



FEATHER VANE – December 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 Dec. 12, at 1 pm. Contact Martha Bunce, 530-713-0663.



There will be no branch meeting in December. Instead, we will join other service groups for networking at the Coalition Holiday Brunch at the Peach Tree Country Club on December 7, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. Doors open at 9:00.

Council Chat – I couldn't have said it any better than this. *Martha Bunce*

AAUW will stay focused on our mission

I write to you today with conviction and resolve, even though for the second time, our country has decided it wasn't ready to have a highly qualified woman hold our nation's highest office. I am grateful for everyone who stood up and used their voices for the rights of women and girls, and for the significant wins across states on key issues. To anyone feeling uncertainty about what lies ahead — know that you are not alone.

It is AAUW's commitment to gender equity that allows me to write to you today with this clear-eyed promise: We will persist.

AAUW has been preparing for this scenario, and we will share more as we prepare policy priorities for the 119th Congress. Here's the bottom line: Our strength comes from our collective voice, and together we will continue the work to support women's education and economic empowerment.

Program Notes – by Gwyn Baker

Looking forward to the next calendar year: Here are the upcoming branch meetings for spring 2025 --
January 18th -- Dave Rubiales, retired professor and local author and historian, will give a talk on the natural history of Sutter County.

February 15th -- Master Gardeners. Find out about the variety of activities that this program does in the community.

March -- no meeting as we prep for the STEM Conference on April 1st

April 12th -- (switched to the 12th because Easter is on the 19th) Dr. Jasbir Kang, a local physician and co-founder of the Punjabi American Heritage Society, will give a talk on the history of the Sikh community in the Yuba-Sutter area.

May -- no meeting --see you at the Garden Tour!

June 7th -- California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls. Learn about the work the Commission has done to address gender equity in health, education, employment, and other areas, and learn about their future plans.

Thank you for standing with us.



Gloria Blackwell,
Chief Executive Officer, AAUW



Thank You

Thank you to our Nov. 16 branch speaker, Nicole Rubio. Nicole is the Volunteer Recruitment and Engagement Coordinator for Court Appointed Special Advocates (C.A.S.A).

Photo by Mary Harris Kasuba

Feather Vane Staff

Artis Buerki –Editor/emails, artisb@comcast.net
Cynthia Fontayne & Corky Ulrey – Proofreaders
Joan Young & Libby Haraughty - Snail Mailers
Sherry Wonder & Mary Harris Kasuba - Photographers
Linda Zall - Communications Leader

Garden Tour Committee - If you are an AVID GARDNER, bravo! We'd love to have your help. BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE ONE to be a member of the AAUW Garden Tour Committee. If you have ever helped plan a dinner, a reunion, a birthday party, a school event, your experience can help us organize the Garden Tour.

We'd love to have your SMILING FACE, your EXPERIENCE, and your BRAINS! Contact Martha Bunce (in the AAUW Yearbook) and/or come to one of our meetings on the **1st Thursday** of the month. Our next meeting is Dec. 5, 10 am.at Sutter County Library. We'd love to have you join the fun!

Membership:

SHAPE THE FUTURE Opportunity for New Members

by Joyce Smith

Do you have a friend who would like to join our branch? Shape the Future is an exciting opportunity for potential members to save some money by joining our branch between January 18, 2025 and February 15, 2025.

Please invite prospective members to come to branch meetings with you to see what AAUW is about. Membership is open to both women and men who have at least an associate degree or greater. If a new member joins at our January or February branch meeting, they will save \$36 on their AAUW National portion of dues for the first year. That means they can join for a full twelve months for just \$69 (instead of \$105). New members would owe a full year's dues when they renew their membership a year later.

If you need membership applications 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.

STEM Team Needs Your Help

Thanks to many of you who signed up at the October branch meeting to help the STEM Team present the popular April 1, 2025, STEM Conference for 850 eighth grade girls at Yuba College! We still need more Facilitators to assist at morning sessions. We meet the **2nd Thursday** of the month, **Dec. 12**, 10 am at Sutter County Schools office. Call/text/email Sandy Davini, Chair, 530-713-1390, ddavini@comcast.net to learn more.

Tech Trek Committee -This is our most important project. Join us!

If you are interested in working closely with girls, this is the project to choose. We have short and longer-term jobs, so join us to see how we choose and get the girls to UC Davis for TECH TREK! We meet on the **3rd Thursday** of the month, **Dec. 19** in the afternoon, time TBD. For more information, contact Martha Bunce, Liz Skelly, 530-635-1821, or Carol Clark, 530-301-2164.



Did you know?

Happy Birthday to all branch members whose birthdays are in DECEMBER:

Christina Billeci, Barbara

Douyon, Christy Estabrook, Lee Jones, Donna Long, Sue Palm, Bunny Parcher, Claudia Schroeder, Martha Woods, Linda Zall. If we missed you, or we got it wrong, please let me know. Artis Buerki, 530-632-7052.

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, post-doctoral research, or who are preparing research for publication. Explore the opportunities for the coming year and learn how to apply. <https://bit.ly/3CUriQR>

INTEREST SECTIONS - All branch members are welcome to participate. Contact your group leaders to confirm meeting times during the holidays.



CORK DORKS - A new interest group has been formed. Join us! The Cork Dorks will meet at members' homes on the **3rd Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m.** Contact Linda Zall or Betty Bonner if you are interested in spending an evening with friends, tasting wine, and sharing good conversation. *Photo by Betty Bonner*



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.



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 Bunny Parcher, 530-272-3895.



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.** **Next meeting is Dec. 19.** 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 list for future



meetings. On Oct 30 we went to the Rail House in Gridley. *Photo by Christy Estabrook*



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

**Thursday, Nov. 14, 2024, 1 pm
Sutter County Schools office**

In attendance: Artis Buerki, Debbie Naylor, Martha Bunce, Gwyn Baker, Liz Skelly, Carol Anderson-Clark, Sandy Davini, Ellen O'Neil, Kathy Nehl, Joyce Smith, Cheryl Hoke, Christy Estabrook.

Corrections to the October minutes: Julie Goldwyn's name was added for her work in preparing the Tech Trek participants for their September presentation at the branch meeting. Typos involving the spelling of names were changed.

Leader's Report

Martha introduced a discussion regarding the purpose of the Tea Bag fundraiser. The money goes to the Education Fund of AAUW Funds, which is the education arm of the organization. The money is not used for advocacy. Members of our affiliate may not be aware of the destination of the money that they donate when they receive a tea bag and donation request in the mail. Perhaps an AAUW scholarship recipient or fellow could be invited to speak at a meeting to increase awareness.

Sandy reported that we usually raise just under \$1000. If an affiliate raises at least \$750.00, they are permitted to name a "designated honoree", a member who has made significant contributions to the affiliate.

Martha handed out copies of a letter from Gloria Blackwell, the CEO of AAUW, regarding the recent U.S. national election. It discussed the responsibility of members to be positive, thoughtful, and civil. The EC discussed what should be included in the next Feather Vane. AAUW national will continue its advocacy regarding equity for women.

In regard to the celebration of the Day of the Woman in March, Martha reported that we will not be nominating anyone to receive an award due to

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the organizer's preference to keep the event to a limited length of time. AAUW can still be a sponsor through buying a table and attending the event. The date, March 1, 2025, does coincide with the IBC luncheon.

Correspondence

Sandy passed out an announcement from the Sutter County Museum regarding a reception to introduce a permanent exhibit regarding local Black history.

Treasurer's Report

Sandy explained that, while this time of year requires a number of expenditures which can make the budget look to be in a negative state, we are doing well with a current balance of \$22,000.

Public Policy

Every member can participate in determining national policy priorities. Emails have been sent from the Washington DC office requesting input. Members who have not received the email can go to the website, sign in and give input. Current priorities are housing, education and pay equity for women.

Membership

Joyce has sent diplomatic letters to those whose dues are late. There are very few people on the list.

Sandy brought up the Shape the Future campaign, during which new members can join for half the national dues, and the idea of encouraging recruitment in January and February. M Sandy/ 2nd

Debbie/Unanimous that January 18th and February 15th, 2025, Branch Meetings be designated as Shape the Future events.

By-Laws

MARYSVILLE-YUBA CITY, CALIFORNIA, AAUW BRANCH

Christy will shortly send out updates to the By-Laws required by the national office-that branches are now called "affiliates."

Communication

Feather Vane: November 21st is the deadline for submitting articles. Artis needs a STEM and Tech Trek update.

Webmaster: The YC-MV website has been updated by the national office.

Facebook: Gwyn stated that there is not a lot of interaction on Facebook.

Reservations: 40 people have signed up for Saturday's meeting.

Projects

STEM Conference: Phyllis Smith volunteered to Co-Chair computer tasks and will update the process and instructions with June McJunkin. Her computer skills are needed and very much appreciated. Martha is recruiting speakers. Currently, 17 women have committed to speaking. Carol will fill the role of recruiting facilitator. Ellen will assume Hospitality Room duties. Liz will continue working with Yuba College staff.

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Garden Tour: A local community, outside Yuba City, is interested in holding the Garden Tour. The committee will be meeting with representatives shortly. Sponsor letters are at the printer.

Tech Trek: Carol has been doing a yeoman's job for quite a while and is stepping back. Martha stated that the EC really needs to be involved in supporting this major endeavor. She has asked Liz, as head of Projects, to step up. She is doing so with Carol as a guide. They are working with the committee on the process of inviting schools and attempting to spread out the work among all members

Interbranch Council: The IBC met in Paradise a week ago and representatives of all member affiliates were in attendance. Redding will host the luncheon this year. Our affiliate will be responsible for the luncheon in 2026.

Coalition Brunch: Reservations must be paid for by November 16th. AAUW has the most available seats for the event. The final numbers must be with Peachtree Country Club by November 27th.

Sunshine: No "jobs" for Gretchen this month. Artis did want to let everyone know that June Wilcox has been moved to a local memory care facility.

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

Lobby Days 2025 - Save the Date! **by Rhonda Skipper, Member AAUW California Public Policy Committee**

Get ready to advance legislation that makes a difference! This spring the AAUW California 2025 Lobby Days event will be held over two days: an in-person meeting day at the State Capitol on Tuesday, April 8 and a virtual meeting day over Zoom on Wednesday, April 9, 2025. We encourage all AAUW California members to participate in this opportunity for advocacy that is essential to achieve our legislative priorities!

Starting in January, the Public Policy Committee will evaluate new bills introduced in the state legislature which are aligned with our [Public Policy Priorities](#). In mid March, the committee will meet to select 30-35 bills to make up AAUW California's 2025 Legislative Agenda, including the top three bills that we will advance during Lobby Days. Training materials on these three bills will be posted on the state website by March 26, 2025, and a mandatory training webinar will be held on March 31, 2025 at 7:00pm.

A registration form will arrive in your inbox in early January 2025. Please be sure to complete and return the form so that you get necessary updates about Lobby Days, including your team and meeting details.

After you register, you will be assembled into teams of 3 or 4 AAUW members and matched with Assembly and Senate districts. For in-person meetings, each team will be scheduled to meet with at least 3 legislative offices while for Zoom meetings, each team will be scheduled to meet with 1 to 3 legislative offices. Regardless of whether you are in-person or online, each meeting will last for 15 to 30 minutes.

Because legislators have many commitments during the busy legislative season, most Lobby Days meetings will be held with legislative staffers and it is not always possible to schedule AAUW members with their own legislators. However, be assured that these meetings are always impactful: because teams will be representing AAUW California as a bill sponsor and/or supporter, legislative offices will consider these meetings to be as important as constituent meetings.

Lobby Days 2025 is scheduled to take place just before the legislature adjourns on April 10th for Spring Recess. AAUW members are encouraged to participate in-person on April 8, 2025, and directly advocate at the State Capitol as these in-person meetings are the most effective way to advance our priority legislation. Even though we know that being in-person is impactful, AAUW California is not able to pay for your travel to Lobby Day in Sacramento. For those who are not able to come to the Capitol, there will be an opportunity to meet with legislative offices virtually via Zoom on April 9, 2025.

We understand that travel incurs a cost, and we appreciate you considering the in-person option. If you can afford to take a road trip, consider carpooling with your fellow members, and if driving a long distance, sharing accommodations to make in-person Lobby Day a more budget friendly event.

NOTE In addition to our members, this year some of your Lobby Days teams will include college students who have been invited to join in via a college outreach pilot project. Through this project, we will be distributing Lobby Days event flyers to several colleges and universities from November to February. Increased college student participation will enable us to reach more legislative offices; however, most importantly, we hope that this introduction to AAUW will inspire advocacy-minded young people who share our values to join AAUW.

If you have participated in Lobby Days in the past, we would love to hear your feedback on what worked and what didn't. Please send your comments to publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org.

Lobby Days is a wonderful opportunity to meet with legislative offices and advance bills to promote gender equity and improve the lives of women and girls. We hope that you will join us in this important activity to promote our values.

Our branch website is
mvyc-ca.aauw.net.

IF ASKED FOR A PASSWORD IN THE FOR MEMBERS ONLY
SECTION, PASSWORD IS **FMO2022**

**Find us on Facebook: AAUW Marysville Yuba City,
and AAUW-MVYC (open group page)**

YOUR GIFT TO OUR SCHOLARSHIP AND OTHER PROGRAMS ENABLES WOMEN TO BROADEN THEIR HORIZONS THROUGH EDUCATION. Please send this form with your check(s) to AAUW, P.O. Box 3031, Yuba City, CA 95992

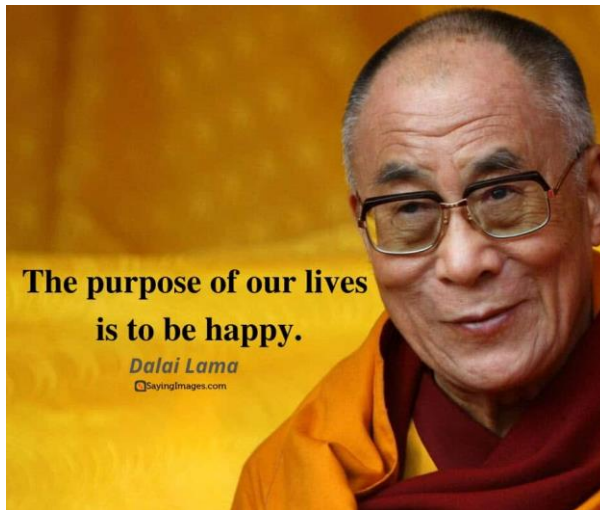
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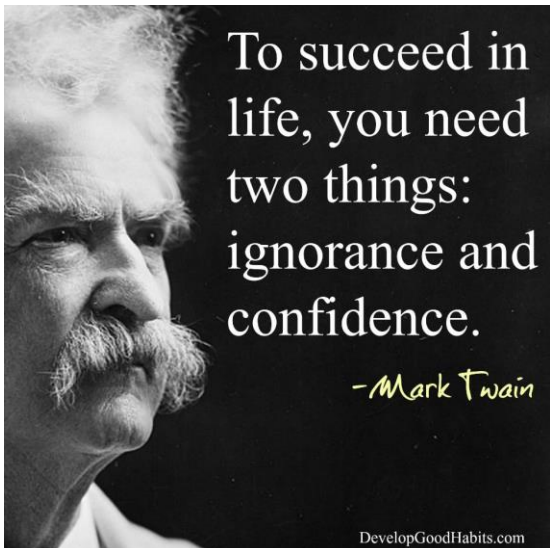
Email _____

Tech Trek Tuition donation: Payable to AAUW CA SPF: \$ _____

Local Branch Operations /helps fund local activities. Payable to AAUW: \$ _____



Quotes of the month:





empowering women since 1881

FEATHER VANE, Artis Buerki, Editor

P.O. Box 334, Sutter, CA 95982



We are all Wonder Women.

DECEMBER 2024

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
1	2	3	4	5 10 am Garden Tour Committee	6	7 9:30 am Coalition Holiday Brunch
8	9	10 10 am Talking on Paper (writing)	11 5:30 pm All Around Town (dinner)	12 10 am STEM Com. 1 pm Executive Council	13	14
15	16	17 5:30 pm Cork Dorks	18	19 10:30 am Traveling Gourmet (lunch) Time TBD Tech Trek Com.	20 10 am Rabid Readers (books)	21 First day of Winter
22	23	24	25 CHRISTMAS 	26	27	28
29	30	31 New Year's Eve				