



FEATHER VANE – January 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 – Jan. 17

Date: Saturday, January 17, 2026

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: Chuck Smith, Editor of Appeal-Democrat

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*

On Saturday, January 17th, Chuck Smith editor of the Appeal will give a presentation titled *175 Years of Newspapers in Marysville*. He has garnered years of experience working in the world of journalism and graduated from UC Davis with a degree in history and a minor in folklore. As Chuck was retiring from Sutter County in 2024, the position for editor of the Appeal opened up and he took it. Hope you can come to hear him share his passion for local history with us, including past famous editors and how a dispute of honor could be settled by a duel. I will be emailing out the invitations around the first of the month so be sure to check your inbox.

Council Chat *by Martha Bunce*

In addition to all that we are doing in this busy time, I was trying to get a small cat out of a very tall tree – for 12 days. It was heartbreaking. All the calling, cajoling, renting “a bucket” that reached high in the tree (but not high enough), engaging climbing experts as well as a certified arborist who volunteers to rescue cats from trees ---- failed.

We just had to stop-- and listen to her cry. Isabella and I did not talk about what was next. The twelfth day -- Pixie appeared at cat food time in the garage! Thinner, but sound (and I hope wiser). We think perhaps the rain convinced her to dare to go headfirst down the very scary almost vertical branch.

So, what does this have to do with AAUW? I think we are both the little cat caught in what feels like an impossible situation, **and** we are the people trying to help.

We work hard to ADVANCE EQUITY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS. And it feels hopeless at times. We seem to be at an impasse. We are stuck. And we listen to experts, try new strategies, call in more help, think what to do – and sometimes feel like we fail.

And then something happens to get us going -- again. And again. And we take a breath, eat some good food, enjoy the company of AAUW friends, have some fun, and get going again. Welcome to the adventure! It's worth the work, and the time, and the hard parts. And we are not stuck in a tree. We are in this together and it is good.

Feather Vane Staff

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

Coalition Brunch - Thank you to the eight organizations who made the Coalition Brunch happen on the Saturday morning of December 13. Almost 100 women attended the event at Hillcrest Catering in Yuba City where we learned about each other's community service projects.

Pictured here are the Coalition Committee members who planned this event: (L to R) **Linda** Zall, AAUW; **Jaime** Brown, American Red Cross; **Artis** Buerki, AAUW; **Darra** Latimer, Blue Star Moms; **Chary** Dunn, P.E.O. VU; **Monica** Becker, P.E.O. VU; **Kathy** Nehl, AAUW; **Anne** Fletcher, Bridges to Housing; **Patsy** Harger, Valley Quilt Guild; and **Sue** Wilson, DKG alumni. *Photo by Christy Estabrook.*



The music was provided by students from Faith Christian High School. *Photos by Sherry Wonder*



Thank you to our Elves: Amy, Jennifer, Linda, Brenda, and Kathy for providing 38 beautiful baskets at Coalition Brunch and for selling \$1,036 in sales & donations, our best in several years!



Linda and Kathy talked about AAUW programs and the Garden Tour fundraiser.



Each of the sponsoring organizations told us about their projects. *Photos by Sherry Wonder*



American Red Cross



Blue Star Moms



P.E.O. VU



Bridges to Housing



Valley Quilt Guild



Tri Counties Respite Care



Did you know?

Happy Birthday to our members whose birthdays are in **JANUARY:** Carol

Clark, Kay Cockrell, Grace Espindola, Larissa Feccu, Ethel Jorgensen, Sue Graue, Sharon Wonder, Janet Alonso.

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

Our condolences to Christy Estabrook and family in the loss of her husband Dean Estabrook. Dean was very active in the school music community here. His memorial service is Sunday, January 4, 1 pm at St. Andrew Church.

Sadly, our long-time member Paulette Almeida has passed away. For years Paulette was the leader of the original book club of our branch. Paulette moved out of state last year to be near her family, and she will be missed.

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.

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.

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

Feather Vane JAN. 2026

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

STEM - We need your help volunteering as a Supporter for the **March 30, 2026 STEM Career Conference** for 8th grade girls at Yuba College Marysville campus. Supporters assist the Speaker to make sure things run smoothly. Members, friends, and members of other women's organizations are all welcome. If you, or someone you know, is looking for an interesting half-day volunteering opportunity, please contact Carol Clark or Leslie Williams.

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

Tech Trek – The Tech Trek committee will meet on January 6, 4 pm at the Sutter County Library. Contact Liz Skelly, 530-635-0821 if you want to participate.

Garden Tour – The Garden Tour Committee will meet Friday, Jan 2 at 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 May 2, 2026, Garden Tour.

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.

On Dec. 11 we were at Kenzo Sushi Japanese Restaurant in Yuba City. *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, 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. Here we are at Dancing

Tomato on Dec. 19. *Photo by Christy Estabrook.*



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 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. On Dec. 18 we went to Sierra Nevada Brewery in Chico.

Photo by Sue Palm.



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.



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

[garden-tour/](https://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

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.



Executive Council Meeting

December 11, 2025

In attendance were Christy Estabrook, Linda Zall, Brenda Mock, Doreen Fuller, Kathy Nehl, Carol Clark, Martha Bunce, Sandy Davini, Gwyn Baker, Liz Skelly, Ellen O'Neil

Tech Trek: Liz discussed a plan to include more Yuba County students in the selection process. Martha is utilizing various contact methods to ensure support from superintendents. Doreen is contacting the Yuba County Superintendent of Schools to try to arrange a time for her and Martha to attend the monthly District Superintendents meeting.

Virtual Camp is a possibility to utilize this year for girls who cannot go to UC Davis for whatever reason. TTAG students are able to coach virtual camp and receive a stipend. The next Tech Trek Committee meeting is January 6th at 4:00 p.m in the Sutter County Library, Teacher contacts need to be done by January 16th and nominations by January 31st.

Membership: Linda will provide the EC with a list of new members and renewals. It is challenging to work with the national website on registration.

A motion and vote were taken to conduct a Shape the Future recruitment in January and February for new members to get a discount on half of the national fees. Linda/Christy/Unanimous.

Linda adds new members to her Yearbook file as they join. She requests that members share event photos with her throughout the year to make completion of the yearbook more efficient.

Correspondence: We received a thank you from Michelle Downing of Casa de Esperanza for our financial support.

Treasurer's Report: As of November 30, 2025, the bank balance was slightly under \$22,000.

Sandy will be unable to be at the branch meeting on January 8th. She is working on subs for her duties. Carol will request support from volunteers for the STEM conference.

Coalition Brunch: There were total of 96 attendees responding to this weekend's event. From AAUW there were 45.

Programs: The guest speaker for the branch meeting in January will be Chuck Smith, editor of the Appeal-Democrat.

STEM Conference: Approximately 5 more speakers are needed. Last year there was a problem with speakers using proprietary software. Yuba College has let us know they can resolve the problem with advance notice from the speakers.

Garden Tour: The committee is looking for 3 more gardens in Marysville.

Scholarships: Liz and Martha are attempting to let the winners know that their scholarship was provided by AAUW and invite them to "A Day for Women" luncheon on March 7th. The addresses for two of the winners are still needed from the YC Financial Aid Director. More work needs to be done on the English/Fine Arts Scholarship that Jeanine Rounds funded in her and her daughter's name.

Interbranch: We will host the luncheon and provide the food at Hillcrest on March 7th. Other branches will arrange for a speaker and decorations.

There were no changes/corrections to the November minutes.

The next meeting will be on January 8, 2026.

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



Who said that? – January quotes

"And now we welcome the new year. Full of things that have never been." Rainer Marie Rilke (1875-1926)

"Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come, whispering, 'It will be happier.'" Alfred Lord Tennyson (1850-1892)

"To read a poem in January is as lovely as to go for a walk in June." Jean-Paul Sartre (1905-1980)



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

January 2026

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