



FEATHER VANE – March 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 March 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, GT Chair*

NOW IT'S OUR TURN TO HELP! – LET'S ALL SELL GARDEN TOUR TICKETS!



March is Women's History Month, and March is the time that we can make history by selling Garden Tour tickets. Mark your

calendar and just say "YES" when you are asked to help.

The 31st annual AAUW GARDEN TOUR will be held on **May 3, 2025**, and you will be asked to help in two ways:

1. Each member will receive two Garden Tour tickets. Please send your \$50 check to AAUW, P.O. Box 3032, Yuba City, CA 95992.

If you want more tickets to sell, please ask Artis Buerki, artisb@comcast.net, or Joyce Smith, 530-674-9178 and we will arrange to get more tickets to you.

2. Garden greeters are needed. Sign up at a branch meeting or just say "YES" when you are invited to help.

Here's our chance to make sure there is enough money to do the good work we do! The Garden Tour is our ONLY public fundraiser (yahoo), and K. Roberts Gifts, Country Florist, Sperbeck's Nursery, Digs on D Street, and the Sutter County Museum are all selling tickets for us. Let's help them out! We are counting on you to do these two small things to make sure that our branch has

the money to do the many things that benefit women and girls in our community.

Program Notes *by Gwyn Baker, Program lead*

There will NOT be a March branch meeting. Instead, we hope you have all volunteered for the April 1 STEM Conference. **Please mark your calendar for the next branch meeting that will be on April 19.**

STEM Conference is April 1

by Sandy Davini, STEM Chair

Seven-hundred 8th grade girls from 23 Yuba-Sutter schools will arrive at Yuba College in Marysville on the morning of **April 1st** to learn more about the opportunities in STEM professions (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math).

The Marysville-Yuba City branch of AAUW started offering the conference in 1985. The committee has been working diligently with the local middle schools to get students enrolled and endeavoring to secure presenters and support people for each session. Currently there are more than 20 presenters from a variety of STEM fields who will discuss aspects of their careers with the girls.

At the conclusion of the half-day conference, students have the option to take a tour of the Yuba College campus. Many schools take advantage of this opportunity where their students can hear directly from current Yuba College students about the college experience. Contact Carol Clark, cclark1246@sbcglobal.net, if you would like to volunteer on April 1.

Contact Sandy Davini, ddavini@comcast.net, if you have other questions about the event.



Thank you! Thank you to our February speakers, Cheryl Hoke (L) and Whitney Brim-DeForest (R) who spoke about the Master Gardener program and how it benefits our community.

Election at April branch meeting –

The Nominating Committee has recommended the following slate for Executive Council: Liz Skelly (2025-2028), Martha Bunce (2025-2028), Sandy Davini (2025-2026). Their current terms will end on July 1, 2025. All three are up for re-election at our April branch meeting.

President Biden Affirms ERA as the 28th Amendment -

AAUW applauds President Joe Biden's historic affirmation of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) as the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. While there will be challenges ahead, AAUW remains steadfast in our fight to ensure full recognition of equality that cannot be denied or abridged on account of sex.

AAUW Garden Tour Tickets -

Every branch member will receive two Garden Tour tickets for our May 3 fundraiser. **When you receive yours, please send your \$50 check to AAUW, P.O. Box 3031, Yuba City 95992.**

If you need/want extra tickets to sell, please contact Artis Buerki, artisb@comcast.net or Joyce Smith 530-674-9178. This is our only branch fundraiser, and we need your help to raise money to support our Tech Trek, TTAG, and STEM Conference!

IBC Luncheon is March 1 in

Redding – The annual Interbranch Council IBC luncheon on **Saturday, March 1st at 11:30 a.m. in Redding.** 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. Contact is Liz Skelly, 530-635-0821.

TEA BAG FUNDRAISER benefits Education & Training AAUW Fund

In February, each of our branch members received 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.

Tech Trek update *by Liz Skelly, Tech Trek Chair*

The Tech Trek project is moving forward on schedule. Seventeen 7th graders applied from 9 schools in the Yuba-Sutter area. On March 15-16 our branch interviewers will meet with the girls and their parents to select the five girls and an alternate for the week-long AAUW Tech Trek science (STEM) camp, which is held at UC Davis in July.

Each year, for nearly 20 years, we have been sending a handful of girls to this prestigious residence camp. Girls have been nominated by their science or math teachers and they are selected through the interview process. To learn more about the Tech Trek program, see this website <https://www.aauw-ca.org/tech-trek/>.

MEMBERSHIP: Shape the Future, Six New Members!

by Joyce Smith

During the months of January and February we held the recruitment event, Shape the Future, which was an opportunity for potential members to join for a full year at a discounted price. During those months 6 new members joined. They are Sherry Hoon, Teresa McManis, and Cheryl Norton in January. (Read about them in February Feather Vane).

At our branch meeting in February Laura Goble, Debbie Barbaccia, and Rebecca Murray-Herbst joined. Here is the information and photos of Debbie, Laura and Rebecca. Please greet them and invite them to your interest groups. Add them to your roster. 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.



Rebecca Murray-Herbst, 1529 Lincoln Rd., Unit 5, Yuba City, 95993, 530-813-9840. Rebecca has a Juris Doctorate, UC Davis, UOP McGeorge. She enjoys reading, shopping, and sending cards. She was invited to join by Cheryl Blackburn.



Laura Goble, 1747 Mariner Loop, Yuba City, 95991, ls.goble@gmail.com. 530-701-6771, Botany, Humboldt Univ. Laura enjoys gardening, and her garden was on our 2024 Garden Tour. reading, music, circus, PEO. Laura was invited to join by Janet Van Alstyne.



Debbie Barbaccia, 1764 Royo Ranchero Dr., Yuba City, 95993, 530-671-0704, c/530-300-5230, barbaccia@outlook.com, Multiple subject teaching credential, Bethany Bible College, Enjoys gardening, painting, reading. Debbie was invited to join by Sandy Davini.

Photos by Joyce Smith

Fostering Communication Between TTAG Member and TTAG Teams

By Julie Goldwyn

On Thursday, February 6, 2025, from 4:30-6:30pm, members of the 2024 Tech Trek Alumni Group met with two members of the 2023 group at Round Table Pizza on Onstott Road to show support for each other, strengthen bonds, and communicate about their goals for the future.



Standing up: Aliana, fingers up: Audrey, green shirt: Amelia. Front row L-R Turan and Ravneet

The girls were engaged in several activities which included games and art activities focused on helping them to better get to know one another. Three girls from the 2024 group created a poster with the word TECH vertically displayed on the left side of the poster. Then they decided that “Talented, Effective, Captivating, and Hardworking” were traits that they felt described themselves and their desires to be successful, career-focused individuals.



AAUW MARYSVILLE-YUBA CITY

Aliana, Amelia, and Audrey are looking forward to attending the 8th grade STEM Conference at Yuba College on April 1st. They also thanked and appreciated the advice of two TTAG 2023 girls, Turan and Ravneet, who shared with them how much they felt they have benefitted from participating in Tech Trek Camp and the TTAG program. Donna Long, Joann Nixson, and Julie Goldwyn were present to facilitate the event.



Green shirt: Amelia, hat: Audrey, and Aliana in white
Photos by Julie Goldwyn

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

by AAUW California Public Policy Committee
Lobby Days 2025 will be held on April 8-9, 2025. If you have not yet registered, there is still time. Teams of 3 or 4 AAUW members will be matched with Assembly and Senate districts. For the in-person meetings on April 8th, each team will be scheduled to meet with around 3 legislative offices. For the Zoom meetings on April 9th, 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.

It is not always possible to schedule AAUW members with their own legislators. However, be assured that these meetings are always impactful. 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.

If you are interested in participating, please complete **BOTH** of the following steps:
Step 1 - Register for the Lobby Days event by February 21st. Register for Lobby Days [HERE](#).
Step 2 - Register for the mandatory training which will be held on Monday, **March 31st**, 7-8 pm Pacific. Register for the training webinar [HERE](#).
We hope that you will join us in this act of advocacy to promote our legislative priorities and advance our values.

Feather Vane MARCH 2025

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



Did you know?

Happy Birthday to all branch members whose birthdays are in MARCH: Bonnie Calkins, Jennifer Jones, Karen Kam,

Debbie Naylor, Beverly Paget, Karen Villalobos, Kathy Bertelsen, Phyllis Smyth. If we missed you, or we got it wrong, please let me know. Artis Buerki, 530-632-7052.

Did you know.... If anyone asks you what Tech Trek is, just tell them to go to the new AAUW CA Tech Trek page. Here is the address for future reference:

<https://www.aauw-ca.org/tech-trek/>
Easy to remember, right?

Did you know that AAUW is the oldest non-institutional provider of graduate funding for women in the United States? The **AAUW American Fellowships** empower women scholars who are 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](#).

Board to Board

A Communication from the AAUW California Board to Branch Boards
Standing together for equity

**TIPS FOR AVOIDING
EMAIL SCAMS THAT**

APPEAR TO COME FROM FRIENDS OR FAMILY
Email scams don't always pretend to be large corporations; sometimes they impersonate people you know – family, friends, or even colleagues. These scams can be especially dangerous because they are working to exploit established trust. **Here are four tips to recognizing and avoiding email scams.**

1. Be suspicious of unusual requests. If a friend or family member suddenly emails you asking for money, gift cards, or sensitive information, be skeptical.
2. Look at the writing style. Proceed with caution if you encounter unusual wording, spelling or grammatical errors, or phrasing that just doesn't "sound like" the person.
3. Stay calm. Scammers frequently rely on urgent language to drive immediate action. Do not rush to respond to the request until you determine its validity.
4. Look carefully at the sender's email address. Many email systems just show you the sender's display name, which is easy to manipulate. The email address itself must be inspected. In most systems you can hover your mouse over the sender's name to reveal their email address. Check the email address carefully. Frequently, the email address is entirely wrong and easy to dismiss as fraudulent. In more sophisticated scams, the email address may be only slightly different.

If you have identified the email address as incorrect, then delete the message (optionally, report as spam). However, if after reviewing an email message, you still have some doubts, how do you proceed?

First, it is very important **to NOT reply to the message and do NOT click on any links or attachments**. Then, reach out to the purported sender directly, such as by phone or text, to validate if the message is authentic. With a bit of knowledge and careful attention, it is possible to avoid many email scams.

INTEREST SECTIONS - All branch members are welcome to participate.



MOVIE GROUP – We are reorganizing. If you want to be on the Movie Group email list contact Diana McVicker, dlmcvicker2521@gmail.com. Please let her know if there are

upcoming movies that you want to see when they come to our area.



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 to join the group. Here is the

All-Around Town group in February.

Photo 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.



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.



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 Carol Clark, 530-301-2164 or Christy Estabrook 530-713-5223 if you want to be on the contact list.

Other events in this community include:

BLUE STAR MOMS SEND PACKAGES TO SOLDIERS -

Tri-Counties Blue Star Moms Packing Party is Saturday, **March 8th**, 10 am to 2 pm. Packages will be sent to deployed soldiers. If you want to have a package sent to a soldier, please contact us 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.

Donations are being accepted now through the day of the Packing Party. 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.

Sutter Buttes Garden Club Spring Faire and Plant Sale is



Saturday, **April 26th**. It will be held at Palmer Hall at the Yuba Sutter Fairgrounds, 442 Franklin Avenue, Yuba City. Hours are 9 am until 3 pm. Vendors \$40, deadline is April 5. Looking for local artists selling

handmade garden, spring, or plant related items. Space is limited.

This event will benefit the SBGC High School Students Scholarship Fund. Vendor email contact is sutterbuttesgardenclub1@gmail.com, and find us on Facebook.

UCCE Master Gardeners Plant Sale

– 4-inch vegetable plants, hard to find varieties not common in stores, grown by Master Gardeners. Tomatoes, cucumbers, hot peppers, sweet peppers,

melons, squash, flowers, and herbs. **April 12 and May 20**, 9 am to 1 pm at UCCE Sutter-Yuba Counties Master Gardeners, 142 Garden Hwy, Yuba City. All proceeds go to the UC Master Gardeners Learning Garden expansion.



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday Feb. 13, 2025

Sutter County Schools office

In Attendance: Linda Zall, Martha Bunce, Kathy Nehl, Gwyn Baker, Artis Buerki, Christy Estabrook, Joyce Smith, Candy Michaelson, Cheryl Hoke, Sandy Davini, Carol Clark

The minutes from January 9th were approved with no changes

Business Items for Branch Meeting

- Liz will be checking people in and subbing for Martha as MC so please give her support
- Joyce will be managing a drawing for a beautiful quilt
- A short presentation on the current Tea Bag fundraiser is needed. There were 261 recipients of grants or fellowships from the Education Fund, 31 of whom were from California.
- Let members know about Lobby Days in April. So far, Gwyn Baker and Claudia Chandler are going
- Invite members to the Interbranch Luncheon. Saturday is the last day for reservations.
- Garden Tour committee will be soliciting Garden Greeters at the meeting.

Day for Women - There is still room at the table for eight. Martha took names of interested parties. We are still hoping that the scholarship recipients can be invited.

Treasurer's Report - There are two suggested revisions to the current budget. The STEM conference had a budget for 800 eighth grade girls to attend. 703 are scheduled. Sandy suggested reducing the budget to accommodate the actual number.

Tech Trek has \$1100 budgeted for each girl but the cost has risen to \$1200, therefore that line item needs revision. A motion was made and passed to approve the revisions. Artis/Christy/U

National AAUW is considering a dues increase. While we expect it, there is no certainty as to when it will be implemented. Rather than impose a last-minute burden on the members, Sandy recommended that the Branch absorb the new cost until June of 2026. It will decrease the local portion of the dues that the branch keeps. A motion was made and passed for MVYC AAUW to absorb the dues increase until June of 2026.

Liz/Linda/U

Public Policy- National AAUW has emailed a statement on the issue of exclusiveness in schools and workplaces. Martha received approval from the EC to write a letter to the editor promoting inclusiveness, decrying the approval of

AAUW MARYSVILLE-YUBA CITY

Linda McMahon to head the Department of Education and opposing the gutting of the department.

The "SAVE" act is currently before Congress. It ostensibly purports to ensure elections are not compromised by ineligible voters, by requiring either a passport or birth certificate to prove citizenship. A driver's license will not suffice. However, if one uses a birth certificate, the last name on the document must match a current identification document such as a driver's license. This will effectively prevent millions of married women from voting.

The other option, a passport, will effectively eliminate low-income people from voting. Passports cost around \$150. Additionally, the legislation will outlaw voting by mail.

Membership - The Branch has 3 new members and expects another to join at the meeting this weekend. There are 9 guests scheduled to attend, so hopefully, some of them will become members.

Linda will be assisting Joyce in keeping track of notifying members who are on the rotating schedule of renewal dates. Kathy suggested it be notated in the roster so Linda will plan on that for the Fall.

Nominating Committee- Liz and Martha's terms will be up as EC members and they are willing to continue. Sandy's term as Treasurer is up to vote every year. She would like to give the position to someone else in the near future but is willing to do one more year. The slate of officers was approved. Linda Carol/U

It is suggested that EC members put effort in recruiting new faces for the council and create a succession plan.

Communications - The deadline for the Feather Vane is Friday, February 21st.

Feather Vane MARCH 2025

Social Media: Gwyn encouraged everyone to like and share FB posts. That is the way "traffic" is increased.

Programs -There are 47 reservations for Saturday's Branch meeting.

STEM - The next meeting for the committee is March 13th in the Patio Room at the Sutter County Schools Superintendent's office.

There are 703 Students coming from 23 schools. The committee is in need of foldable utility wagons.

Tech Trek -There are 17 nominations from 13 schools. The parents have been notified and asked to complete the required paperwork. Interviews will take place on March 15th and 16th.

Garden Tour -Plans are moving smoothly along. Since the location is Robbins, the gardens will be quite spread out. Therefore, reception is not possible, however, snacks and drinks will be available at the gardens. Artists will be scattered among the gardens. Artists will be mailing tickets to all members.

TTAG - It is anticipated that one or two alumnae will be counselors this summer.

The next Executive Council Meeting is March 13th.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00p.m.

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



MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH. Here are some quotes by American women compiled by Tanna Thomas:

"As society sees what women can do, there will be more women out there doing things, and we'll all be better off for it." *Sandra Day O'Connor*

"Our collective experience has shown that when women have the power to make their own choices, good things happen." *Madeleine Albright*

"Women belong in all places where decisions are being made. It shouldn't be that women are the exception." *Ruth Bader Ginsburg*

"A woman is like a tea bag; you never know how strong it is until it's in hot water." *Eleanor Roosevelt*

The Feather Vane is posted on our branch website: mvy-c-a.uw.net/feather-vane
IF ASKED FOR A PASSWORD IN THE FOR MEMBERS' ONLY SECTION,
PASSWORD IS **FMO2022**




empowering women since 1881
 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

MARCH 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6 11 am Garden Tour Committee, library	7	8
9 Daylight savings time	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, Patio Room	14	15
16	17 	18 5:30 pm Cork Dorks	19	20 First day of Spring	21 10 am Rabid Readers (books)	22
23	24	25	26	27 10:30 am Traveling Gourmet (lunch)	28	29
30	31	APRIL 1 STEM CONF.				



GARDEN TOUR
First Saturday in May
AAUW



American Association of University Women, Marysville-Yuba City presents

AAUW's 31st Anniversary

GARDEN TOUR

Art in the Gardens



Saturday, May 3, 2025

Self-guided Garden Tour—10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

\$25 - Tickets online: mvyca.aauw.net/garden-tour

and from these locations beginning mid-March:

**Sutter County History Museum, The Country Florist, K. Roberts Gifts,
Sperbeck's Nursery, Digs on D Street, and from AAUW members**

RAIN OR SHINE: On May 3rd, pick up your map/wristband/& brochure 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Yuba City at Wilbur and C Streets (in the parking lot at the entrance to Gauche Park) OR at Robbins Community Hall, 17540 Pepper Street, Robbins from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Bring your ticket or online receipt with you. Additional tickets can be purchased at that location. Cash only.