



FEATHER VANE – October 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 Oct 3 at 1 pm. Contact Martha Bunce, 530-713-0663.

BRANCH MEETING – OCT. 12

When: Saturday, October 12

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: Alyssa (Lisa) Lindman, Executive Director *Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust*

Menu: Lunch Buffet following speakers

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 Monday prior to the meeting. Not sure you have confirmed reservations? Contact Gwyn Baker, 530-632-4336.

Program Notes *by Gwyn Baker*

This branch meeting is 1 week earlier than previously announced. **Saturday, October 12, 2024, the SECOND Saturday** – *Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust*: Alyssa (Lisa) Lindman, Executive Director,



will be sharing her organization's work to protect the natural and agricultural resources of the Sutter Buttes and surrounding region. The Trust's Calendar Exhibit was recently showcased at the Sutter County Museum, and they will be hosting the California Swan Festival November 8-10 at Yuba College. Learn more about these special activities and the important work of the Trust at our October branch meeting.

Thank You to our five Tech Trek speakers at the September 21 branch meeting.



Picture on left was taken at Tech Trek Camp in July. Top row L-R: Amelia Larson (Live Oak Middle School), Alianna Barrington (Tierra Buena School), and Audrey Marler (Barry). Bottom row L-R: Analidia Coyazo-Ochoa (Riverbend); and Laila McRice (Brittan School).

Picture on left was taken at Tech Trek Camp in July. Top row L-R: Amelia Larson (Live Oak Middle School), Alianna Barrington (Tierra Buena School), and Audrey Marler (Barry). Bottom row L-R: Analidia Coyazo-Ochoa (Riverbend); and Laila McRice (Brittan School).

Parents attended our Sept. 21 meeting with their girls.



Above: These are all the girls who attended the AAUW Tech Trek camp at UC Davis in July with our girls.

Board to Board

A Communication from the AAUW California Board to Branch Boards

Standing together for equity.



TECH TREK Topic - Mary Isaac, Tech Trek Program Director, and Tech Trek Committee chair, techtrek@aauw-ca.org

GOODBYE TO TECH TREK 2024, HELLO TECH TREK 2025!

Here we are again looking in the rearview mirror at another AMAZING Tech Trek California camp season!

With nearly 800 campers and over 250 staff participating in eight weeks of in-person and virtual camp, over 100 California branches once again demonstrated their deep commitment to STEM at UC Davis, Santa Cruz, and San Diego, CSU Fresno, Sonoma State, Santa Clara University, and Whittier College (two camps). Branches can expect to see at least one additional camp in the schedule for 2025 to be approved in late October.

If 2025 is anything like 2024, 25% of our branch coordinators will be new and would likely benefit from attending the Branch Coordinator Peer Group Zoom sessions beginning again September 19th at 6:30 pm and continuing each month on the third Thursday (except December break).

Monthly Tech Trek committee meetings are also open to interested branch members on the second Monday of each month, also at 6:30 pm.

You will be asked to estimate your camper sponsorships and volunteer support in early November following the October board meeting, when the preliminary recommended camp schedule and fees will be reviewed and approved.

Click the link below for the Branch Coordinator Peer Group monthly Zoom registrations:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZctcu2oqzMrE9YEUXePLabe0d5Hf0-YhrdM>

OFF TO COLLEGE – 2019 TTAG Update

by Joann Nixon and Julie Goldwyn

The four members of the 2019 TTAG (Tech Trek Alumni Group) graduated from High School at the end of the Spring Semester of 2024, and all will attend college this Fall. Our branch awarded a \$250 Amazon gift card to each girl in recognition of their achievements and to help with their continued educational goals.

- **Loren Fowler:** Will be studying at *California State University, Sonoma* and is majoring in Early Childhood Education.
- **Madeline Covil:** is attending college in *Huntsville, Alabama* and wants to become an aerospace engineer and work for NASA.
- **Joscelin Robles:** Will earn her degree from *University of California, Davis*. She is planning on studying Scientific Research.
- **Alli Matsui:** will also attend *University of California, Davis*, and she will pursue her major in STEM fields.

Aemi Thompson, who is a 2016 TTAG member, is also attending the *University of California, Davis*, and Aemi has offered to be a mentor and keep in touch with Joscelin and Alli when they get to campus. Aemi plans to share information regarding the UC quarter system, how to use student service, and how to find their classes. Aemi's desire to help Joscelin and Alli is an example of what the TTAG program is all about: TTAG helping other TTAG.



Joann Nixon presented Madeline Covil with her gift before she left for college in Alabama.

preparing research for publication. Explore the opportunities for the coming year.

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



Joann Nixon awarded her gift to Joscelin Robles before she left for UC Davis.

Membership – Invite a friend to join!

If you need membership application information or if you wish to help with the orientation and inclusion of new members, please contact Joyce Smith, 530-674-9178 or Rosie Damboriena, 530-514-2741.

Gloria Polonsky - We are sad to report that Gloria Polonsky passed away on August 3, 2024. Gloria was 96. She grew up in New York and at the age of 16 she entered U.C. Berkeley where she earned a degree in Zoology. In 1954, she and her optometrist husband moved to this area to begin his practice. Gloria taught Kindergarten, was a gourmet cook, and she was an active member in our AAUW branch for many years. She was selected in 2007 by our branch as the AAUW Funds Named Gift Honoree.



Did you know?

Happy Birthday to all branch members whose birthdays are in **OCTOBER**: Jo Hilling, Pat Jones, Louise Miller, Sara Sealander, Joyce Smith, Laura

Nicholson, and Camille Green. If we missed you, or we got it wrong, please let us know..

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 who are



This is our AAUW branch's December gathering. Register now.

AAUW reservations YUBA-SUTTER WOMEN'S COALITION **HOLIDAY BRUNCH**

**Saturday, December 7, 2024
9:30 a.m.**

**Peach Tree Country Club
Tickets \$30**

Networking, Brunch, Entertainment, Drawings

RESERVATIONS-AAUW MEMBERS:

Reservations are limited to 50 from our group. Write your check to AAUW. Mail to PO Box 3031, Yuba City, CA 95992. Check must arrive by Saturday, November 16. If you prefer, you may pay at the October 12 or November 16 AAUW Branch meeting.

Artis Buerki is Coalition Chair this year. She will let us know after Nov. 20 if there is room for more.

HANDS OF HOPE DONATIONS:

Please bring new pairs of women and children's socks, roll-on deodorant, disposable razors, regular size shampoo, conditioner, or body wash.

Women's Coalition Holiday Brunch -

The Holiday Elves are working industriously to prepare baskets for the drawing at the brunch. Please bring any donations you have to the October or November meeting. In addition to

MARYSVILLE-YUBA CITY, CALIFORNIA, AAUW BRANCH items for the baskets, we are also in need of large baskets. Some suggested items for the baskets:

- **Local agricultural products:** prunes, rice, nuts, wine, serveware, napkins
- **Wine:** a bottle of wine, wine glasses, cocktail napkins, crackers, chocolate
- **Specialty coffees/teas:** mugs, biscotti, cookies, candies, tea cups
- **Books:** a just released novel, a gently used book
- **Can't think of something?:** gift cards, Christmas ornaments or decorations, candles



Linda Zall was the lucky winner in the Sept. 21 drawing for 4 tickets to the October 5 Casa de Esperanza fund raiser. She is taking 3 friends. Sitting to her right is Monica Quilty, then Amy Molina-Jones, and Patti Agles.

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

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We went to Pasquini's on Sept. 11.

Photo by Sue Palm.



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 phone 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 are welcome. We meet on the **2nd Tuesday of the month, 10 am** at Sutter County Library. Contact Donna Long, 530-671-4381.



TRAVELING GOURMET - Lunch group goes to restaurants within about a 50-mile radius of Yuba City normally on the **4th Thursday of the month** with the exception of holiday months. To carpool we meet at the Yuba City Raley's Shopping Center parking lot (at the east end between Wendy's & Huckleberry Restaurant) at about 10:15 and leaves 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

MARYSVILLE-YUBA CITY, CALIFORNIA, AAUW BRANCH list for future meetings. We went to the Clover Cafe in Oregon House on August 22. *Photo by Sherry Wonder*



Feather Vane Staff

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

PUBLIC POLICY TOPIC - Amy Hom and Melissa Maceyko, Directors, Public Policy Committee Co-chairs, publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org

2024 Ballot Propositions - Support AAUW California Public Policy Priorities

This November, California voters will decide the fate of 10 statewide ballot propositions. While we encourage members to support additional propositions that may capture the spirit of AAUW California's Public Policy Priorities (PPPs), we suggest that four of the propositions on the ballot in 2024 deserve a YES vote from our members for their explicit alignment with AAUW California's PPPs.

Proposition 2, Public Education Facilities Bond Measure (2024), proposes issuing \$10 billion in bonds to fund construction and modernization of California's public education facilities. \$8.5 billion would be allocated to K-12 schools and \$1.5 billion would support improvements at community colleges. Many school facilities are over 50 years old and require significant upgrades to meet current technological and education needs. Research shows that modernized school facilities correlate with better test scores, higher attendance, and improved teacher retention rates. The last time

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districts received state funding for infrastructure improvements was in 2016, when Prop 51 authorized \$9 billion in bonds. That money has now run out, and Prop 2 would help fund school projects totaling \$3.5 billion that have already been approved and are awaiting funding.

AAUW California supports "Adequate and equitable funding at all educational levels, including pre-school and post-secondary", and we support a YES vote on Proposition 2.

Proposition 3, Constitutional Right to Marriage, would amend the California Constitution to recognize the fundamental right to marry, and would remove the language banning same-sex marriage, passed by voters in 2008, from the state constitution. In practice, the ban has been nullified since a Supreme Court ruling in 2013 which allowed same-sex marriages to resume in California.

Proposition 3 will enshrine the fundamental right to marry and protect against any potential future changes to federal marriage protections.

AAUW California supports "Guarantee of civil and constitutional rights for all, including all forms of gender identity and expression, and all family structures", and we support a YES vote on Proposition 3.

Proposition 4, Parks, Environment, Energy, and Water Bond Measure, would allocate the state to issue \$10 billion in bonds to fund various environmental, energy, and water projects. While there are a range of projects that ballot measure would fund that would benefit all Californians who are confronted with the impacts of sea-level rise, extreme heat, wildfire dangers, and air/water pollution, proposition 4 would also require that 40% of the bond revenue be used to fund activities that benefit communities with lower incomes or that are affected by environmental changes or disasters. Also, as AAUW California's Public Policy Committee has pointed out in the past, addressing climate issues and advancing gender equity is directly related to environmental sustainability, and vice versa.

AAUW California supports "Social and racial justice for all members of society, including equal access to quality affordable healthcare, housing and a healthy environment," and we support a YES vote on Proposition 4.

Proposition 32, Raises Minimum Wage, would raise California's current minimum wage of \$16 per hour. Employers with 26 or more employees would pay \$18 per hour beginning in 2025. Employers with 25 or fewer employees would pay \$17 per hour in

2025 and \$18 per hour in 2026. California has a high cost of living and our current \$16 minimum wage is well below the estimated living wage needed to support a household's basic needs. Women and communities of color bear the burden of low-wage jobs. The California Civil Rights Department (CRD) released data showing that in 2021, roughly half of all Latino, Black, and Native American workers earned \$32,329 or less - \$10,000 less than the state's per capita income. 54 percent of all workers in California earning \$32,239 or less were women.

A minimum wage of \$18 will reduce income inequality and improve the standard of living for millions of California workers, especially women and people of color.

AAUW California supports “Economic Security for All Women”, and we support a YES vote on Proposition 32.

For guidance on additional ballot measures that are adjacent to, but not directly within, the scope of AAUW California's PPPs, please see this excellent guide provided by [the League of Women Voters of California](#).



**Executive Council Meeting
September 12, 2024**

In attendance: Martha Bunce, Leader; Sandy Davini, Treasurer; Linda Zall, Communications; Liz Skelly, Projects; Gwyn Baker, Programs; Joyce Smith, Membership; MAL: Carol Clark, Kathy Nehl, Cheryl Hoke, Candy Michelsen. The meeting was called to order and introductions were done since Cheryl and Candy were new to the group. Minutes from the August 8, 2024, Executive Council meeting was approved with the following correction: The dollar amount for the Coalition Brunch is \$30 (\$28 to the Peach Tree Country Club and \$2 to pay for entertainment). The Council took action to appoint Candy Michelsen, Tanna Thomas and Kathy Bertelsen as Members at Large (MAL), (MSC Sandy/Kathy).

Exec Council Leader Report: Martha said we need new leadership for Tech Trek. Carol Clark will remain on the committee but is stepping down as leader. Martha asked Liz, as Project Leader, to act as leader until we can get a replacement. Carol, Liz and Martha will attend the Zoom meeting for Tech Trek on September 19. Gwyn said she can send the AAUW State information on the various propositions on the November ballot. Martha suggested CalMatters as another source of information. Gwyn said she will send out the links shortly.

Correspondence: Sandy said the only correspondence was the Sutter County Museum flyer.

Treasurers Report: Sandy handed out the proposed 2024-25 budget, including the narrative. There is a deficit due to

various factors but we had a carryover from prior years, so we are still in good shape financially. The budget must be approved by the membership at the September branch meeting.

Public Policy: Joyce said there is a “Seniors to Seniors” voter registration drive (high school seniors/senior citizens). She wasn't sure if it covered Yuba County—Martha said she would check. She suggested that we piggy-back on other organizations.

Membership: Sandy said we have 14 people who have not renewed their memberships. Because of our Shape the Future drive, we are entitled to 2-3 paid memberships. Discussion ensued about who might benefit so Sandy and Joyce will work together to select the recipients.

Nominating Committee: No discussion.

Bylaws: No report.

Communications: The Feather Vane articles are due September 22! Gwyn has been updating and sharing Face Book items. Linda said the Yearbook is close to being finished and hopes to hand it out at the September branch meeting.

Programs: The programs are all set up for the year. Linda has expanded the descriptions for the Yearbook. Due to a scheduling conflict, we have to change the date for our October branch meeting to October 12 plus a change in the program to Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust. There will be an opportunity drawing at the September branch meeting for four tickets to the Casa de Esperanza event at the Hard Rock Casino. We received the tickets due to our \$500 donation.

Projects:

STEM: The committee met earlier today. Sandy will recruit additional help at the October branch meeting. She is anticipating 850 girls. There will not be a STEM meeting in October.

Garden Tour: Martha said we are on target for the May 2025 Garden Tour. Most gardens are identified. The gardens are meant to include all of Yuba and Sutter counties—not just Marysville and Yuba City.

Tech Trek: There will be a Zoom meeting on September 19 as discussed earlier.

TTAG: Cheryl said they have distributed gift cards to two girls so far. Due to colleges starting in August, she suggested that we honor the girls at the June branch meeting. Cheryl is trying to keep the girls engaged and invested in the program.

Scholarships: Liz reported that the committee had worked through 29 applicants and selected three students plus an alternate to receive the AAUW Scholarship awards.

Interbranch (IBC): Liz said the next IBC meeting will be in November.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

The next meeting will be October 3 at the Sutter County Library. NOTE the date is earlier than usual!

Submitted by Liz Skelly, substitute for Ellen O'Neil

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



empowering women since 1881

FEATHER VANE, Artis Buerki, Editor

P.O. Box 334, Sutter, CA 95982



We are all Wonder Women.



Quote of the month: "Fight for the things that you care about but do it in a way that will lead others to join you." – Ruth Bader Ginsburg (1933-2020)

OCTOBER 2024

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