



FEATHER VANE – October 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. 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 to volunteer. MAL appointments are made for 1 year at a time.

BRANCH MEETING – Oct. 18

Date: Saturday, October 18, 2025

Time: Door opens at 9:30, Program at 10:00, buffet following

Where: Hillcrest Catering, 210 Julie Drive, Yuba City (on the back side of the Hillcrest Plaza Mall)

Program: Ayla Elkins, Director of Library Services, and Susana Bautista, Literacy Coordinator, at Sutter County Library

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.



Council Chat

by Martha Bunce, ECL

What's new in 2025-2026? Garden Tour has new leadership; Linda Zall and Kathy Nehl are off and running! Linda has also taken on the Membership EC Lead and has lots of ideas and a great team on board. Thank you, Linda and Kathy! The Executive Council is focusing on some long-term goals and projects that you will be hearing about over the next months. These include:

- Helping new members find the “sweet spots” where they and AAUW can connect.
- Planning for leadership changes and rearranges.
- Engaging in Public Policy efforts local, state and federal levels.
- Creating ways for enthusiastic supporters of the AAUW mission to participate in our work and fun.
- Increasing our visibility in the community as we continue to recruit new members.
- Establishing a new English/Fine Art Scholarship to honor Jeanine Rounds.

It's never boring to be part of our AAUW! When you are asked to help, please leap forward! If you don't see an activity that you'd like to share with your AAUW friends, start an Interest group! Come to the Branch meetings and enjoy the company and the interesting programs that Gwyn and her team have planned. AAUW Marysville-



Program Notes

by Gwyn Baker, Program Lead

On October 18, Ayla Elkins, who recently replaced James Ochsner as Director of Library Services will give a presentation about the Adult Literacy/English Language programs and services offered at the Sutter County Library. She will be joined by the new Literacy Coordinator, Susana Bautista, who is in charge of the adult literacy program. Come find out about these important programs and more.

Yuba City is heading toward a fantastic, rewarding, interesting, and fun year. I love this organization. It is so much fun to be around energetic, smart, talented, interested, funny, serious, hardworking, and interesting women. And we do good stuff for our community!

Feather Vane Staff

Artis Buerki – Editor/emailer, artisb@comcast.net
 Cynthia Fontayne – Copy Editor
 Joan Young – Proof reader
 Joan Young & Libby Haraughty - Snail Mailers
 Sherry Wonder & Mary Harris Kasuba - Photographers

Thank you! Thank you to our outstanding Tech Trek girls who talked to us about their experiences at camp. It is good to see the value of our Tech Trek scholarships.



On September 20 our 2025 Tech Trekkers told us about their experiences at camp. Front row: Rachael Henry-McKenney School, Nanki Bains-Butte Vista School, Jaiya Ohri-Barry School, and Kylling Helzer-Brittan school. Back Row: Alianna Barington-TTAG 2024, Turan Welcome-TTAG 2023, and Madeline Fedora-TTAG 2022, who was a junior counselor at camp 2025. *Photo by Gwyn Baker.*



Turin, Madeline, Kylling, Jaiya, and Nanki. *Photo is courtesy of Debbie Reid, Kylling's grandmother.*

This year AAUW is pleased to support



Socktober in Yuba-Sutter, which collects warm socks for distribution to area shelters and organizations that serve the unhoused and others in need. Please bring a pair (or pairs) of new or lightly used and laundered socks to our **October 18** branch meeting. All sizes, kids to adult, are welcome. For more information, please email Cynthia Fontayne at cynthiafontayne@gmail.com.



The Dec. 13 Coalition Brunch is our AAUW branch's December gathering with other organizations and clubs. REGISTER NOW

YUBA-SUTTER WOMEN'S COALITION HOLIDAY BRUNCH

Saturday, December 13, 2025

9:30 a.m.

Hillcrest Catering, 210 Julie Drive, Yuba City (Where we hold our regular branch meetings.)

Tickets \$30 must prepay

Networking, Brunch, Entertainment, Drawings
 Faith Christian High Vocalists/Instrumentals

RESERVATIONS-AAUW MEMBERS:

Write your check to AAUW. Mail to PO Box 3031, Yuba City, CA 95992. Check must arrive by Wednesday, November 15. If you prefer, you may pay at the October 18 or November 15 AAUW Branch meeting. Artis or Sandy will let us know if there is room for late reservations after Nov 19.

HANDS OF HOPE DONATIONS:

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

If you have items for the Dec. 13 AAUW opportunity drawing, please contact Linda Zall or Kathy Nehl asap.

The Feather Vane is posted on our branch website:
mvyc-ca.aauw.net/feather-vane.
 For members only password is FMO2022

Membership – If you have a friend who is interested in knowing about AAUW, invite them to a branch meeting. Linda Zall has applications.

STEM Committee meets October 9.

After a great summer break, it's time to start planning our March 30, 2026, STEM Conference at Yuba College. Join us **October 9, 10 am, in Sutter County Schools Annex** (out back), 970 Klamath Lane, YC. Contact is Sandy Davini.

Sunsweet Basket - The beautiful gift basket was donated to us by Sunsweet Growers Inc. as an in-kind sponsor for our Garden Tour. Sue Palm was the lucky winner. \$331.00 was raised at the Sept. branch meeting which will help us send ¼ of a girl to Tech Trek camp next year.

Photo by Tanna Thomas.



Did you know?

Happy Birthday to the branch members whose birthdays are in October: Camille

Green, Jo Hilling, Pat Jones, Louise Miller, Doreen Osumi, Sara Sealander, Joyce Smith, Laura Nicholson.

If we missed you, or got it wrong, please let me know. Artis Buerki, 530-632-7052.

Yuba Community College District

Foundation – In the 2024 Impact Report published this summer, Jay Lowden, Foundation Director, recognized AAUW. “Thanks to our partnership with the American Associate of University Women (AAUW) we have been able to create even more opportunities for students to develop leadership skills and build brighter futures.”

Remembering Ross Cockrell

We are sorry to report that Kay Cockrell's husband, Ross, passed suddenly in September. Kay and Ross have been AAUW Garden Tour sponsors over the years and Kay is a long-time member of our branch. Our sincere condolences go out to Kay and her family.



The Master Gardener's will hold the Fall Plant Sale on October 18 at 142 Garden Highway, Yuba City. Fall vegetable and flower starter plants for sale from 9:30 am to 1 pm.

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, All Around Town, normally meets on the **2nd Thursday of each month at 5:30 pm** at a local restaurant. Contact Betty Bonner, 530-301-2265 to join the group.



Betty Bonner, 530-301-2265.

In September Cork Dorks met at Linda's home. *Photo by Betty Bonner.*



MOVIE GROUP – 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.



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 for Traveling Gourmet 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.

Traveling Gourmet went to Brickland, Sacramento in August.





Executive Council Meeting September 11, 2025

Attending: Martha Bunce, Sandy Davini, Gwyn Baker, Christy Estabrook, Kathy Nehl, Linda Zall, Brenda Mock, Liz Skelly. A quorum was present. The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. The minutes were approved as presented.

Information/Action Items: At the upcoming General Meeting, Martha would like to show the Jamison Group video of Tech Trek (presently on YouTube and on a shared drive uploaded to our website). Ava Johnson made the video, and she is interested in being part of our next STEM conference - Yay! Martha checked on who would be missing for meetings over the next couple of months.

Reports from EC - Leader's Report:

Succession Planning - In August we each pledged to recruit a member to work with as a potential EC member for next year. We need to deepen our pool! Claudia Chandler has shown interest in helping with.

Agenda Planning - If aware you'll be absent for a meeting, be sure to have another person cover your topic(s)!

AAUW is working to counter the illegal/anti-democratic/un-Constitutional actions of this administration, as aligned with our mission. Things YOU can do: Call or write to your Senators and Congressmen! Go to meetings, stand with a flag and maybe hold a sign!

Correspondence - The Yuba College Foundation thanked AAUW for our scholarship support in their newsletter. Unfortunately, our contact with the Foundation has retired. Yuba Sutter Arts and the Museum both sent postcards advertising their latest activities and displays.

Treasurer's Report - State and National tax reports are done; audit reports are done; last year is complete! Interbranch dues are not due from us this year.

Public Policy - State and National are busy, but Martha hasn't kept up to date on the webinars. Linda asked about what the Governor signed.

Membership - Linda Zall has taken on the EC Membership LEAD. Sandy, Martha and Linda worked out a Membership Finance role that will transfer collection of dues and membership reports from Treasurer to Membership. Dues will be delivered to the Treasurer by Membership. "Friends" who don't have Bachelor's, higher degree, or an AA or equivalent ... there have been many over the years. We would like to recognize them, accept their participation in our projects and interest groups and have a way for them to support us financially. We will not collect dues, and they will not be on the official list of AAUW members reported to National.

Publicity - Can we become a sponsor of Newspapers in Education? Recognition is automatic! What about the sign as you come over the 5th Street bridge into Yuba City? Maybe we can get Claudia C. to investigate these for more publicity for us, as she is on the AAUW-CA committee.

Nominating Committee - Christy and Debbie Naylor are presently on the committee. Now attending her second EC, Brenda Mock expressed a desire to be a member at Large. The EC appointed her as such.

No dissenting votes: Done!

Christy will call all MAL's listed in the present yearbook to see if they want to continue for another year. A report from Nom Com is due to EC in February and the election is at the April meeting.

Communications - the Communications lead is vacant, and volunteers are welcome.

Feather Vane - Artis says to send your Member Interest Section pictures to her via email to get them printed in the Feather Vane and maybe even the Yearbook.

The FV deadline will be the Wednesday after the Branch meeting.

Social media - Gwyn was approached by a man who said he could provide all our ticketing needs. Not interested.

Reservations - 32 are signed up for the meeting on the 20th. Julie Goldwyn is doing a great job of organizing the girls' and parents' attendance.

Yearbook - Linda hopes to have it all printed and ready for Saturday. Sherry Wonder is our new photographer for GT and other activities.

Other - Honoring Deceased Members - After some discussion, it was decided to go ahead with the usual \$50 book honorarium at the library in memory of ALL members/former members, but not spouses of members.

STEM - The first meeting will be 10/9/25 at 10:00 a.m.

- Liz Skelly and Janet van Alstyne start now and double check with Yuba College. The date for the conference is March 30, 2026.
- We are planning for 750 girls this year.
- Cynthia Soares, Principal at Career Preparatory Charter School, will be contacted regarding STEM for the first time.
- An invitation to Robbins School should be sent to Janet Alonso

Garden Tour - This is set for May 2, 2026. The committee is exploring adding a 'places of interest' Walking Tour (St. Joseph's, Marysville Historic Cemetery, Chinese Temple

- Will contact Dan Flores (Development Director of Marysville), Friends of Marysville - Judy Mann
- Nadean, one of the garden owners from 2025, has saved flyers from previous GT/s and it was noted that including picnic suggestions had been included in previous GT brochures.

TTAG - Doreen Fuller will mentor the 2025 TTAG group. She held a meeting with them on 9/13 to prepare them for their presentations to our branch at the 9/20 meeting. Liz Skelly commented "Great job organizing TTAG!"

YUBA COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP - This was the first year using a YC instituted 'new easier process for selecting scholarship recipients.

- There were 400 applicants. 200 scholarships were awarded at Yuba College.
- One applicant, a re-entry student with 3 kids and a challenging history, wrote too brief an essay and included no transcripts. She seems to be someone who could really benefit from extra assistance. A plan is to try to find a way to offer her some personal assistance in helping her 'polish' her skills. She needs funding (funds are available) and it is hoped that she can get involved in some helping programs. Liz will explore.

Coalition Brunch - December 13, 2025 - Artis attended the planning meeting. This year's Annual Brunch will be held at Hillcrest Catering for the first time. Planning meetings are ongoing.

Interbranch Meeting - Our branch is hosting this year.

- On the first weekend in March (3/7/2026) There is usually a meeting in Chico for planning purposes.

Sunshine - Gretchen Cupp has sent a condolence card to Kay Cockerill (her husband recently passed away).

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m. Respectfully submitted, Christy Estabrook and Kathy Nehl

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



Quotes for the month:

“October is the month of painted leaves. Their rich glow now flashes round the world.”— Henry David Thoreau, Autumnal Tints

“Every leaf speaks bliss to me, fluttering from the autumn tree.”
– Emily Brontë

“There is no season when such pleasant and sunny spots may be lighted on, and produce so pleasant an effect on the feelings, as now in October.”— Nathaniel Hawthorne

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



FEATHER VANE, Artis Buerki, Editor
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We are all Wonder Women.



October 2025

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