



FEATHER VANE – February 2025

AAUW National Mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.
Branch Mission: To advance equity for women and girls through education and networking within our diverse community.

The Executive Council meets the 2nd Thursday of the month. Next meeting is Feb. 13 at 1 pm. Contact Martha Bunce, 530-713-0663, if you would like to attend EC meetings and become an Executive Council member as a member-at-large.



Council Chat

by Martha Bunce

Happy Valentine's Day! It's all about love in its many manifestations, and one of them is AAUW's caring about the lives of women and girls, even if we don't know them. Here are ways that you, as an AAUW Marysville-Yuba City member, can SHOW YOUR LOVE!

*****HELP* with a Project Committee: **STEM Conference; Tech Trek; TTAG.** Oh, and *the Garden Tour* (it funds all the good stuff we do). (see articles page 4)

****Then there's the **Tea Bag fundraiser.** What in the world is THAT? It's a virtual tea party to raise money for the national AAUW Education Fund which provides fellowships and scholarships to women for graduate or community work. Return your tax-deductible donation in the envelope by March 31. (see article page 2)

*****INVITE* a neighbor, coworker, friend or relative to the next meeting. If they join by the end of February, to get a **Shape the Future** discount. There is a significant break in the total dues for the first year. (see article page 3)

*****PARTICIPATE* in **Lobby Day on April 8 or virtually on April 9.** That's when we talk with our State Assembly members and Senators (or their staff) to convince them to support legislation that helps women and girls. (see article page 4)

*****ATTEND* the **zoom AAUW Winter Member Gathering on February 5** at 1:00 PST to support the many ways local, state and national AAUW groups are showing their love for women and girls. You got the invitation and registration in an email recently. (see article page 3)

**** *MEET* women from other branches by attending the **Interbranch annual luncheon** in Redding on **March 1.** (see article page 2) Or be part of our AAUW table at the **Day for Women luncheon** which, unfortunately is on the same day as the IBC luncheon. Our mission, "Advance Equity for Women and Girls", is all about love.

BRANCH MEETING – FEB. 15

When: Saturday, February 15, 2025

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)

Program: Master Gardeners with Whitney Brim-DeForest and Cheryl Hoke

Menu: Lunch Buffet following speakers

Cost: \$20. RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED. Reservations made are reservations paid. (pay at door/mail in check if you cannot attend) Tell your emailer (Gwyn Baker) or your caller (Barbara Kenney) if you are coming. Please reply **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

On Saturday, **Feb. 15th** come learn about all the ways that the UC Master Gardener Program is involved in our community. Whitney Brim-DeForest, UCCE Master Gardener Advisor for Sutter and Yuba Counties and Cheryl Hoke, UC Master Gardener Program Coordinator will give a presentation on the Master Gardener organization.

Whitney Brim-DeForest earned a Ph.D. in Horticulture and Agronomy from UC Davis. She has been working in agriculture for close to 20 years, with her research and extension activities focusing primarily on the identification and management of weeds in rice and wild rice systems. She served three years in the Peace Corps in Senegal. In addition to her Advisor role, she currently teaches part-time at

Chico State. Whitney was an AAUW American Fellow in 2015-2016 for her PhD dissertation entitled "Dynamics of Emergence and Growth of Weed Species in California Rice: Implications for Management".

Cheryl Hoke earned a MA in public administration in 2004 and is a 2019 graduate of the Sutter-Yuba UC Master Gardener Program. She was instrumental in the successful fundraising efforts of the 2023-24 year while also helping to create a sizeable expansion of the Fairgrounds where the UC MG demonstration garden is housed. Under her direction, the organization received a proclamation from the Board of Supervisors for the outstanding volunteer management and work done throughout the community. Cheryl is passionate about implementing projects that positively impact the community. You may have already met Cheryl as she is a member of our AAUW branch!

Tea Bag Fundraiser benefits Education & Training AAUW Fund

In February, each of our branch members will receive a tea bag in the mail, along with 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 virtual tea party by writing a check for \$15 or more to AAUW and write ET-#4450 on the memo line. Please mail your check **before March 31** to AAUW, PO Box 3031, Yuba City, CA 95992.

Total donations of \$750 from our branch will allow us to recognize a branch member for their outstanding service. This is a National AAUW award called the Named Gift Honoree Award. If you have any questions, contact our Treasurer, Sandy Davini.

IBC LUNCHEON is March 1 - Mark your calendars for the annual Interbranch Council IBC luncheon on Saturday, March 1st at 11:30 a.m. This is a fantastic opportunity to meet other AAUW members from northern California branches, have a good lunch and listen to a great speaker. This year's event will be hosted by the Redding branch at The McConnell Foundation, 800 Shasta View Drive, Redding. We had our luncheon there several years ago and it is a spectacular location. The cost is \$35 to cover lunch.

An Inspiring Story of Leadership and Advocacy
It is with great pleasure that we announce Amy Louis as our speaker for this year. Amy brings a deeply personal story that underscores the importance of cervical cancer screenings. Her drive to create change has empowered many women, providing them with the necessary resources and support to prioritize their health. Please contact Liz Skelly, lskelly47@yahoo.com or 530.635.0821, to **reserve and pay before Friday, February 14.**



CALLING ALL ARTISTS
AAUW National Art Contest...hurry to get your entries in by Jan. 31 and we can all vote for our favorites next month! - How the Art Contest works: AAUW members can submit up to two entries featuring their photography or a digital photo of their painting, drawing, sculpture, collage or other form of art through our [AAUW Art Contest page](#). Sign-up is easy and only requires your email address or AAUW member ID! **Entries are open now through January 31, 2025.** Selected entries will be used on the AAUW greeting cards.

Feather Vane Staff

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

FIND US ON FACEBOOK: AAUW Marysville Yuba City (organization page), AAUW-MVYC Group (open group page), and Art in the Gardens (open group page).

Shape the Future – An 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. They can save some money by joining our branch from **January 18 to February 15, 2025**. Please invite prospective members to come to branch meetings with you in January and February to see what AAUW is about. Membership is open to 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. We will give a free branch meeting luncheon to the person who brings in the most new members during the Shape the Future promotion.

MEMBERSHIP: 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. These new members joined our branch on January 18. Please add them to your roster and invite them to your interest groups.

Cheryl Norton, 1652 Emmett Way, Yuba City 95993, 530.755.7126, Cheryl.norton@att.net, Cal Poly SLO, B.S. Soil Science. Invited by Kay Cockrell.

Sherry Hoon, 1029 H Street, Maryville, 95901, 530.701.4830, sherryh02@gmail.com, CSU Chico, B.A. English/American Studies. Invited by Leslie Williams.

Teresa McManis, 806 Carpenter Pl., Wheatland, 95903, 530.965.6400, teresamcmanis@gmail.com, University of Phoenix Business Management. Invited by Amy Molina-Jones.



Did you know?

Happy Birthday to all branch members whose birthdays are in FEBRUARY: Artis Buerki, Wendy Burri, Mary Harris Kasuba, Harjot Kaur,

Edette Mills, Amy Molina-Jones, Thea Norum, Edna Smyth, Joan Young. 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.

This year 31 California women are being honored. The 31 California recipients of the education fellowships and grants are listed [HERE](#).

Join us for AAUW's Winter Member Gathering!

Zoom in and hear from our dynamic speakers, including AAUW Board of Directors Chair Cheryl Sorokin and CEO Gloria L. Blackwell, as they share key updates and celebrate the incredible contributions of our donors, members, and branches. We look forward to seeing you on **February 5** at 1 pm PDT. [Register here](#). Need help with registration? Contact us at connect@aauw.org.

Thank you - At our branch meeting on **Jan. 18** retired professor, David Rubiales, drew a packed



audience to hear about Marysville's historic flood of 1875. He told of the sheer destruction of hydraulic mining as well as the

economic boom. Marysville had 200 tons of freight arriving daily, but the mining waste killed the Yuba River and left Marysville under waist-high sediment when the flood hit. He then detailed John Muir's journey from a fundamentalist family to America's premier naturalist and Muir's account of the flood. Thank you, David, for your amazing presentation! *Article by Gwyn Baker, Photo by Judy Mann*

Lobby Days - April 8-9, 2025 Save these Dates!

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 with 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 7:00 pm.**

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.

(Editor's note: Read the December Feather Vane for more details about Lobby Day)

Garden Tour Committee — This year is the 31st year of the AAUW Garden Tour, and each year we endeavor to make it unique. This year is no exception, and we need your input. If you are an avid gardener, bravo! We'd love to have your help. BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AN AVID GARDENER 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 ideas! We usually meet on the **1st Thursday of the month, at 10 am** at Sutter County Library. Contact Martha Bunce, buncehall@yahoo.com if you'd like to join the fun.

STEM Team report - Registrations will start soon for the April 1, 2025 STEM Conference for 850 eighth grade girls at Yuba College You can be part of this amazing conference on April 1 by volunteering to be a Support Person for a Presenter at the STEM Conference, from 9 am to noon. Contact Carol Clark, cclark1246@sbcglobal.net, to volunteer to work that morning or to get a description of a Support Person's role.

The STEM Team will meet on **Thursday, Feb. 13, 10 am, at Sutter County Supt. of Schools Annex, 970 Klamath St, Yuba City.** You are welcome to attend the planning meetings. Call/text/email the chairperson, Sandy Davini, 530-713-1390, or ddavini@comcast.net if you have any questions.

Tech Trek - 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 select the 5 girls who will attend TECH TREK science camp at UC Davis. We meet on the **3rd Thursday of the month.** Contact Liz Skelly, 530-635-1821, or Carol Clark, 530-301-2164 for time and location.

TTAG - For information about TTAG (Tech Trek Alumni Group), Contact Joann Nixon, 530-680-0356.

Tri Counties Blue Star Moms Packing Party is Saturday, **March 8th**, 10 am to 2 pm. Donations are being accepted now through the day of the Packing Party. If you would like to participate in the Packing Party or want a list of the items needed, please contact Lori, 530-682-3487, or Kelly, 530-635-4740. Contribute to barrels at River Valley Community Bank, Century21 Select Real Estate, and Linda's Soda Bar. At Grocery Outlet \$5 bags are available to purchase and fill with donations on the list. Monetary donations are accepted to cover the cost of postage. Each care package costs \$24.75 to ship to a deployed soldier. If you have a soldier's name and address who you would like to receive a package, please reach out to us Lori or Kelly.

INTEREST SECTIONS - All branch members are welcome to participate.



MOVIE GROUP – We are reorganizing. Please contact Diana McVicker, 909-532-2521, if you would like to be on the movie group email list.



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 on the **2nd Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm** at a local restaurant. Contact Betty Bonner, 530-301-2265.



The All-Around Town dinner group were at Sutter Buttes Brewery on Jan. 8.



Here we are on New Year's Eve at The Ranch House in Yuba City. *Photos by Betty Bonner.*



CORK DORKS - A new interest group has been formed. Join us! The Cork Dorks meet at members' homes on the **3rd Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m.** If you are interested in spending an evening with friends, tasting wine, and sharing good conversation, contact Linda Zall, 530-

713-0552, or Betty Bonner, 530-301-2265.

Photo by Betty Bonner.



RABID READERS - Book Club meets on the **3rd Friday of the month at 10 am** at the Sutter County Library. Contact Linda Zall, lindazall-66@gmail.com, 530-713.0552,



TALKING ON PAPER – Writing group meets on the **2nd Tuesday of the month, 10 am** at Sutter County Library. Members who like to express themselves on paper are invited to attend. Please join us. Contact

Bunny Parcher, 530-272-3895 or Artis Buerki, 530-632-7052. Here we are at the Jan. 14 meeting. *Photo by Sherry Wonder*





TRAVELING GOURMET - Lunch group goes to restaurants within about a 50-mile radius of Yuba City normally 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 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. In December the Traveling Gourmet had lunch at the Lazy Dog in Roseville. In January we will go to Bennett's. *Photo by Christy Estabrook.*



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, Jan. 9, 1 pm
Sutter County Schools office

In attendance: Martha Bunce, Liz Skelly, Sandy Davini, Linda Zall, Debbie Naylor, Joyce Smith, Kathy Nehl, Christy Estabrook, Ellen O'Neil

The meeting was brought to order at 1:09 p.m.

There was one correction to the Dec. minutes: January's Branch meeting is on the 18th, not the 17th.

EC Leader's Report: There is a Zoom training meeting tonight on how to set up a Google Workshop for your branch. It may help committees communicate with each other.

AAUW Fund: Martha will explain the Education component of the Fund to the members at the Branch meeting. On another date, she will describe the other facets of the Fund. However, the Tea Bag Fundraiser coming up only contributes to the Education Fund and it's important that it is not confused with other priorities of National AAUW. Artis has redesigned the "Tea Bag Letter" to give more clarity to its purpose.

Correspondence: Postcard from Sutter County Museum regarding upcoming events, a letter from National AAUW congratulating us for completing the FY24 Branch Survey and giving the branch one star, and a Newsletter from the Sutter Buttes Land Trust

Treasurer's Report: The bank balance as of Dec. 31, 2024, was \$21,000.

Public Policy: Both National and State AAUW emphasize the importance of reaching out to all people in our community. We do that well in the STEM and Tech Trek activities but not so well in recruiting general membership. A discussion ensued regarding various ways we might be more successful at that.

Lobby Day in Sacramento is April 8th. Martha went last year and encouraged participation as it is a rewarding day.

A federal judge has struck down the provisions that require school staff in schools that participate in Title IX to address students by their chosen gender-related name. The Department of Education may not infringe on teachers' freedom of speech by requiring them to do so. It is likely that similar gender-related provisions of Title IX will also be changed.

Membership: Joyce suggested offering an incentive for a free brunch to the person who brings in the most new members. It will be announced at the next Branch meeting.

Other ideas for increasing membership were: "Adopt a New Member, ensuring that EC members sit at different tables and welcome new people. Arranging "Membership Tables" at events, like the STEM Conference and Garden Tours.

Nominating Committee: Martha initiated a conversation about how to motivate Members-At-Large to become more involved with the Executive Council. It is important to build succession.

Communications: Feather Vane: the deadline for articles is January 22nd.

Artis has posted Garden Tour information on our website.

It is time to start thinking about anything that needs to be included in next year's yearbook.

Programs: There was a high number of no-shows at the last Branch meeting. If that happens this month,

we will need to increase the outreach to explain to members that, "A reservation made is a reservation paid."

STEM: Building construction is completed at Yuba College and we are assured the girls will have access to a tour of the campus. Registration packets are going out and most presenters have been contacted.

Garden Tour: Gardens are scheduled. There will be no reception this year due to the logistics of getting to all the gardens. On January 17th, the committee will tour them and discuss placement of artists in the gardens and other topics.

Tech Trek: There will be a Zoom Davis group meeting for the committee. Teacher nominations are due on January 24th.

Interbranch Council: There are no meetings until the annual luncheon in Redding on March 1st.

Day for Women: On the same day as the IBC luncheon, it is hoped that our YC scholarship recipients can attend, which would leave room for five members.

The next Executive Council meeting is February 13th.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:36 p.m.

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



Quotes about love/caring/sharing:

"No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of others." Charles Dickens (1812-1870)

"Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier." Mother Teresa (1912-1997)

"And still, after all this time, the Sun has never said to the Earth, 'You owe me.' Look what happens with love like that. It lightens up the sky." Rumi (1207-1273)

The Feather Vane is posted on our branch website: mvyc-ca.aauw.net/feather-vane
IF ASKED FOR A PASSWORD IN THE FOR MEMBERS ONLY SECTION,
PASSWORD IS **FMO2022**




FEATHER VANE, Artis Buerki, Editor
P.O. Box 334, Sutter, CA 95982



We are all Wonder Women.

Our Branch Facebook pages are: AAUW Marysville Yuba City (organization page),
AAUW-MVYC Group (open group page), and Art in the Gardens (open group page).
Our branch website is: <http://mvyc-ca.aauw.net/>
AAUW California website: www.aauw-ca.org/ AAUW National website: www.aauw.org

FEBRUARY 2025

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