



FEATHER VANE – February 2026

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 a period of 1 year.

BRANCH MEETING – Feb. 21

Date: Saturday, February 21, 2026
Time: Door opens at 9:30, Program at 10:00, and buffet following

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

Program: Steve Greenstein, Antarctica

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*



Our presenter on February 21 is Steve Greenstein. Steve is an avid traveler and photographer who will be sharing a video presentation of his recent voyage to Antarctica. Steve is a 23-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force who currently volunteers with the California Highway Patrol and is a transporter for various dog rescue organizations. He lives in Yuba City with his wife and travel companion, Gretchen Cupp.



Council Chat

by Martha Bunce

Strap on your roller skates and get ready! We are heading into our busiest time of the AAUW year!

Northern California AAUW Interbranch Luncheon is March 7 and we host this year. Sign up to attend and meet the women who belong to Oroville, Gridley, Paradise, Chico, and Redding AAUWs.

Also on March 7 is **A Day for Women**, a 10am-2 pm luncheon and event held at Hard Rock Hotel and Casino LIVE EVENT venue. We are a sponsor and have a table for eight. We've invited our YUBA COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP awardees, but there will be room for several of our members to join in the fun. Let me know if you are interested – no cost to attendees!

STEM Career Conference is on March 30, and the organizing team is hard at it. Schools are contacted, presenters are recruited, Yuba College expects us, and now we are looking for scores of women to help out as "Supporters." This is a perfect role for just about any of us, our friends, neighbors, relatives.. It's a wonderful way to spend a morning hanging out with young women and accomplished STEM career women. Do volunteer for this great opportunity.

Lobby Day in April will be local this year. Want to visit our California Assemblymembers and senators at their district offices? Sign up! And the **Garden Tour** is

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May 2. The gardens are selected, the owners are enthusiastic, new features have been added, and the planning is well under way! How about spending a few hours in a lovely garden, welcoming visitors and chatting people up? Sign up to be a "Garden Greeter!"

As always, **enjoy the various "Interest Groups"** who **meet monthly** for lunch or supper, wine tasting, talking about books, taking in a movie, or our writing group "talking On Paper". Look in your *Yearbook* for the details about the groups and contact people and see it in this *Feather Vane*.. It's easy to join a group – just call up and show up!

Thank you! Chuck Smith, editor of the Appeal Democrat Newspaper, regaled our members with his tales of local history dating back to the start of Marysville and Yuba City. Who knew so many historical figures were also newspaper editors? Chuck generously donated his honorarium to support our Tech Trek program. Thank you, Chuck!



Photo by Sherry Wonder

IBC Luncheon – March 7

The annual Interbranch Council (IBC) Luncheon will be held in Yuba City on Saturday, March 7, 11:30 am at Hillcrest Catering, 210 Julie Drive (our regular meeting location). **Reservations and pre-payment are required.** The IBC Luncheon is a good way to meet members of the other AAUW branches in our IBC area. **Phone Liz Skelly, 530-635-0821 to make a reservation. Members must pay for reservations by Wednesday, February 25. You cannot pay at the door.**

Feather Vane Staff

Artis Buerki – Editor/emailer, artisb@comcast.net

Cynthia Fontayne – Copy Editor

Joan Young & Libby Haraughty - Snail Mailers

Sherry Wonder & Mary Harris Kasuba – Photographers

Brenda Mock – Communications Lead

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Did you know?

Happy Birthday to our members whose birthdays are in **FEBRUARY**: Wendy

Burri, Sherry Hoon, Edette Mills, Amy Molina-Jones, Thea Norum, Edna Smyth, Joan Young, Harjot Kaur, Mary Harris Kasuba, and Artis Buerki.

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

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 or have any changes, please contact Linda. 530-713-0552.

We have two new members. Welcome to Earlene and Gail. Please put them in your yearbook.

Earlene Knight

1635 Michael Way

Yuba City 95993

erknight54@yahoo.com

530.673.7193 (H)

530.300.3515 (C)

Gail St. John

1872 Harbor Town Drive

Yuba City 95993

916.202.6581

buildingbuff@yahoo.com

Her interests are reading, knitting, gardening, and travel. September birthday.

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 with you to see what AAUW is about. Membership is open to both women and men who have at

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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

Lobby Day – The 2026 Lobby Day will have a new perspective as far as timing. It begins March 27 and ends on April 17, and our AAUW members will be in touch with CA State politicians in person and by Zoom in the district where they live.

Lobby Days: Important Dates

- **January 16, 2026:** Last day to fill out this survey to participate.
- **March 23, 2026:** Mandatory webinar training session for participants, 7-8pm PT via Zoom. Training materials will be posted to the AAUW California website a week prior to the webinar.
- **March 27-April 17, 2026:** In-person in-district meetings, as scheduled by your Team Leader.
- **April 8-10, 2026:** Virtual meetings via Zoom, as scheduled by the Public Policy Committee

This year we're introducing a new approach to Lobby Days that prioritizes in-district meetings. As we transition to this model, we will also keep a zoom meeting option for members who are unable to travel to in-district meetings. This shift was inspired, in part, by our recent trials and tribulations with Lobby Days meetings in Sacramento. Over the past two years, it has become increasingly difficult to secure meetings with legislative offices in the Capitol as they are routinely overbooked with meetings tending to be confirmed at the last minute, short (most last no more than 15 minutes), and held with staffers rather than legislators (84 of 94 in 2025).

This shift to in-district meetings for Lobby Days was also inspired, in part, by the experiences of the Redlands Branch, who took a different approach and saw remarkable results. By scheduling Lobby Days in-district, they were able to secure eight in-person

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meetings. These meetings were confirmed well in advance, were longer, and offered a much better chance of speaking directly with legislators. We highlighted their success in our November Public Policy survey, and members overwhelmingly indicated a preference for meeting with district offices.

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

Garden Tour – The Garden Tour Committee will meet **Thursday, Feb. 5 at 9:30 am** at the Sutter County Library. If you want to help with the planning of this event, please contact Linda Zall, 530-713-0552, or Kathy Nehl, 530-632-6050 who are the co-chairs of the May 2, 2026 Garden Tour.

STEM – March 30 Volunteers Needed

The STEM Career Conference is coming quickly. As in the past, we need volunteers to sit in the classrooms for all three 30-minute sessions, call for help if the Presenter needs computer assistance (not usually necessary), and another adult in the room to keep an eye on the girls. Normally the girls are well behaved. I think the college experience intimidates them a little, and the teachers do a good job of preparing them for the conference.

We really try hard to get interesting and fun presenters, and you'll fill out a brief summary of how it went.

There isn't a lot of walking once you get to the classroom. You can stay in the room for all three sessions or take a little break in the 30 minutes that they are changing classes.

I hope we can count on you to support us on the morning of March 30 between 9:00 am and noon. There will be donuts and coffee in the Hospitality Room. Let me know if you can volunteer and speak to some of your friends to see if they would like to help. They don't have to be an AAUW member to support us. If you are able to help, please contact Carol Clark, 530-301-2164.

Next STEM Team meeting is Feb. 12, 10 am, Sutter Co. Supt. Office Schools Annex. Contact Sandy Davini, 530.713.1390 for more info.

Tech Trek – The Tech Trek committee is now meeting for the selection of our girls for the summer week-long STEM camp at UC Davis. Please contact Liz Skelly, 530-635-0821 if you want to participate.



TTAG- Holiday Visit with Madeline Covil (TTAG 2019) by Joann Nixon, TTAG Advisor

The holidays bring exciting times for family and friends to get together. During her holiday vacation, I had the great pleasure of visiting with

Madeline Covil (2019) while she was home from college. Madeline attends the University of Alabama at Huntsville.

When she returns to college in January, she will be traveling in Europe for 12 weeks. One of the places that she is excited to visit is Uzbekistan which has outstanding tile work. Beginning in April 2026 she will attend a semester at a German University in Schmalkalden where she will continue her studies in Robotics and Electrical Circuitries. Her lessons will be taught in German.

I can't wait to hear about her achievements and exciting experiences. Our Best Wishes follow Madeline on her journey.

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 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.

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Here are the All-Around Town group at The Spot in Yuba City on Jan. 8. *Photo by Betty Bonner.*



CORK DORKS - 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.



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, artisb@comcast.net if you want to be included on the list.



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

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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.

Save the Date

May 2, 2026



GARDEN TOUR
First Saturday in May
AAUW

32nd Anniversary

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

Reception at Mary Aaron Museum
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Tickets are \$25 beginning
March 15, 2026, at

[mvyc-ca.aauw.net/
garden-tour/](http://mvyc-ca.aauw.net/garden-tour/)



and at these locations:
Sutter County Museum,
K. Roberts Gifts,
Country Florist,
Sperbeck's Nursery,
Digs on D Street,
and from members of
AAUW Marysville-Yuba City

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Our Facebook pages are:

AAUW Marysville Yuba City (organization page),
AAUW-MVYC Group (open group page), and **Art in the
Gardens** (open group page).

If you have questions about Facebook, please contact
Gwyn Baker.

Our branch website is <http://mvyc-ca.aauw.net/>

AAUW California website is www.aauw-ca.org/

AAUW National website is www.aauw.org

If you have questions about websites, please contact
Artis Buerki.



**Executive Council Meeting
January 8, 2026**

In Attendance: Sandy Davini, Carol Clark, Martha Bunce, Artis Buerki, Gwyn Baker, Brenda Mock, Linda Zall, Kathy Nehl, Ellen O'Neil

The meeting was called to order at 1:25p.m.

There was a correction to the December meeting regarding the date of this month's Branch Meeting. It is January 17th.

Tech Trek - Neither Martha nor Doreen have been successful in reaching the Yuba County Schools superintendent to elicit his support of the program.

Tech Trek committee members are currently contacting area schools to encourage science teachers to nominate 7th grade girls to attend the camp. Applications for Tech Trek are due January 31st.

Correspondence -There were two thank you notes. One from last month's speakers, Phyllis and Victoria for the honorarium to the Friends for the Preservation of Yuba County History.

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The second was from Tawny Dotson, Yuba College President for the ongoing partnership between the college and AAUW.

Coalition Brunch - Artis reported that there were nearly 100 guests, over 40 from AAUW, at the annual gathering in December. Eight organizations attended. Newly involved are the Red Cross, Blue Star Moms, Tri-Counties Respite Care, and the Valley Quilt Guild.

Hillcrest is reserved for next year, the 2nd Saturday in December. AAUW cleared approximately \$1026.

Public Policy -This year Lobby Day will focus on District Offices and will likely be held the week that the legislators are on Spring recess from Sacramento, which is March 26th to April 6th. The deadline for indicating interest to AAUW CA is January 16th, however, that is likely flexible.

Public Policy news comes out once a month. If you are interested and do not receive it, contact Martha Bunce and she will forward it to you.

Membership - “Shape the Future” is operative during January and February, allowing new members to pay half the normal National dues. If a person has been a previous member, there must be a two-year gap in their membership to receive the discount.

This is a great time to invite interested people to the Branch Meeting in order for them to enjoy the fee break.

There are currently two Allies, members who have not completed a degree. Linda

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will develop a handout at the meeting, explaining how to become an ally.

Feather Vane -Articles are due on January 21st for the February edition.

Garden Tour -The flyer is on our website. Facebook page will be advertising it and thanking the sponsors.

The committee is looking for local “influencers’ who will help get the word out.

Tickets are being prepared for approximately 10 local service groups to raffle at their gatherings to further help with turnout.

All but one of the gardens is in Marysville. The Yuba City garden is close to the ticket sale site. It is the 175th anniversary of Marysville and there is a concerted effort to partner with the celebration.

New members who were garden owners last year are helping on the committee. All the artists have been contacted.

A new plan is to solicit restaurants to be sponsors. In return, they will be noted in the Garden Tour brochure and hopefully attendees will decide to have lunch at one of the 10 solicited for sponsorship.

Programs -There are currently 36 reservations for the January 17th Branch Meeting.

Chuck Smith, Editor of the Appeal Democrat, is the speaker.

The February program will feature AAUW Marysville-Yuba City member Gretchen Culp and her husband, Steve Greenstein,

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who will talk about their recent trip to
Antarctica.
The owner of the drone business,
originally scheduled, will speak at a later
date.

STEM Conference -The date is Thursday,
March 30,2026

Thirty school packets will be sent out on
January 15th. There are 18 confirmed
presenters and 25 needed. Martha is
following up with people who may be
interested.

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At the Branch meeting, Carol will recruit
members to act as supporters to the
speakers on the day of the conference.

Interbranch Luncheon -We are hosting it at
Hillcrest on March 7th. AAUW also has a
table at the Day for Women luncheon at
the same time. A few members will need
to attend and support any scholarship
winners who are able to be there.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

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



Have a happy Valentines Day!

Quotes for February:

“Love is something sent from heaven to worry the hell out of you.”
Dolly Parton

“There is nothing I would not do for those who are really my friends. I have no interest in loving people by halves; it is not my nature.”
Jane Austen

“Nobody has ever measured, even poets, how much a heart can hold.”
Zelda Fitzgerald



FEATHER VANE, Artis Buerki, Editor
P.O. Box 334, Sutter, CA 9598



We are all Wonder Women.



February 2026

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