



FEATHER VANE, February 2024

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, Feb. 8, 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



Council Chat

by Martha Bunce

Two wonderful opportunities to “show up” for AAUW! Participate in Lobby Day in Sacramento in April (see article on page 3). Sutter and Yuba Counties are represented by Assemblyman Janes Gallagher and Senator Richard Niello. Sign up and join us. Comment now and vote in April on a change in national AAUW By Laws, removing the requirement to hold an AA (or equivalent) or higher degree. Follow this link to the full text and explanation: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/2024-aauw-proposed-bylaws-changes/>

I support this change. We all have friends and acquaintances who would be wonderful members of our branch. But they can’t join. They don’t have the piece of paper that is currently required. They have the smarts, the experience, the talent, the passion, the energy we need in our organization – and sometimes several years of college work completed. We want them to be part of the fun and the mission we share. AAUW name would stay the same. It honors our long history of opening higher education to women. *That fight is won.* For more than four decades women have been the majority of US college students and of graduates (Cary, New York Times 2021). The reasons for this trend support the work that AAUW does to encourage women to look at “non traditional” career opportunities that may-or may not require a full degree.

AAUW has already made By Law changes about membership. Students are granted membership. Men are too, as are all who earn an AA degree or “equivalent.”

This change will grant **FULL MEMBERSHIP TO ALL WHO SUPPORT EQUITY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS.** The health and vigor of AAUW and of our branch will benefit. And we will have more members join the fun.

BRANCH MEETING – FEB. 17

When: Saturday, February 17

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: Dan Flores

Menu: Lunch Buffet following speaker

Cost: \$20. RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED (pay at meeting/no cancellations) Tell your emailer (Gwyn Baker) or your caller (Barbara Kenney) 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.



Program Notes

by Gwyn Baker



At our branch meeting on February 17 Dan Flores, the Community Development Director for the City of Marysville, will be giving us an update on all that's happening in Marysville. Come learn about all these new developments in the community! Doors open at 9:30, and speaker is at 10:00 with lunch buffet following the speaker.

Feather Vane Staff

Artis Buerki – Editor, e-mailer artisb@comcast.net
Libby Haraugthy & Joan Young- Snail Mailers
Cynthia Fontayne & Corky Ulrey – Proofreaders
Joann Nixon & Mary Mayfield - Photographers
Linda Zall - Communications Leader

IBC Luncheon – February 3

The annual Interbranch Council (IBC) luncheon will be held in Chico on Saturday, **February 3**, 11 am to 1:30 pm at St. John the Evangelist Episcopalian Church, 2341 Floral Avenue, Chico. (Not to be confused with St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, also in Chico.) **Reservations are required.** The IBC luncheon is a good way to meet members of the other AAUW branches in our IBC area, **Phone Liz Skelly, 530-635-0821 to get the information.**

Tech Trek update: Carol Clark reports that we are now requesting nominations from the teachers at local elementary schools, so it is early in the process of Tech Trek. Interviews will likely be in March, and Carol would appreciate volunteers to help with the interview process. The committee meets Thursday, **February 15** at 1:30 pm. If you are interested in helping contact Carol Clark, 530-301-2164 or cclark1246@sbcglobal.net



New Member Opportunities

by Lee Jones & Sandy Davini

Shape the Future: Exciting opportunity for new members - AAUW Marysville-Yuba City Branch is designating our **February 17 & March 16, 2024**, Branch Meetings and **March 2**, A Day for Women at Hard Rock Casino as Shape the Future events to encourage new members to join. Please invite prospective members to attend one or more meetings. Membership is open to both women and men who have at least an associate degree or greater. If they join at a Feb. or March meeting, they will get a 50% (\$36) discount on their first-year national dues. That means they can join for \$69 (instead of (\$105) for twelve months. New members would owe a full year's dues when they renew a year later.



Tea Bag Fundraiser

In February, each of our branch members will receive a teabag in the mail, and a letter explaining our annual Education and Training Tea Bag Fundraiser. Your donations are used at the national level to address barriers that prevent women from thriving in school and pursuing the careers of their dreams.

Please participate in this event by writing a check for \$15 or more to: AAUW and write ET-#4450 in the memo line.

Mail your check to AAUW, PO Box 3031, Yuba City, CA 95992, by **March 31, 2024**. Total donations of \$750 will allow us to designate a branch member for the AAUW National Award for outstanding service: the Education and Training Opportunities Named Gift Honoree Award. If you have any questions, contact our Treasurer, Sandy Davini.



OPPORTUNITY DRAWING

At our **February 17** branch meeting we will have an opportunity drawing to win this beautiful gift basket donated by Garden Tour sponsor SunSweet Growers. The basket was created by Emily at SunSweet Growers Store. *photo by Joyce Smith*

AAUW California will hold its 2024 Lobby Days on April 2 and 3, 2024.

The Public Policy team is seeking members who are interested in meeting with their state representatives and/or their staff to inform them about AAUW and advocate for their support of priority bills. Meetings may be held in person at the Capitol or virtually via Zoom.

Go to the website now, and follow these steps:
<https://www.aauw-ca.org/learn-how-to-be-an-effective-lobby-days-advocate-2024/>

1. Complete your Interest Survey by February 15, 2024
2. Attend mandatory training March 25, 2024, 7 – 9 PM
3. Participate in Lobby Days on April 2 and 3, 2024



Did you know?

Happy Birthday to all who have birthdays in February: **Edette Mills, Thea Norum, Amy Molina-Jones, Edna Smyth, Joan**

Young, Harjot Kaur, Mary Harris-Kasuba, and Artis Buerki. If we missed you, or we got it wrong, please let us know right away.

Did you know that February comes from the Latin word *februa*, which means “to cleanse” and that the month was named after the Roman *Februalia*, which was a month-long festival of purification and atonement that took place this time of year?

Did you know that as the oldest non-institutional provider of graduate funding for women in the United States, AAUW American Fellowships empower women scholars engaged in full-time dissertation completion, postdoctoral research, or preparing research for publication. Candidates, evaluated for scholarly excellence and a commitment to advancing women and girls, contribute not only to their academic fields but also through active service in their communities and professions. Explore the opportunities for the coming year and consider joining this legacy of impactful scholarship. Visit <https://bit.ly/3CUriQR> to learn how to apply.

Don't miss the Pioneer Women photographic show at the Sutter County Museum Jan. 16 until April 7.

Did you know that we have selected 3 scholarship winners at Yuba College? Names and majors of the scholarship recipients are:

Elizabeth Gonzales, Biology, Pre-Med
Gracia Murillo, Vet Tech
Kimberly Rivera, Biology, Forensics

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

Did you know that February is Black History Month? Also known as African American History Month, the event grew out of “Negro History Week,” the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating Black history.



VOTE to change the AAUW bylaws – AAUW

proposed bylaws change supporting equality is on the ballot again which would remove the requirement to have

a degree to join. Members will receive ballots by email soon with an online election in April. Read measure now:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/2024-aauw-proposed-bylaws-changes>.



Mark your calendar and just say “YES” if you are asked to help. The 30th annual AAUW GARDEN TOUR will be held on May 4, 2024, and you will be invited to help in two ways:

1. Garden greeters are needed. Sign up at the February branch meeting.
2. In mid-March each of our branch members will receive two tickets to sell or buy. Please do your part.

MARYSVILLE-YUBA CITY, CALIFORNIA, AAUW BRANCH Garden Tour Tickets are \$25 and will also be available online at mvyca-aa.uw.net/garden-tour. After mid-March Garden Tour tickets can be purchased at these local businesses: K Roberts Gifts, Country Florist, Sperbeck's Nursery, and Digs on D Street, but sell yours first!

LEARN ABOUT THE GARDEN TOUR – See our website mvyca-aa.uw.net/garden-tour or visit us on Facebook.

Outstanding gardens in the Yuba City area will be open from 10 am to 3:30 pm. A drop-in reception will be held at the historic McCampbell Mansion on 2nd Street in Yuba City from 11 am to 4 pm with light refreshments. Local artists will sell their creations there. The Blue Zone will have information, demonstrations, and samples of garden-fresh foods. And please contact me if you know someone who would like to be a sponsor for the AAUW Garden Tour. artisb@comcast.net.

Let's talk about fundraising!

GARDEN TOUR SPONSOR TEAM REPORT
by Artis Buerki, Joyce Smith & Linda Zall

This year we are focusing on women-owned businesses, but not exclusively, and we will post sponsors on the *Feather Vane* pages, on our Facebook pages, and in our publicity. Contact artisb@comcast.net with sponsor ideas.

Levels of GARDEN TOUR sponsorships are Orchid - \$500, Rose - \$300; Azalea - \$100, and Iris - \$50

**Here are our Garden Tour sponsors so far:
Please thank them and use their businesses if you can.**

- McCampbell Mansion Mike and Stephanie Jauron
- Aquamarine Contractors in Yuba City
- Owens Ranch in Browns Valley
- American Painters in Yuba City
- Lowe's in Yuba City
- Davis Printing in Yuba City
- Kay & Ross Cockrell
- Harkey House, Lee & Bob Jones
- Chuck & Artis Buerki
- Plumas Bank
- Colusa Casino
- Sunsweet Growers
- Charlie & Chris Bird
- Holycross Funeral Home
- Hilbers Inc.

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 and ask her to add you to her email contact list.



ALL AROUND TOWN – Feb.7

We will meet one week earlier than usual to celebrate Chinese New Year at the Dragon Inn in Marysville. 5:30 pm

We normally meet the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. Contact Linda Zall, 530.713.0552 or [email lindazall66@gmail.com](mailto:lindazall66@gmail.com)



Sue, Mary, Betty, Carol, Linda, and Ethel enjoyed time together bringing in the new year at the Ranch House on Dec. 31. *Photo courtesy of Betty Bonner*



On Jan. 10 we went to the Mongolian BBQ. (L-R) Roleane, Christie, Mary, Betty, Pat, Ethel, Liz, Alice and Jennifer. Roleane is friend of Jennifer and Alice is granddaughter. *Photo courtesy of Mary Mayfield*



MOVIE LOVERS - Would you like to go to a daytime movie in Yuba City about once a month with some friends? Last month we saw Wonka. To be on the Movie group email list contact Mary Mayfield,

marymay22@comcast.net; Here are Artis, Ethel, Joyce, Phyllis, and Mary at the WONKA movie. (see review below) *Photo by Mary Mayfield*



RABID READERS – Feb. 16 Book Club meets on the 3rd Friday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the Sutter County Library. Contact Linda Zall, 530.713.0552, lindazall66@gmail.com



Book club met at Library on Jan. 19. Lee, Judy, Marilyn, Christina, Linda, Helen, Christy, Pat, and Mary were there. *Photo by Mary Mayfield*

TALKING ON PAPER – Feb. 13

Members who like to express themselves on paper (writing about travel, family, new experiences, memories, or poetry) are welcome. We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, 10 am at Sutter County Library and have a good time sharing, laughing, and empathizing with each other. Call Donna Long for details, 530-671-4381.



Here's some new year's humor from one of our Talking on Paper friends –

It's the end of 2023, and as another year passes, I still have so many unanswered questions.

I still haven't found out who let the dogs out...where's the beef...how to get to Sesame Street... why Dora doesn't just use Google Maps...why all flavors of Fruit Loops taste exactly the same, or how many licks it takes to get to the center of a Tootsie pop....why eggs are packaged in a flimsy carton, but batteries are secured in heavy plastic that requires a box cutter and 30 minutes to open...why "abbreviated" is such a long word, or why there is a D in 'fridge' but not in refrigerator... why bottled lemon juice is made with artificial flavors yet dish washing liquid is made with real lemons...and why you have to "put your two cents in" but it's only a "penny for your thoughts" (where's that extra penny going??)...

I don't know why the Alphabet Song and Twinkle Twinkle Little Star have the same tune...why you just tried to sing those two songs to verify...what exactly Victoria's secret is... and where's Waldo? Can you hear me now?...and did you think I wrote this because, ya' know, I'm a writer? Well no.

I actually got this from a friend, who stole it from her cousin's girlfriend's uncle's brother-in-law, who lived next door to an old classmate's mailman. Feel free to copy and paste and pass it along. Happy New Year! *Contributed by Cynthia Fontayne*



TRAVELING GOURMET – Feb. 22

Lunch group goes to restaurants within about a 50-mile radius of Yuba City. 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.

WONKA movie review

by Artis Buerki

Dec. 18, 2023 - Today I went to see Wonka with four of my AAUW Movie Group friends, and it did not disappoint. Surprisingly to me, it was a musical fantasy and did not follow the book by Roald Dahl (1964). Wonka brought back memories of Gene Wilder's Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory (1971) and Johnny Depp's version, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (2005).

MARYSVILLE-YUBA CITY, CALIFORNIA, AAUW BRANCH

Wonka was a brighter version with a few sad parts and starred a younger Willy Wonka in a story about how he invented the candy company (much like Star Wars told the first story last). It starred Timothee Chalamet as Willy, Calah Lane as the young orphan girl Noodle, and lots of character actors that you will recognize but not know from where you last saw them. One of these was Jim Carter whom you will recognize as the butler from Downton Abbey, playing the bookkeeper, Abacus Crunch. Hugh Grant gave comic relief as the thieving miniature Loompa out to steal Willy's chocolate candy recipe. A couple of the songs, including Oompa Loompa, are recognizable from the previous versions of the movie. You'll want to see this with your young grandchildren. A 6-year-old sitting near us in the audience was dancing on the floor in front of her seat during much of the movie!



Executive Council Report **January 11, 2024** *Ellen O'Neil, Secretary*

Attendees: Kathy Nehl, Linda Zall, Joann Nixon, Sandy Davini, Carol Clark, Liz Skelly, Martha Bunce, Lee Jones, Gwyn Baker, Ellen O'Neil.

The meeting was called to order at 1:08
Changes to last month's minutes: Change wording for Lee's decision to no longer be Membership Chair to say she is not up for re-election.
Minutes were approved.

Job Descriptions: Liz and Linda are collecting Executive Council Job Descriptions. Next month they will report on who has completed them.

Discussion regarding "A Day for Women" being held March 2, 2024. There is one opening left for a Member-at-Large to attend. The person will be determined next month.

Martha received an invoice from Jackie Sillman, of the local Chamber of Commerce, for our sponsorship and attendance and Sandy will see that it is paid. Jackie also asked Martha if, next year, the branch would like to nominate a teacher for honors at the event. There is some confusion around that process so Martha will call her for clarification.

Leader's Report: Yuba College is having a Ribbon-Cutting for the new Science Building on January 17th and we are invited. Martha, Liz and Sandy will go.

The national office of AAUW has sent an email announcing an election in April to amend the by-laws regarding membership requirements. The change would eliminate college degree requirements to become an AAUW member.

Feather Vane, FEB. 2024

The election is in April; comments must be received by January 26th.

M/S/C: Liz/Carol/Unanimous: The Marysville-Yuba City Branch of AAUW will send a comment to the National AAUW stating that we are in support of eliminating degree requirements for membership in AAUW. Martha will write and send the comment. She will also post an article in the Feather Vane regarding the issue and contact Robert Summa, editor of the local Appeal newspaper, to ask if he would be interested in publishing the information.

Correspondence: Sandy said there was nothing new to report.

Treasurer's Report: There have been some changes in the budget to better reflect actual income and expenses. All EC members received a description in email and a hard copy was available at the meeting.

The budget required approval following Sandi's presentation on the changes. M/SC: Ellen/Joann/ Unanimous to approve the budget as amended.

Martha asked EC members to plan for a future discussion regarding how to best utilize the "extra" funds that are in the budget. She would like ideas as to how to best expand the achievement of our mission. A wide-ranging discussion followed: donations to Casa Esperanza, House of Hope, existing high school scholarships, marketing to increase diversity of MV-YC AAUW membership. More discussion will follow at a future meeting.

Public Policy: While the state AAUW is concerned about school boards enacting "parents rights" activities that include book banning, there are no school board elections in our area this year. State AAUW is asking members to get involved in "Lobby Days" on April 2nd and 3rd during which constituents meet with Assembly persons: and Senators in Sacramento. Training from state AAUW is required for participants. Martha suggested that our branch go because Assemblyman Gallagher is supporting 'Parents Rights' regulations. She asked EC members to look into the training.

Membership: Lee Jones presented what she learned on a state Zoom meeting regarding membership. She was impressed with the Redlands chapter. They sent a survey asking why people didn't renew their membership: aging out and not feeling heard were the main reasons. Interest groups, of which Redlands has a wide range, keep members involved. Lee passed around their membership form and suggested ours be revised to reflect some of the items on their form.

Communications: Linda reported for Artis that the final day to submit articles for the Feather Vane is January 20th. Artis has submitted an article on the Garden Tour to "Explore 2024" which is published by The Appeal.

Social Media: Gwyn says her Facebook posts get little notice and asked members to please go to the page. Gwyn needs someone to call members who do not use email to invite them to the monthly meeting. Martha called Barbara Kenney who agreed to take on the task.

Program: The Feb. 17th speaker is Dan Flores, Development Director for Marysville, who will explain all the plans for the city's improvement. He is also on the Sutter County Board of Supervisors. Linda has invited his wife, Tonya, to the meeting as her guest. Tonya will be presenting her book, "Super Puppies", at the library on January 20th.

STEM: Committee members will have a brainstorming session on February 8th at the Sutter County Office of Education. There are a number of logistical challenges with Yuba College buildings that can hopefully be resolved once information is received about the changes in their buildings.

Garden Tour: On schedule, 8 gardens committed. More people are needed to help at the reception. The Greeter committee will be planning a day for greeters, garden

owners and artists to have a "pre-tour", to encourage more members to take on the greeter tasks.

Tech Trek: Carol is turning in her resignation as Coordinator, effective in the Fall. She has managed a huge process for many years and her job dates have changed. Currently, schools are being contacted and some are responding positively. There will be a zoom meeting with the state on the 15th.

TTAG: Joann said that the 2023 group of girls had a wonderful pizza party.

Interbranch: Liz needs RSVPs and checks for \$38. The luncheon is in Chico on Feb. 3rd and the speaker is the Director of Nursing at Chico State. Our branch is responsible for decoration.

Lots of praise to the workers who made the Coalition drawing in December such a financial success. Meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm

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

Women of the Year: March is Women's History month, and as we begin 2024 this is a perfect time to remember three outstanding American women who passed away at the end of the year 2023.



Rosalind Carter was First Lady of the United States from 1977 to 1981. She was born in Georgia in 1927, was a writer, activist, and humanitarian. She died at the age of 96, on November 19, 2023.



Sandra Day O'Connor, born in Texas in 1930, was the first female Justice on the U.S. Supreme Court. She was appointed by President Ronald Reagan in 1981 and served there for 24 years. She resigned from the Supreme Court in 2006 to care for an aging husband. Judge O'Connor died at the age of 93 on December 1, 2023.



Dianne Feinstein was a California U.S. Senator dedicated to advancing women's rights. She was born in 1933 in San Francisco. She became acting mayor of San Francisco when the sitting mayor was shot and killed in 1978. She ran for the job the following year and won, holding the post until 1988. She was elected to the United States Senate in 1992 where she served for 31 years until her death on September 29, 2023.

**Thought for the month: "Toughness doesn't have to come in a pinstripe suit."
Dianne Feinstein (1933-2023)**



FEATHER VANE, Artis Buerki, Editor

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AAUW California website: www.aauw-ca.org/ AAUW National website: 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)

FEBRUARY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10 am Garden Tour Com.	2 Ground- hog Day	3 11 am IBC Luncheon In Chico
4	5	6	7 5:30 pm All Around Town (dinner)	8 10 am STEM Com. 1 pm Executive Council	9	10
11	12	13 10 am Talking on Paper (writing)	14	15 1:30 pm Tech Trek Committee	16 10 am Rabid Readers (books)	17 10 am Branch Meeting
18	19 Presidents' Day	20	21	22 10:30 am Traveling Gourmet (lunch)	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 Leap year		

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(SAVE LOGOS)



We are all wonder women!



JOIN A GROUP



Program Notes 

Council Chat