



# FEATHER VANE – December 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 a period of 1 year.



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

## 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**

### **RESERVATIONS-AAUW MEMBERS:**

If you have not yet registered, phone Sandy,  
530.713.1390, to find out if there is room for late  
reservations.

### **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, & washcloths

## **Council Chat** by Gloria Blackwell, CEO AAUW National

As we approach the holiday season — a time of gratitude, reflection, and connection — I'm delighted to share with you a little earlier than usual during this time to reflect on all that we're thankful for.

This season, I find myself especially grateful for AAUW's unwavering commitment to equity through education. In a year marked by mounting challenges — from the erosion of civil rights to funding threats and legal setbacks — our mission has never been more vital. And yet, through every obstacle, AAUW has stood firm. With timely briefings, action alerts, and advocacy tools, we've ensured that the call for equity echoes in every corner of the country. We've shown that when our values are tested, our resolve only grows stronger.

One of the moments I'm most looking forward to this month is the [Alumnae Recognition Award Ceremony](#), where we'll celebrate Yie-Hsin Hung — an AAUW Selected Professions alumna and a true pioneer in global finance. Recently named one of *Forbes'* 100 Most Powerful Women, Yie-Hsin exemplifies the power of education, leadership, and purpose. Her journey is a shining example of what's possible when women are empowered to lead and transform the world around them.

Thank you for being an essential part of our community. Your support fuels our progress and inspires our vision for the future. Together, we've

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accomplished so much — and I truly believe our most impactful work is still ahead.

With deep gratitude and solidarity,



**Gloria L. Blackwell**

Chief Executive Officer

### ***Feather Vane Staff***

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Brenda Mock – Communications Lead

**Coalition Brunch Donations are still needed for gift baskets** - Contact Linda Zall, 530-713-0552 or Kathy Nehl, 530- 632-6050 to see what is needed.

The Holiday Elves are working industriously to prepare baskets for the drawing at the brunch. If you have any items for the baskets or large baskets, please let Linda and/or Kathy know. Some suggested items for the baskets:

- **Local agricultural products:** prunes, rice, nuts, wine, serve ware, napkins
- **Wine:** a bottle of wine, wine glasses, cocktail napkins, crackers, chocolate
- **Specialty coffees/teas:** mugs, biscotti, cookies, candies, teacups
- **Books:** a just released novel, a gently used book
- **Can't think of something?** How about gift cards, Christmas ornaments or decorations, candles.

**Membership –** If you have a friend who is interested in knowing about AAUW, invite them to a meeting. Linda Zall has applications. If you do not have your new yearbook for 2025-26, please contact Linda. Here is more information about our six newest members. Please add them to your roster/yearbook.

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**Thank you** to our November speakers, Victoria Tudor and Phyllis Smith, who gave a very interesting and enjoyable presentation about their recent book, *History of the Marysville Cemetery*. *Photo by Sherry Wonder.*





## Remembering June Wilcox

Sadly, June Wilcox passed away last month.

Kelly Swanson had brought June into our AAUW branch, and this is what she said: "June was generous

at sharing her experience, strength, and hope with her new community in Yuba City when I met her around 10 years ago. Her passionate gardening and creativity brought us together for long talks. I thought she'd enjoy AAUW and she delighted in the warm friendships that grew out of the *Talking on Paper* group. Whenever you enjoy a piece of dark chocolate, give June a wink."



Talking on Paper friends gave June Wilcox a 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party at the end of the pandemic so we are still wearing masks. (L-R) Barbara, Artis, Joan, Donna and Gwyn.

## MEMBERSHIP:

### Shape the Future in January and February - Opportunity for New Members

by Linda Zall and Sandy Davini

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 17, 2026, and February 21, 2026.

In January and February, please invite prospective members to come to branch meetings

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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 \$37 on their AAUW National portion of dues for the first year. That means they can join for a full twelve months for just \$78 (instead of \$115). 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 Linda Zall, 530.713.0552

**Garden Tour Committee** – We meet on the first Thursday of each month, 9:30 am at the Sutter County Library. If you want to help with the planning of this event, please contact Linda Zall or Kathy Nehl who are the co-chairs of the Garden Tour on May 2, 2026.

**STEM Committee** –The STEM Team has plans for the March 30, 2026, STEM Career Conference for 8th Grade Girls is well under way. In January we'll reach out to AAUW members and other organizations to volunteer as supporters of the STEM Conference to be held at Yuba College on March 30.

Dec. 11 meeting is canceled. Next meeting is Jan. 8, 10 am, Sutter Co. Supt of Schools Annex. Please contact Sandy Davini, 530.713.1390 for details.



## Did you know?

Happy Birthday to our members whose birthdays are in

**December:** Christina

Billeci, Barbara Douyon, Christy Estabrook, Lee Jones, Donna Long, Sue Palm, Bunny Parcher, Martha Woods, Linda Zall.

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



Our 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/](http://www.aauw-ca.org/)  
 AAUW National website: [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)  
 If you have questions about websites, please contact Artis Buerki. If you have questions about our Facebook pages, please contact Gwyn Baker.



Our AAUW members are involved in many community organizations including the Master Gardeners. Here is Kathy Nehl, (the reporter) and Mary Harris-Kasuba (the friendly bug) at the event this fall at the Fairgrounds. More than 300 children from local schools attended.

The Feather Vane is posted on our branch website, [mvyc-ca.aauw.net](http://mvyc-ca.aauw.net). Look for it in the FOR MEMBERS ONLY section. If you are asked for a password, it is FMO2022.

**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](mailto:buncehall@yahoo.com) and ask her to add you to her email contact list.



**ALL AROUND TOWN** - Dinner group, normally meets on the **2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 5:30 pm** at a local restaurant. Contact Betty Bonner, 530-301-2265 to join the group.

In November the dinner group went to Marcello's.  
*Photo by Sue Palm.*



**CORK DORKS** - The Cork Dorks meet at members' homes on the **3<sup>rd</sup> 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. Here we are in November. *Photo by Betty Bonner.*



**MOVIE GROUP** - If you want to be on the Movie Group email list contact Diana McVicker, [dlnmcvicker2521@gmail.com](mailto:dlnmcvicker2521@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 **3<sup>rd</sup> 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 **2<sup>nd</sup> 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 **4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month except earlier in Holiday months.** 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.



In November we went to the Union in Oroville. *Photo by Christy Estabrook.*



## Executive Council Meeting November 13, 2025

In attendance: Martha Bunce, Gwyn Baker, Kathy Nehl, Debbie Naylor, Linda Zall, Brenda Mock, Christy Estabrook, Doreen Fuller, Sandy Davini and Ellen O'Neil.

Leader's Report: Succession Planning: Martha reminded everyone that E.C. members should be looking for someone to join Executive Council and take on our positions.

Scholarship Winners: The Yuba College students who are awarded scholarships through the college's foundation are not aware of what organization funded the scholarship. Liz was able to get contact information for some, and Martha will be writing a congratulatory letter that will also invite them to be guests of AAUW at the Day for Women luncheon on March 7, 2026.

Martha is drafting letters to both the Yuba County and Sutter County Schools Superintendents to request financial support for Tech Trek. She will attempt to schedule a face-face appointment, especially with the new Yuba County Superintendent and will ask the father of the 7th grader from McKenney who attended last year to join her. Doreen offered to arrange, and to attend a meeting of Yuba County District Superintendents with Martha.

Treasurer's Report: Sandy informed the council that there is \$20,000 in the bank as of October 31, 2025

Public Policy: California AAUW supported 14 bills in the last legislative session and 11 have become law. A complete list of bills supported and opposed by AAUWCA is available on AAUWCA website under Public Policy.

Those interested in public policy can sign up for email from National AAUW and/or the state to stay updated. One can also go to the websites.

Membership: Linda reported that a previous member rejoined and five new members have signed up. Current total is 100.

Nominating Committee: The elected members of the Executive Council who are standing again for re-election are Linda Zall, Sandy Davini and Ellen O'Neil.

Communications: Linda keeps yearbook information continually updated. If anyone has a new address or phone number, you can let her know right away. Articles for the Feather Vane are due on Thursday, November 20th.

Programs: The branch meeting on Saturday November 15th features a presentation on the history of Marysville Cemetery.

"Shape the Future", an opportunity to join AAUW at a reduced rate, will be agendized for action at Dec. 11



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meeting. Recommended Shape the future events will be January & February branch meetings. The reduced rate will take place during January and February. Martha will announce it at Saturday's meeting.

There will be no branch meeting in December due to the Coalition Brunch on Dec. 13th.

Projects: STEM Conference is March 30th. The committee is working diligently. 17 presenters have confirmed their participation. The goal is 25 presenters.

Garden Tour: Reception site has been secured as well as 7 gardens. Five artists have responded to the 15 letters that were mailed, inviting participation. 2026 is Marysville's 125th celebration as a city. The garden tour will incorporate this theme.

Tech Trek: The process is just beginning for next summer. Suggestions to increase participation are to send letters to schools earlier in the year; Martha requests a few minutes of a regularly held meeting between district superintendents and County superintendents; recruit a parent liaison to assist parents who may find the application process daunting.

TTAG: Doreen is the mentor for this year's group; a pizza party is scheduled.

Interbranch Council: We are hosting the annual luncheon this year on March 7, 2026, at Hillcrest Catering.

Other: AAUW Fund: Branch members donate to national AAUW Fund-Education each year (teabag

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event). Members donated over \$1,500 in 2024, allowing us to honor two "Named Gift Honorees" at April branch meeting. AAUW Fund Team will meet by January to nominate two honorees.

Library Donations: When an AAUW member passes away, the organization donates books in their name, on topics of interest to them, to the Sutter or Yuba County Library.

Sadly, we lost three special people this year. The following books were chosen:

To honor Mary Mayfield:

*Lonely Planet Dream Trips of the World, Lonely Planet: Where to Go When, and Lonely Planet, The World.*

To remember Loraine Ainsworth:

*Martha Stewart's Gardening Handbook and Old Farmer's Almanac, Vegetable Gardening*

In recognition of Steve Clark:

*100 Most Collectible Cars  
Classic Cars; Definitive Visual History  
100 Cars that Changed the World*

Food Scarcity: Ellen asked everyone be mindful to donate to local food lockers as they are really stressed to meet needs currently. There will be a Turkey Drive at the Grange on Tuesday, November 18th from 3:00 to 6:00p.m.

EC will meet Dec. 11, 2025, at 1 pm in the ANNEX, Sutter County Schools Office.

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



Last week, the Trump administration escalated its effort to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education (ED). On November 18, ED announced six "partnerships" moving the day-to-day work of major K-12 and higher education programs to other agencies, after slashing staff across the Department. This is not routine

reorganization. It threatens students' civil rights and access to opportunity. We need your voice now.

**[Write to your members of Congress now to intervene and ensure the Department of Education can fulfill its responsibilities to students.](#)**

Why this matters: Congress created the Department of Education to enforce civil rights laws in education, administer federal aid, and ensure equal educational opportunity for all students.

When ED is hollowed out and its expertise is scattered across agencies not centered on education:

- students lose a clear place to turn when discrimination happens;
- support programs become harder to reach and harder to hold accountable;
- women and girls, students of color, students with disabilities, LGBTQ+ students, Native students, immigrants, and student parents are hit first and hardest.

AAUW is already [taking action](#):: We released a press statement from CEO Gloria L. Blackwell; We joined a coalition letter urging Congress to block these transfers; and We joined disability rights principles affirming that ED must remain independent and fully staffed to enforce IDEA and Section 504.

**[Now we need every AAUW member and advocate to lift their voice.](#)** Urge Congress to block efforts to dismantle the Department of Education's ability to do its job — advancing gender and racial equity in every classroom and protecting students' rights. If Congress doesn't act, students and families will feel the fallout first. Please send your letter today. Thank you for standing with AAUW and defending inclusive, high-quality public education for all students.

In Unity,  
Meghan Kissel, Senior Directory Policy & Member Advocacy

**To take action go to:**

**<https://aauw.quorum.us/campaign/148631/>**

Quote of the month:

“December is the time for remembering the past and reaching toward the future.”

— Ralph Waldo Emerson



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**We are all Wonder Women.**



**December 2025**

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