



Happy Birthday to all who have birthdays in October: Jo Hilling, Pat Jones, Louise Miller, Laura

Nicholson, Doreen Osumi, Sara Sealander, Joyce Smith. And did you know that the October flowers are marigolds and cosmos. If we missed you, or we got it wrong, please let us know right away.

**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?** AAUW FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS PROGRAM awarded \$6.3 million in funding

### 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

MARYSVILLE-YUBA CITY, CALIFORNIA, AAUW BRANCH to 285 individuals through our Fellowships and Grants program this year – a new record!

**From August 1 through November 15 applications for the 2024-25 award year will be accepted.**

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/fellowships-grants/current-opportunities>

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

## HOW ARE YOU GETTING YOUR FEATHER VANE?

*by Artis Buerki*  
Most of our branch members receive their *Feather Vane* each month by email. If you have an active email address but you are currently receiving your *Feather Vane* by postal mail, can we discontinue the printing and mailing of the paper *Feather Vane* to you?

Currently the printing of the *Feather Vane* costs about \$50 a month (\$500 a year) plus another \$10 a month postage cost (\$100 a year). This averages out to about \$30 annually to print and mail it per person.

We are happy to print and mail the *Feather Vane* to your home if you do not use email, but in an effort to move that money into support of our programs we'd like to get the annual printing and postage costs down.

Please let me know if I can remove you from the snail mail list and put you back on the email list. By doing so you will see the *Feather Vane* in full color and in a format that you can easily adjust the type size as you read it. You can even download it to your computer or print out a single page if you like. I personally like to print out the calendar page for future reference each month. Please reply to [artisb@comcast.net](mailto:artisb@comcast.net) or phone 530-632-7052 to comment.

P.S. Members can always read the back issues of the *Feather Vane* on our branch website where they are posted every month:  
[mvyc-ca.aauw.net/feathervane](http://mvyc-ca.aauw.net/feathervane)  
If you are asked for a password, it is FMO2022. Check it out.

*Feather Vane, OCT. 2023*

## 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 to [lindazall66@gmail.com](mailto:lindazall66@gmail.com) or [katnehl@syix.com](mailto:katnehl@syix.com).

At this same time Joyce Smith, Artis Buerki, and Linda Zall are working on the **Garden Tour sponsorship** project. Let us know if you have a friend who owns a business that would benefit from being a Garden Tour sponsor. We're focusing on women-owned businesses, and we can post their business cards on the *Feather Vane* pages and on our Facebook pages. Contact [artisb@comcast.net](mailto:artisb@comcast.net) with sponsor ideas. **Please thank our Garden Tour sponsors and use their businesses if you can.**

**Aquamarine Contractors** in Yuba City is our newest sponsor of the Garden Tour at the \$300 level. Thank you, Francesca Ehrk, for saying yes.

**Owens Ranch** in Browns Valley is our recent Garden Tour sponsor. Thank you to Melody Creel and her company for this \$500 level sponsorship!

**American Painters** in Yuba City is a \$100 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.

## Lowe's is a Garden Tour Sponsor.



Lowe's in Yuba City has donated this Craftsman edger. Value is \$150. We sold chances to win at the Sept. 16 branch meeting and \$500 was raised. Sharyl Simmonds won the prize!

## Davis Tech Trek needs a leader.

by Martha Rees, 2023 Tech Trek co-director

Tech Trek at UC Davis was very successful this July but **without a new director/co-director, there will be no UC Davis Tech Trek next year.** In fact, we've been told that if we don't have someone willing to take over **by the end of the year**, the camp may not be able to be held. So, please think about if you, someone in your branch, a former Trekker who is currently in a career that may encourage her involvement, or someone else you know might be interested in finding out more about possibly being a director/co-director candidate.

**URGENTLY NEEDED: DIRECTOR OR CO-DIRECTOR FOR THE JULY 2024 TECH TREK AT UC DAVIS.** \$2,500 stipend offered for Director or split if co-directors. Contact Carol Clark: [cclark1246@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cclark1246@sbcglobal.net) or phone 530-301-2164 as soon as possible for further details.

## 2023-2024 TTAG Advisor Team

Report by Julie Goldwyn

On June 28, 2023, the Advisor team met at the Sutter County Library and discussed our goals for the 2023-2024 TTAG Program. Our goals include creating events which foster growth and communication between girls from different TTAG years so that they can show support for each other as they pursue their career goals. The advisors for each group are as follows:

- 2017 Advisor Julie Goldwyn
- 2018 Advisor Joann Nixon
- 2019 Advisor Kathy Nehl
- 2020 Advisor Manjit Juhutti
- 2022 Advisor Karen Kam
- 2023 Advisor Donna Long
- Tech Trek Coordinator Carol Clark

The events that we have planned include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Inviting TTAG and Tech Trek girls to the September 16<sup>th</sup> Branch Meeting and future branch meetings to have the opportunities learn from speakers which may be of interest to them.
- 2) Social Events during Winter and Spring Break to bring the girls together.
- 3) Asking for volunteers to take two-hour shifts at the May 4, 2024 Garden Tour.
- 4) Involving them in end of the school year Pizza Party in May 2024.

## STEM Conference UPDATE

by Sandy Davini and Julie Goldwyn

Traditionally our conference takes place each year in March, which gives the STEM Committee time to plan speakers, facilitators, student registration, scheduling of Yuba College rooms, student lunches, and presenters. The conference is scheduled when Yuba College students are off campus, and Elementary and Middle Schools are in session. This year the only date available for our conference is January 16, 2024. Due to remodeling plans taking place on the Yuba College Campus, many of the classrooms used for our conference might not be available for us to use.

We are deeply disappointed to report that we have had to cancel the 2024 Conference. It was determined that there was not enough planning time and not enough classrooms available to be able to have a successful conference. For 2025, we will be evaluating whether our model is still valid/appropriate or if we should create a new type of program to meet student needs.

**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). Cheryl Blackburn joined this summer. Please add her to your roster.

Cheryl Blackburn, 1870 Butte Vista Lane, Yuba City, CA 95993, phone 941-258-8683.

Email: [cherylhblackburn@gmail.com](mailto:cherylhblackburn@gmail.com).

Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from U. Miami; Master's in Civil Engineering from Penn State.

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

# What did you do this summer?



Kay Cockrell spent three wonderful weeks on the Kona Coast of Hawaii in July.



Gretchen Cupp went to Switzerland this summer. Here she is at her hotel in Zermatt, Switzerland.

**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)**

## 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 – We meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month. The next dinner out will be **Oct. 11** at 5:30 p.m. The location is to be determined. For more information and the location, contact Linda Zall, 530.713.0552 or [email lindazall66@gmail.com](mailto:lindazall66@gmail.com). In August the dinner group went to Pasquini's in Live Oak. Joining us was Lyn (center) who is a visiting doctor from New York. She's working at Adventist Health. 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? To be on the Movie group email list contact Mary Mayfield, [marymay22@comcast.net](mailto:marymay22@comcast.net);



### RABID READERS – The book club meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month. We meet at 10:00 a.m. on **Oct. 20** 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 September 15 book club. 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 meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month and have a good time sharing, laughing, and empathizing with each other. See you there on **Oct. 10 at 10 am** in the meeting room at Sutter County Library. Call Joan Young for details, 530-713-1279.



**TRAVELING GOURMET**, our lunch group goes to restaurants within about a 50-mile radius of Yuba City on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month. On **Oct. 26** we will meet to carpool 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. Location TBD. 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 August TG went to the Holbrooke Hotel in Grass Valley. *Photo by Mary Mayfield*



## **Executive Council Report September 14, 2023**

*Submitted by Ellen O'Neil, Secretary*

In Attendance: Martha Bunce, Kathy Nehl, Joann Nixon, Linda Zall, Liz Skelly, Christy Estabrook, Lee Jones, Ellen O'Neil

Correspondence: No report

Budget for the new year will be printed in the upcoming roster/yearbook and presented to the branch members on Sept. 16 for approval.

Liz pointed out that the council voted to award graduating TTAG girls \$250. upon finishing high school.

Public Policy: CA State AAUW announced a School Board Project in which local branches would be asked to recruit and support candidates who oppose book banning. The project has been clarified: AAUW does not offer candidate support. AAUW takes policy positions and advocates on issues involving equity for women. Individuals can certainly campaign, write letters to the editor and raise money for candidates.

Membership: Lee Jones reported that there are approximately 97 current members. She and Linda Zall reached out to women who did not respond to an initial e-mail to pay dues. They received a positive response. However, many requested an invoice. EC agreed that all future renewal requests will include an invoice.

Lee sent around a copy of a brief survey that State AAUW sent out. EC agreed that it would be worthwhile to utilize it. It asks what led members to join initially and why they did or did not rejoin.

A discussion regarding awarding membership pins according to years of membership led to EC determining that it would not be initiated. However, some means of acknowledging members of long-standing is needed.

Communication: Linda Zall provided the new 2023-2024 Yearbooks to each Executive Council member. She will be distributing them at the Branch meeting on Saturday. They are bright and beautiful.

Linda asked, on Artis behalf, that Social Media be its own topic for future agendas. She reported a good number of members will be attending the branch meeting, 48.

Nominating Committee: Martha stated that 3 people are needed to form a new Nominating Committee. It is their job to recruit members to stand for election to the Executive Council. Liz Shelley and Christy Estabrook agreed to be on the Nominating Committee. They have names of members to ask to join the committee.

By-Laws: No report.

Programs: Gwyn was not present. However, Martha reported that the Branch Meeting Programs are set for the year. Linda informed EC that they are listed in the Yearbook.

STEM Conference: It is canceled for this coming January due to a number of logistical issues, including building renovation.

Garden Tour: There are only 2 gardens needing to be confirmed and there are even gardens lined up for 2025. Lee Jones' B and B, Harley House will be 150 years old in 2024 and their garden is on the tour. An Airbnb nearby will serve as the reception area. It is the 30th annual Garden Tour and will take place on May 4, 2024. Already, \$1000.00 in sponsorship money has been pledged.

TechTrek: The five most recent attendees will be at Saturday's Branch meeting. Carol is creating an ongoing Task List for the process of recruiting, applications, interviews etc. for each year's Tech Trek attendees.

TTAG: Joann and her committee now have 1 person assigned to TTAG girls from years 2017 to 2023. They are responsible for keeping in touch and contacting the girls for events such as the September Branch meeting. CA State AAUW is putting together a "tool-box" for retaining contact with TTAG girls.

Scholarships: Liz has had several challenges in getting a response from the appropriate people at Yuba College in order to get the names of applicants

in time for the deadline of choosing winners. Yesterday, she finally received access to the necessary software for the committee to utilize. There are 38 applicants.

Coalition Brunch: It will continue, though Delta Kappa Gamma will be stepping down from chairing it. There is no known replacement yet. Linda will make an announcement to the meeting that raffle donations will be necessary. AAUW will have two tables rather than one available for donations.

Interbranch: Liz is the new chairperson. There will be a meeting on November 1st to begin preparation for the February luncheon. There are approximately 12 people on the committee.

Historian: Lee informed EC that the last of the "totes" holding documents have been delivered to the California Room at the Yuba County library. Liz said she has some paperwork in boxes that were given to her. It is to be determined if they belong at the library.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30

Submitted by: Ellen O'Neil

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



## Woman in History – Cecelia Payne (1900-1979)

Cecelia Payne was born in Britian, attended Cambridge, but was not given a degree. She moved to the US, attended Harvard and was the first person to graduate from Radcliffe with Ph.D. in Astronomy. She was the first woman who received full professorship from within Harvard, breaking the glass ceiling for women in the Harvard Science and Astronomy Dept. and inspiring generations of women to study science. She is known for discovering what the earth is made of, and what the sun is made of.

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Cecilia-Payne-Gaposchkin>

**Quote of the month: “Creativity is intelligence having fun.”  
Albert Einstein**



FEATHER VANE, Artis Buerki, Editor

P.O. Box 334, Sutter, CA 95982



AAUW California website: [www.aauw-ca.org/](http://www.aauw-ca.org/) AAUW National website: [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)  
 Our branch website: <http://mvyc-ca.aauw.net/>  
 Our Branch Facebook pages: <https://www.facebook.com/AAUW.MVYC/> (org page);  
[AAUW--MVYC Group](#) (open group page); [Art in the Gardens](#) (open group page)

### OCTOBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 10 am Talking on Paper (writing)	11 5:30 pm All Around Town (dinner)	12 10 am Garden Tour Com.  1 pm Executive Council	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 10 am Rabid Readers (books)	21 10 am Monthly Branch Meeting (brunch)
22	23	24	25	26 10:15 am Traveling Gourmet (lunch)	27	28
29	30	31 Happy Halloween 			28	29



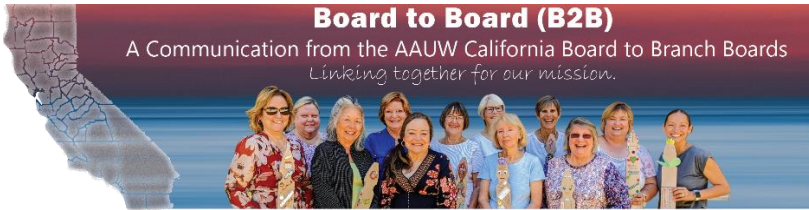
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***We are all wonder women!***



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**Program Notes**



**Council Chat**