



FEATHER VANE – May 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 on the 2nd Thursday of the month. Next meeting is **May 8 at 1 pm**. Contact is Martha Bunce, 530-713-0663, If you would like to attend EC meetings as a member-at-large, please contact Martha or any EC member. MAL appointments are made for 1 year at a time.



STEM Conference Report

On April 1, nearly 700 eighth grade girls from 24 Yuba Sutter schools met at Yuba College to hear 24 professional women talk about their careers using science, technology, engineering and math. The STEM team is pleased with print and television coverage for this amazing event, including Channel 13, the *Appeal Democrat* and *Gridley Herald*.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/sacramento/news/8th-grade-girls-explore-stem-careers-aauw-event-yuba-college/>



The girls met together in the gym for orientation.

Yuba College President Dr. Tawny Dotson welcomed students to the college.



Dr. Foster McManus,
Chiropractor



Women in Aviation,
N. CA Chapter Pres. Christina Gibbs and Treasurer Tiffany Bean



Cassie Rieser,
Certified Soil Scientist



Ashley Spicer, CDFW
Wildlife Forensic Lab

Photos by Joann Nixon and Kathy Nehl, AAUW; Chrystal Gilliming, Student Marketing and Engagement Coordinator at Yuba College; and Angela Guglielmino, Appeal Democrat.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS –

Dues are due in June for all members except members who joined since 2021. Each of those newer members will be individually notified by our branch when it is time for them to renew.

Write your check to AAUW in the amount of \$105 and mail it to AAUW, P.O. Box 3031, Yuba City, CA 95992 or bring it to the **June 7** branch meeting to be included in the drawing for free membership.

(Dues breakdown through June 2025 is \$11 branch/ \$20 state/ \$74 national=\$105)

We are uncertain about the outcome of the AAUW-CA election to increase CA dues from \$20 to \$30 on July 1, 2025, and we encourage you to renew your dues now to avoid the increase. Please contact Joyce Smith or Sandy Davini with any questions.

Editor's note: **DO NOT renew online.** Our branch has opted out of this process.



GARDEN TOUR IS MAY 3

If you have not volunteered to help at the Garden Tour as a hostess in a garden, and you would like to, please contact Linda Zall, 530-703-1552. If you want more Garden Tour tickets to sell, please phone or text Artis Buerki, 530-632-7052, This is our only fundraiser, and we need your help to earn the money to pay for Tech Trek, TTAG, and the STEM Conference next year! Contact Martha Bunce if you have any questions.

Executive Council Election Results –

The following slate for Executive Council was approved for reelection at the April 12 branch meeting. Liz Skelly (2025-2028), Martha Bunce (2025-2028), and Sandy Davini (2025-2026) were confirmed for another term. Continuing EC members include Ellen O'Neil, Christy Estabrook, Linda Zall, Joyce Smith, Gwyn Baker

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

TTAG News - Two TTAG girls from our branch, Madeline Fedora and Lauren Fowler have been chosen to be Jr. Counselors this summer at Tech Trek.

Madeline Fedora went to Tech Trek in 2022. She goes to Sutter High School. Madeline volunteered at the Garden Tour in 2023, and she attended the Pizza Party in 2024. Madeline told us she wants to be a pilot,

Lauren Fowler went to Tech Trek in 2019. She graduated from Wheatland High School and now attends Sonoma State. Her plan is to major in Childhood Development. She really enjoys math and science, and when she was a high school senior, she completed the Plant and Soil Science Pathways and earned a cord to wear on her hat at graduation. She has an aunt who is a Daycare provider and often visits her and observes how she manages it. Lauren attended an early childhood development class in high school and is looking at Early Childhood Education as a career field.

There is a new TTAG newsletter. Here is the link: <https://www.aauw-ca.org/documents/2025/03/ttac-newsletter-1st-edition-3-2025.pdf/>

Tech Trek update

These newly selected Tech Trekkers will attend the get-acquainted pizza party at the home of Kelly Swanson on Friday, **May 16** from 5 to 6:30 pm with their parents and interested AAUW branch members.

Nanki Bains (Butte Vista), Kylling Helzer (Brittan), Jaiya Ohri (Barry), Rachael Henry (McKenney), Ofelia Orozco (Brittan). Our alternate (in case someone is unable to attend) is Harlina Payeah (McKenney). Please contact Liz Skelly if you would like to attend.



AAUW National and AAUW California both have opportunities to vote this month.

Members with email addresses will receive your ballots by email, or by snail mail if you don't have an email

address on file. AAUW National election is **April 14th – May 13th**; and AAUW California election is **April 26th- May 16th**.



TEA BAG FUNDRAISER REPORT

— the member selected this year as Named Gift Honoree was Joyce Smith. Joyce was selected for her dedication and energy in fundraising and member building of the branch. She was presented with her recognition award by Gwyn Baker at the April 12 branch meeting. Thank you Joyce! *Photo by Debbie Barbaccia*



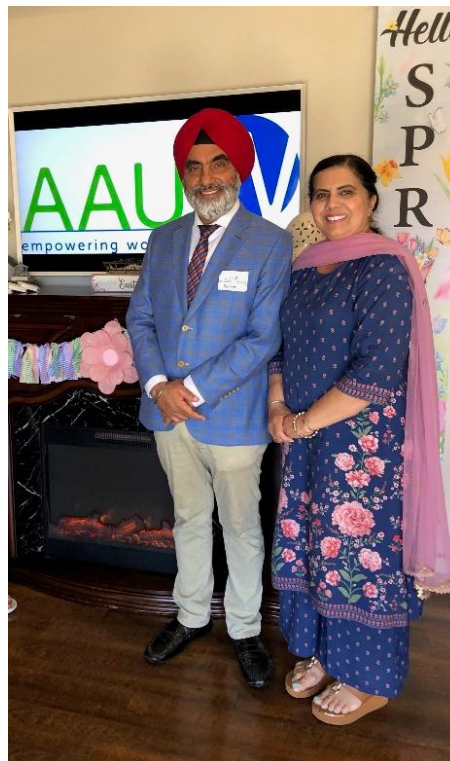
We had a quilt raffle on April 12, and the winner was Betty Bonner. Congratulations Betty! *Photo by Joyce Smith.*



Thank you!

Dr. Jasbir S. Kang was our speaker at the April 12 branch meeting. He gave an interesting presentation about the Sikh history and migration to the Sacramento Valley. Pictured here with his wife who was also in attendance.

Photo by Joann Nixon.



Did you know?

Happy Birthday to all branch members whose birthdays are in **MAY**:
Laura Goble, Natalie Buzzini, Miriam



Hatamiya, Brenda Beers Mock, Gloria Mullins, Liz Skelly, Jeannie Morrissey, Diane Funston, Debbie Barbaccia. 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](#).



Pictured here are Gwyn Baker, Claudia Chandler, Michelle Rasmussen, Jan Britton and Carol Holzgrafe in front of the Capitol on Lobby Day.

Lobby Days Report – by Gwyn Baker

On April 8th, Claudia Chandler and I participated in AAUW's lobby days. I was thankful for Claudia's experience with navigating the intricacies of parking and driving in downtown Sacramento as we arrived at morning rush hour. We started our day in AAUW's Legislative Advocate's office on L Street in the refurbished Senator Hotel. Our launch meeting included a Zoom address delivered by State Treasurer, Fiona Ma. She served in the Legislature from 2006-2012 and told us what an impact it has on Legislators to hear from groups like ours. The team that Claudia and I were on included Chico members Jan Britton and Michelle Rasmussen and was led by Carol Holzgrafe of Chico, Paradise, and Morgan Hill AAUW branches.

Every year AAUW California selects bills that focus on the well-being of women and children. This year's bills were SB 771, *Social Media Platforms Endangering Californians*, which

AAUW CA sponsored; SB 418, *Ensure Equal Access to Care for All*; and a bill that AAUW opposes, AB 579, *Yaeli's Law*. We met with the aides for three legislators: two southern California democrats, and our own Assembly member, James Gallagher.

Claudia and I were speaking for SB 771 which would clarify that a social media platform could be held liable for AI-algorithmic distribution of hate speech. In January, Meta dramatically altered its practices to remove safeguards they had provided to protect marginalized communities from targeted online hate speech. This bill would enact financial consequences for allowing algorithms to aid in intimidation and threats. SB 418 would prohibit a health plan or insurance provider from denying coverage to a person based upon their race, national origin, age, disability, or sex - including sex characteristics such as intersex traits, pregnancy and gender identity.

Carol tactfully spoke in opposition of Yaeli's Law which is a bill that balances parents' rights with the rights of transgender children. Yaeli's Law says that it is not harmful for parents to refuse to use a child's name/pronouns and that refusal to provide or allow gender-affirming care should not be allowed as a basis for custody or removal decisions. However, research shows that transgender children are more likely to experience homelessness when they live in households that do not accept their gender identity and up to 70% of transgender youth attempt suicide when they live in an unaccepting household.

Lobby Days was a great way to network with members from other branches and find out about their activities. We got an inside look at how legislation works, and it was a pleasure to partner with the ladies from Chico. Some of these bills might not make it past the Senate or be heavily amended by the time they reach the Assembly, but it will be interesting to track their progress and see how each legislator will vote.

Next IBC Meeting is May 7 -

The next meeting of Interbranch Council is Wednesday, **May 7**, 5 pm, in Chico.

If you want to attend, please email Liz Skelly, lskelly47@yahoo.com.



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 mvyc-ca.aauw.net/garden-tour-tickets/ and from these locations beginning mid-March: Sutter County 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



Board to Board

A Communication from the AAUW California Board to Branch Boards

Standing together for equity



VOTING IS

**MORE THAN A RIGHT, IT IS A
PRIVILEGE!**

April and May are the months to vote when AAUW National (April 14th – May 13th) and AAUW California (April 26th- May 16th) kick off voting on various issues, bylaws, and board positions. Public Policy, Governance, and the nominating chair have been sending information since January and asking for input and candidates. Now comes the time for members to make their voices heard when accepting, rejecting, or selecting ballot initiatives and candidates. We have a contested election for AAUW California Director positions, whereby you may select two choices from four candidates (read the candidate bios [HERE](#)), a [dues increase measure](#), and proposed [Public Policy Priorities](#), making your vote even more important.

All members with email addresses will receive their ballots electronically, and those without email addresses will receive their ballots in the US Mail to be returned by the closing dates.

Why bring this up? While a repairman was working near us, we were discussing an election result we were not happy about and the repairman said: "You are so lucky here, there will be another election at a scheduled time, and you may work for a better outcome; in Moscow nothing has changed in 25 years with no end in sight!"



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. **May 10**, 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.



Take Action to Help Kids Feel Safe at School, by Kathi Harper, Chair, Public Policy School Board Project

Many of our members have expressed concerns about the potential for ICE raids in our local schools. These intrusions on school grounds are already happening in some places and are having a significant detrimental impact on these families, especially for their children. Some of the ramifications have included:

- Parents not showing up at school events fearing agents might be there
- Students don't want to come to school, fearing their parents will be taken while they're gone
- Children not learning, consumed by fear of agents coming on campus to take them away

Here are some things you should know:

- Current law (Plyler v Doe 1982) held that all children, even undocumented, have a constitutional right to free public education
- In 2011, DHS issued the "Sensitive Locations" policy, which prohibited raids from certain places including schools
- Although the President has attempted to revoke the order, Executive Orders and Actions cannot change statutes or regulations
- There are currently 4 lawsuits challenging the attempted revocation; 3 from churches have been successful so far, 1 from a school in Denver has resulted in a denial of a request for a temporary injunction
- Current law also prohibits ICE entry on campuses without a warrant
- Even if they have a warrant to enter, that does not entitle them to have access to private/protected student records

Here are two things you can do:

- Urge your school boards/districts to issue a "Safe Zone" Resolution – template can be found here: [Guidance on Immigration Issues | NEA](#)
- Engage your branch members in a postcard-writing campaign to their school boards with following message: WE STAND WITH Immigrant students and LGBTQ+ youth.

INTEREST SECTIONS - All branch members are welcome to participate. During the summer contact your section leaders to confirm meeting dates.



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. We went to

Marcello's on April 9. *photo by Sue Palm*



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*





MOVIE GROUP –If you want to be on the Movie Group email list contact Diana McVicker, dilmcvicker2521@gmail.com. Please let her know if there are upcoming movies that you want to see when they come to our area.



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.



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. In March we went to Chicha Peruvian in Roseville. *photo by Betty Bonner*



Editor's Note: There was no April Executive Council meeting. Please contact Executive Council Secretary for the final approved minutes after the next Executive Council Meeting.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Thank you, Tanna Thomas, for these excellent quotes.

"What mental health needs is more sunlight, more candor, and more unashamed conversation."
Glenn Close

"Nothing can dim the light that shines from within."
Maya Angelou

"Do not judge me by my successes; judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again."
Nelson Mandela

"Healing takes time, and asking for help is a courageous step."
Mariska Hargitay

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**.



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

MAY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				MAY 1 FINAL MEETING Garden Tour Committee	2	3 10 to 3:30 GARDEN TOUR
4	5	6	7 5 pm IBC in Chico	8 1 pm Executive Council	9	10
11 Mother's Day	12	13 10 am Talking on Paper (writing)	14 5:30 pm All Around Town (dinner)	15 11 am Garden Tour Wrap-up meeting	16 10 am Rabid Readers (books) 5:30 pm Tech Trek party	17
18	19	20 5:30 pm Cork Dorks	21	22 10:30 am Traveling Gourmet	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31