



FEATHER VANE – Summer 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 Aug. 8 at 1 pm, Sutter County Schools Office. 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*

Happy Hot Summer! I hope you are finding time to rest, refresh, renew and recharge. I'm doing a lot of reading, staying inside and cool, planning trips and visiting my kids. I'm also thinking a lot about AAUW Marysville-Yuba City. I'd like to share a bit with you.

This past year your Executive Council spent a good amount of time thinking and talking about who and what AAUW Marysville-Yuba City is, and how we can be better at "Advancing Equity for Women and Girls." We looked at our budget to assess whether it reflects our mission, we discussed ways to increase our visibility and influence in our community, and we decided to make some changes in our committee structures and our budget.

Looking at our budget, Tech Trek is allocated the most money. Sending 5 girls (the number we are limited to by AAUWCA) costs over \$7000, including support costs for Tech Trek recruitment. Because budgets reflect priorities, that means that TECH TREK is our highest priority. We also recognize that TTAG (Tech Trek Alumni Group) is a part of that priority, as it provides support and mentoring for the Tech Trek girls through their middle and high school years. Funds must be provided for that effort.

In order to fund what we want to do, we need member and community participation. We look for ways to support committees and encourage members to participate in projects. We recognize that supporting the Garden Tour is vital because it is our sole fundraiser. We restructure committees to spread responsibilities, time and talent. We examine how our public profile can be improved. And we look for ways to connect with community organizations that share our goals.

I am so grateful for the women on the Executive Council who are smart, energetic, experienced, positive, talkative, collaborative and FUN!

Oh, and if you are asked to contribute some time and talent – please jump at the chance!

Tech Trekkers are at camp in July.



Carol Clark and Martha Bunce visited our girls at Tech Trek on July 17.

TTAG Advisors attended the graduation of one of last year's Tech Trek girls.



Joann Nixon and Donna Long, TTAG Advisors, were honored to be invited to the 8th grade graduation

ceremony of one of our former Tech Trek girls. Turan Welcome, who was a Tech Trek camper in 2023, and her entire family, were very pleased to have AAUW representatives in attendance. Turan's family greeted us warmly and expressed how grateful they were to

see Turan benefit so much from the experience of attending Tech Trek. Turan gave a very poised speech to her class. By supporting Tech Trek, you are giving these amazing girls opportunities that will change their futures. *Donna Long, photo by Mire Welcome.*

Thank you to member Cynthia Fontayne who made a presentation at our June meeting about Julia Morgan, California's first female architect and the only woman to ever receive the Gold Medal of the American Institute of Architects. In addition to landmarks like Hearst Castle and Asilomar, she designed a number of public buildings and residences in Yuba-Sutter, including Cynthia's 1920 home. Morgan was one of us. She joined AAUW's precursor, the Association of Collegiate Alumnae, in 1894, the same year she earned her engineering degree from UC Berkeley.

Here is the link to the story that ran in the Appeal Democrat newspaper following Cynthia's talk.



Julia Morgan home
a place of history, lc

AAUW Bill Tracking Report – Updated June 2024
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1JLvpR56LgEhUpnBXcq84S82TPGn3tRuhLG49yfINFG8/edit?gid=0#gid=0>



Results of the VOTE to change the AAUW by-laws.

The by-laws proposal to remove the requirement for a college degree did not pass. There was a small margin of failure. A change in AAUW by-laws requires 2/3 of the votes to pass. We are disappointed as our branch, and AAUW California, were in favor of the change to increase inclusiveness with women in our community.

Feather Vane Staff

Artis Buerki – Newsletter Editor, artisb@comcast.net
Cynthia Fontayne & Corky Ulrey – Proofreaders
Joan Young & Libby Haraughty - Snail Mailers
Sherry Wonder & Joann Nixon - Photographers
Linda Zall - Communications Leader



Did you know?

Happy Birthday to all branch members whose birthdays were in **JULY** - Roberta D'Arcy, Terri Burroughs, Ellen O'Neil, Linden Reynolds, Janet Staser, Corky Ulrey, Beverly Balfour, Libby Haraughty, & Stephanie Stancil, and **AUGUST** – Marilyn Elliott, Cindy Gaven, Julie Goldwyn, Judy Hale, Yvonne Pierre, Kelly Swanson, Cynthia Fontayne, Cheryl Blackburn, & Rosie Damborenia.

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. <https://bit.ly/3CUriQR> to learn how to apply.

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>



Mary Mayfield Remembered

Sadly, we have lost another member, and we will put books in the Sutter County library to commemorate Mary Mayfield, who died unexpectedly in May.

Mary was a dedicated member of our AAUW branch. She provided excellent photos to the Feather Vane for the past few years, and Mary took all the pictures of the May 4th Garden Tour that you have seen in this publication. Mary led the Movie interest group, and she attended the book club, Traveling Gourmet, and the evening dinner group. She will be missed for her wonderful attitude and smiling face!

MARYSVILLE-YUBA CITY, CALIFORNIA, AAUW BRANCH

Our condolences go to member Katy Coladarci whose husband passed away in July. Prayers and healing thoughts go to Katy and her family.

MEMBERSHIP –

Two new members joined at the June 1 branch meeting. They are Claudia Chandler and Brenda Mock. Please add them to your rosters.

Claudia Barker Chandler, 3600 Garwood Road, Nicolaus, CA 95659, chandler3600@gmail.com. You will remember that the 2023 Garden Tour reception was held at her 2121 Ranch. Claudia was invited by Martha Bunce.

Brenda Beers Mock, 861 Olive Street, Yuba City, CA 95991, bbm@sonic.net. Brenda was invited by Linda Zall. who is her neighbor.

Meet our new member – Brenda Mock



I am a fourth generation Californian, born in Merced. I have lived all over Northern California, including San Francisco, Berkeley, Los Gatos, Carmichael, Bear Valley and now Yuba City.

My husband Tom and I have been married for 63 years and we have two daughters, and two grandchildren. Tiffany and her husband Bob live with us in Yuba City. Stacy and family live in San Francisco.

I graduated from La Sierra High School in Carmichael, attended San Francisco State University and finally graduated from the Academy of Art University, San Francisco, where I studied Interior Design.

In the early 80's Tom and I owned Tamarack Lodge at Bear Valley on Highway 4. The lodge had 23 guest rooms, a full-service dining room, bar, cross country center and a gas station. It was 24/7 nonstop craziness.

When we sold the lodge, we moved back to San Francisco and re-entered city life.

I opened my interior design studio in Danville and the next 20 years were very lucky for me. I acquired a number of well-known and affluent clients. I worked on many projects all over California, in Oregon, Colorado, Arizona, Ohio, Virginia, North Carolina, and Connecticut.

Feather Vane SUMMER, 2024

We fully retired in 2007 and moved home to Carmichael. We planned on just relaxing and traveling. Soon I was on several boards for local nonprofits and started managing the Carmichael Presbyterian Church Food Closet with my daughter, Tiffany.

We did find time to travel. Some of our adventures were in many cities in the US, as well as Vietnam, Egypt, South Africa, Cuba, Panama, Columbia, Argentina, Europe and the UK, Iceland and Tahiti.

We moved to Yuba City in October 2023 to our 1926 home that had been abandoned for 7 years. It was a bit of a project!

I am looking forward to gardening, developing my watercolor skills, exploring our new community and working with AAUW.

Movie Review – Fly Me to the Moon

by Diane McVicker

Four of us went to see Fly Me to the Moon on July 15. Most of us liked it and deemed it enjoyable and entertaining. It was a bit of nostalgia given the era of Apollo 11 and clips/flashbacks of Vietnam. The actors included Scarlett Johansson and Channing Tatum, and there was a very nice story line that mixed reality with fictional drama.

Thinking about future movies for the Movie group, two previews looked interesting so mark your calendars to see It Ends with Us based on the book by Colleen Hoover (August) and Wicked (Thanksgiving time). If you see other movies that appeal to you, please let Artis or me know and we'll track them for you. Not all movies make it to the Yuba City Cinemark.

INTEREST SECTIONS - All branch members are welcome to participate. Contact your interest group coordinator for the summer schedule.



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

Dinner group normally meets **2nd Wed. monthly at 5:30 pm** at a local restaurant. Contact Betty Bonner, 530-301-2265.



Dinner group went to Thao Thai Kitchen Cuisine in Marysville on May 8.



We went to Ermajeau's in Olivehurst in June, and to Hooligans in Yuba City on July 10. *Photos courtesy of Christy Estabrook*



MOVIE LOVERS - Would you like to go to a daytime movie in Yuba City with some friends? To be on the Movie group email list contact Artis Buerki, artisb@comcast.net or Diana McVicker, 909-532-2521.



RABID READERS

Book Club meets on the **3rd Friday of the month at 10 am** at the Sutter County Library. Contact Linda Zall, 530.713.0552, lindazall66@gmail.com



TALKING ON PAPER

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 the month, 10 am at Sutter County Library and have a good time sharing, laughing, and empathizing with each other. Contact Donna Long, 530-671-4381.



TRAVELING GOURMET

Lunch group goes to restaurants within about a 50-mile radius of Yuba City on the **4th Thursday of the month**. To carpool we meet at the Yuba City 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.



On May 23 Traveling Gourmet went to Seasons 52 at Arden Mall. *Photo courtesy of Christy Estabrook*



TG went to Mikuni's in Roseville on June 27. In July we plan to go to the French Whisk in Sutter. *Photo courtesy of Sherry Wonder.*

**Find us on Facebook –
AAUW.MVYC/ (branch page)
AAUW-MVYC Group (open group page)
Art in the Gardens (open group page)**



Executive Council Meeting

May 9, 2024

Ellen O'Neil, Secretary

The executive council met at Sutter Country Supt. of Schools Office at 1 p.m.

Attendees: Liz Skelly, Carol Anderson-Clark, Artis Buerki, Sandy Davini, Martha Bunce, Christy Estabrook, Gwyn Baker, Linda Zall, Kathy Nehl, and Ellen O'Neil.

Minutes were approved with no changes or corrections.

Leader's Report: Reminder that at the June planning meeting, Ex members' portfolios or 'task lists' are due.

Correspondence: There was no correspondence that required EC action.

Treasurer's Report: Sandy had emailed the report to all EC members. She is still reconciling the Garden Tour revenue and expenses. However, it appears that AAUW netted between \$6000 and \$7000.

Sandy would like to see the donation to the Yuba College Emergency Fund increased to \$500. It was moved, seconded and brought to a vote: Sandy/Gwyn/Unanimous to increase the amount.

The changes to the budget that were approved at last month's meeting were clarified regarding speaker honorariums and donations. Since the speaker honorarium can range from \$150 to \$300 based on the organization which the speaker represents, Martha said that the line item should cover \$300 a month to ensure that the need is covered.

There will also need to be a double line item for the "Day for Women". One will cover the costs for attending and the other will serve to cover the cost of the AAUW award for the woman chosen by our branch to receive the award.

A third line item will be added for donations to AAUW made in memory of members who have died.

Public Policy: No report

Membership: A reminder that Lee has stepped down from this role and her replacement needs to come from the Executive Council.

Sandy asked members to please report if they know of anyone who has renewed their membership through national. It is challenging to pursue the funds.

By-Laws: Christy has amended the By-Laws per the changes required by national AAUW. She moved that the affiliate accepted the changes. Christy/Linda/Unanimous

Communications: Feather Vane has been distributed and looks great. The next due date for articles is in August

There was some discussion regarding having a slideshow of Garden Tour photos at the June branch meeting, however, no one has the necessary skills to do it.

There was a good response to Gwyn's social media posts regarding the Garden Tour.

Membership renewal Invoices for March, April and May have been sent. Notices for those who are scheduled to renew by June will go out July 1st.

Programs: Cynthia Fontaine will be speaking about Julia Morgan and her local architecture at the June branch meeting. It was requested that Gwyn mention that Cynthia is an AAUW member when she emails the invitations to the June meeting.

There will be a drawing for free dues at the upcoming branch meeting. All those who have paid will be included in the drawing.

A suggestion was made for the meeting when a speaker explains C.A.S.A. Perhaps she would appreciate members bringing toys or clothing items for the children served by the program.

For the 24-25 program year, all but one speaker is booked.

Publicity: Artis reported that there were articles in the local paper about AAUW Garden Tour during February, March, April and May.

Projects:

STEM: Martha is recruiting speakers. Between the current session and summer school, Liz will visit Yuba College to determine the number of attendees that can be accommodated. The first meeting of the STEM committee is August 8th.

Tech Trek: May 24th is the pizza party for the 2024 Tech Trek girls and TTAG girls. Carol invited everyone to attend and meet the new girls.

Martha will be attending the Tech Trek meeting next week in the hope of finding a means of recruiting Carol's successor as the Chairperson for Tech Trek. The Visitation Day for the Tech Trek week at UC Davis is July 19th.

Scholarships: No update; all going according to plan.

Interbranch: Liz and Carol attended a gathering on May 1st; 12 people attended from the other AAUW branches.

Coalition Brunch: Artis will be chairing the committee this year.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned. Next meeting is Planning Meeting in June at Martha's home.



Executive Council Planning Meeting
June 13, 2024
Ellen O'Neil, Secretary

The Executive Council met at the home of Martha Bunce on June 13 at 10:30 a.m.

In Attendance: Martha Bunce, Liz Skelly, Carol Anderson-Clark, Sandy Davini, Joann Nixon, Linda Zall, Kathy Nehl, Christy Estabrook and Ellen O'Neil.

Before taking up the items on the posted agenda, Martha reminded the members that Artis resigned her elected EC position, and the Council will need to appoint a replacement. Discussion followed. Then, following the process in the By Laws, the newly elected and returning EC members organized themselves by portfolios as follow:

- Treasurer -- Sandy Davini (one year term 2024-2025)
- Leader -- Martha Bunce (2022-2025)
- Secretary -- Ellen O'Neil (2023-2026)
- By Laws --Christy Estabrook (2024-2027)
- Communications -- Linda Zall (2023-2026)
- Program -- Gwyn Baker -- (2024-2027)
- Projects -- Liz Skelly (2022-2025)
- Membership -- TBA (2024-2027)

Minutes from May 9, 2024, were approved with two corrections, that Martha is recruiting speakers for STEM and the first committee meeting is August 8th.

Information/Action Items

A Nominating Committee was appointed consisting of Linda Zall, Martha Bunce and Liz Skelly.

Budget Priority Discussion: Treasurer Sandy Davini reviewed the line-item budget proposal and explained the changes. It had been approved to give \$500 in alternate years in gifts to Case de Esperanza and Girls on the Run.

Liz suggested we give the money yearly to both organizations and discussion ensued regarding priorities regarding ensuring that we support organizations helping advance equity for women. A motion followed, that we donate \$500 each year to both groups.

Liz/Linda/Opposed:1, Abstained: 1, Ayes: 7. Motion carried.

Sandy reminded the EC of the new line items discussed in a previous meeting: Day of the Women Award: \$3000
Sponsorship of Day of the Women: \$1000

There was discussion as to how to support the TTAG girls when they are in college. Further meetings will delve into the subject again.

Sandy moved that the budget be approved as presented with the one amendment above and presented to the general membership in September.
Sandy/Christy/Unanimous

Leaders Report: Succession planning is essential for the affiliate. When a long-time chair of a committee or leader stops performing their duties, someone knowledgeable needs to step up. The current chairs can begin recruiting others to follow them. Also, presentations regarding each committee should be done at the general meetings. The Tech Trek girls will be presenting in September, which should motivate some members to become involved. Sandy will present on STEM in October.

Correspondence: Sue Graue, an artist who helps with the Garden Tour, sent a beautiful thank-you note for the flowers given to her in gratitude for her help. Joan Young also sent a lovely note, thanking AAUW for being awarded the "Named Gift Honoree."

Public Policy: The Biden Administration on April 19, 2024, updated the Title 9 wording, reworking Trump changes to Title 9. There is full review in the Feather Vane. AAUW National encourages members to contact their representatives to favor those changes.

One of the bills that the state AAUW supported through Lobby Day is on the governor's desk. It would require health insurance companies to pay for exams following a sexual assault.
Martha encouraged EC members to get involved in Lobby Day, saying that it was fun.

By-Laws: Christy will be sending out the changes mandated by National AAUW, mainly that we are no longer referred to as a branch but are called "affiliates".

Communications: EC members need to know the deadline for the Feather Vane.
The first General Meeting of the year is September 21st.
The Coalition Brunch is December 7th.

Interbranch Council: Liz will relinquish her duties at the IBC meeting in August.

Scholarship Committee: There will be decisions requiring members' input during the summer, therefore, Liz will be contacting members.

Editor's note: The next meeting of the Executive Council is August 8, 1 pm, Sutter County Schools Office. Contact Martha if you want to serve on the board (EC) as a voting member at large.

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

ACT NOW TO SUPPORT TITLE IX – Contact our California Senators

A college freshman, excited for her new journey, is the subject of offensive and inappropriate rumors in her dorm. A brilliant graduate researcher is excluded from important projects by her professor after turning down a sexual advance.

These aren't hypothetical scenarios. They're the lived experiences of countless students across America. And now, their protection is under threat.

The U.S. House of Representatives has voted to **prevent enforcement of new Title IX rules** designed to strengthen protection for vulnerable students. This isn't just about policy — *it's about real lives, dreams put on hold, and futures altered.*

The new Title IX rules are meant to offer stronger protections for:

- Survivors of sexual assault and harassment
- Pregnant and parenting students
- LGBTQ+ students and faculty

By voting to overturn these rules, U.S. Representatives are forcing students to attend school with limited protections.

Contact Senators to stand up for students and oppose all efforts to weaken Title IX.

Alex Padilla padilla.senate.gov

Laphonza Butler <https://www.butler.senate.gov/share-your-opinion/>

[AAUW Alumnae Summer Reading List](#) offers thought-provoking works that explore crucial themes of democracy, social justice, and empowerment.

Quote of the month: “When the world is so complicated, the simple gift of friendship is within all of our hands.” Maria Shriver



empowering women since 1881

FEATHER VANE, Artis Buerki, Editor

P.O. Box 334, Sutter, CA 95982



We are all Wonder Women.

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

AAUW National website: www.aauw.org

Our Branch Facebook pages: <https://www.facebook.com/AAUW.MVYC/>

AAUW--MVYC Group (open group page); **Art in the Gardens** (open group page)

Our branch website: <http://mvyc-ca.aauw.net/>