

# Gold Filings

Amador Branch  
American Association  
of University Women



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## Mission Statement

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

## Diversity Statement

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability.

## The Power of Leaving a Legacy

Making a planned gift to AAUW is a simple way to support our mission and leave a lasting impact.

### Benefits of Estate Giving

- Estate gifts allow you flexibility to provide for your family and support AAUW.
- Bequests do not affect your cash flow during your lifetime.
- Certain planned gifts may reduce estate or capital gains taxes.
- There is no minimum gift requirement, and every gift can be tailored to suit your specific wishes.

For more information and giving options, please call AAUW's planned giving office at 877-357-5587.



## President's Message

by Michele Powell

The new year is galloping along at a rapid pace for me and I find it hard to believe that this month is over. Now that preparations for the Home Tour on April 18 are in full swing, I'm sure time will be going by even more quickly.

Nancy Schuster and her team are working very hard on all aspects of the Tour. Please remember to buy and sell quilt raffle tickets, contact Aieleen Parker or Carolyn Hennings to volunteer as a hostess and, of course, buy Home Tour tickets.

I want to thank our amazing program team headed by Sandi Baracco, Program VP, as well as Sandy Campbell and Claire Wait, hospitality co-chairs, for bringing us a very informative international program in January. Our presenter, Kelsi Himmel, spoke about the impacts of oil extraction and mining on the ecosystems both in Ecuador and Amador County. I was surprised to learn that there are two Super Fund cleanup sites in Amador County.

Kelsi has provided me with a list of websites and other resources where we can find more information.

- [www.chevrontoxico.com](http://www.chevrontoxico.com) (Chevron case)
- [www.decoin.org](http://www.decoin.org) (Coldelco copper mining)
- Savages by Joe Kane
- [www.amazonwatch.org](http://www.amazonwatch.org) (office in Oakland-works mainly in Ecuador, Brazil and Peru with indigenous peoples to

preserve rainforest)

- [www.globalexchange.org](http://www.globalexchange.org) (office in San Francisco-human and environmental rights organization that does the Reality Tours that I went through to go to Ecuador)
- [www.parnassus.com](http://www.parnassus.com) (fossil-fuel free investments)
- Crude: A Joe Berlinger film (highlights the struggles in the Chevron case)
- [khimmel@cityuniversity.edu](mailto:khimmel@cityuniversity.edu) (email Kelsi if you have questions)

You all received Sandi's email that the February program regrettably had to be cancelled; we are now looking ahead to the fun we'll have at the Thursday March 12 6:30 pm program. Kathleen Harmon will enlighten us on the full range of Amador Community Foundation activities and involvements and we'll celebrate our history as a branch of AAUW. All details will be in the March issue of *Gold Filings*.

Please mark your calendars for the March 12 program, the Home Tour Saturday April 18, the Ice Cream Social on Saturday May 16 and the ending the year with the Annual Meeting on Saturday June 13. More information is on our website under Programs and, of course, will be in *Gold Filings*.

– Michele

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## March Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submitting articles and information for the February issue of Gold Filings is **February 25th**. Please submit material as soon as you can. Thank you.

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## Board Briefs

- The treasurer gave her report. The Stephen Honeychurch Memorial Scholarship Fund has \$1855.00 as of December 28.
- Home Tour Chair Nancy Schuster reported that only 29 members purchased HT tickets last year; a discussion ensued on how to improve member purchases. As there is no Sponsor Chair, individual members are soliciting ads for the brochure. A HT flyer is being distributed with the ACES Waste bill. Current HT information has been posted on the website.
- Our website domain name expires in March and the website management contract expires in April. Transfer of both to National will take place. There will be a new domain name, but there will be a forwarding link for one year.
- The Nominating Committee met January 16 to begin recruiting candidates for 2015-2016.
- The board agreed to form a committee to review and revise, as needed, the requirements and application forms for scholarships.
- The board approved a motion to combine the November and December issues of Gold Filings.
- The board approved a motion to have business cards printed with the AAUW logo for membership purposes.
- A committee will be formed to explore joining the National program for collection of dues.
- The February program has been cancelled due to lack of available speakers.
- There will be a members only program in March to celebrate the Amador Community Foundation. Kathleen Harmon will be invited to speak.
- The board agreed to support January program speaker, Kelsi Himmel, and her G.H.O.S.T. (girls helping other sisters thrive) club at Argonaut High by providing several members as panel speakers for the group's February program.

## Bill & Jennifer Nelson Home

# Home Tour Preview

This 12-year old Prairie Style home was custom built for the Nelson family. The home sits on 5-acres with an impressive panoramic view of the valley, all the way to Mt. Diablo.

The home was created in the spirit of Frank Lloyd Wright, specifically Wright's Hanna House at Stanford. The home's layout is a "hexagonal" grid. The walls in all the rooms are part of hexagon angles. From the entryway, visitors can see how architect Ty Hoblitt of Orangevale conformed to the spirit of the Hanna house with natural materials, window walls and an open floor plan following the hexagonal grid. The living room ceiling soars above a wall of windows to the view beyond. Large rooms, clean and uncluttered spaces, natural light, and oak hardwood floors carry out Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie Style. The local builder is Loren Fasmer, who built other homes featured in previous home tours. The angles must have presented quite a challenge to the carpenters.

The living room has Stickley furniture that echo the light-stained oak flooring. This style of furniture is classic for the Arts and Craft Period. Custom lighted cabinets display the Nelson's beautiful glass art collection.

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## Nominating Committee Seeking Volunteers

The Nominating Committee (Nancy Street, Jackie Martinez, and phone helper, JoAnn Ogburn) has been formed. We met on January 16 to get started. Next will be recruitment phone calls to members. We have many slots to fill and are hoping that you will consider stepping up to help our branch function. The website ([aauwamador.org](http://aauwamador.org)) contains job descriptions for you to peruse. PLEASE HELP! If you are interested in serving, please contact Nancy Street at [streetjb@volcano.net](mailto:streetjb@volcano.net)

## Calling Interested Quilters!

Many of our AAUW quilters have moved on and are no longer AAUW members or have moved away. Aieleen Parker and Sue Harrington are seeking other members who would like to join us in making the Home Tour Op-

portunity Quilt for 2016. The quilt ticket sales raise between \$1500 and \$2000, 100% of which goes to scholarship fund.

We usually begin the process in February when we select a pattern. Then we shop for appropriate fabrics.

## Home Tour Opportunity Quilt Is Complete

The Home Tour Opportunity Quilt is finished and ticket sales have begun. The full cost of the tickets goes to the AAUW Scholarship Fund for local women and girls, so the money goes for a good cause.

I am sure you don't want to miss out on the chance to win this beautiful quilt. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. If you would like to take a packet of tickets to sell to family, friends and members of other organizations you belong to, packets of 30 (\$25) and 60 (\$50) will be available.



Contact Sue Harrington and she'll put you on the touring schedule.

The full/queen size quilt measures approximately 79" x 99". It features a bear paw block combined with a cross block in brown, green and gold tones. The trees pieced into the border add additional interest contributing to the quilt's name, Amador Pines. The quilt is based on a Whirligig Design by Chris Hoover called Eldorado Canyon.

—Sue Harrington & Michele Powell

## February Libations & Conversations Set

Libations & Conversations will meet Wednesday, February 25, 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Yorba Wine Tasting Room in Sutter Creek. The topic of conversation is "Resiliency" led by Lani Chapman. Join us for no-host wine by the glass (\$6-\$8), camaraderie and fun. You might be the lucky one to win the door prize!

We work together to cut the fabric, and then divide the sewing that can be completed individually. The group works together when it is convenient and when the quilt top sections need to be sewn together. We try to have the quilt top completed by early fall which gives us time to get it quilted and finished to display at the January meeting.

If you are interested in joining us or have questions, please contact either Aieleen ([Aieleen@juno.com](mailto:Aieleen@juno.com)) or Sue ([susanlh@volcano.net](mailto:susanlh@volcano.net)). We would like to hear from you soon so we know if we will have enough members to launch a quilt project for the 2016 Home Tour.

— Sue Harrington



*Getting to Know You*

**Lisa Conti, Linda Rianda, and Pamela Bennetts**

**Lisa Conti** was born in Santa Barbara, California, back when it was still a fairly small town. She had a “normal, boring childhood”, right down to the “family station wagon”. Her sister is eleven years older, so growing up was almost like being an only child. She can remember walking with her friends to buy candy at the store.



First Lisa attended Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria, and then transferred to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, where she earned a Bachelors’ degree in Social Science. She just needs to finish her thesis for her Master’s degree in Industrial and Technical Studies.

She came to Amador County for love. Her college boyfriend hailed from here, and they came after graduation. They are no longer together, but remain friends. Lisa first worked for Wolin Construction, then at Hospice of Amador County. After a job at Mule Creek State Prison, she has been working for the Amador County Probation Department for nine years. She loves her job! Her current boyfriend works for the Sheriff’s Department. Her biggest thrill is helping a client “get on the right path”.



Her interests beyond Criminal Justice are mellow, and include music and quiet times. She enjoys going to museums and antique stores, cooking and baking. In the late seventies, Lisa took a special trip to Egypt, where she took a tour inside a pyramid. She has loved learning about Ancient Egypt since childhood, and would love to go back again once it is safe.

Her friend, Karen Baker, encouraged her to join AAUW. Lisa hopes to come to more events this year.

– Nancy Street

**Pamela Bennetts** is returning to AAUW after a long absence. She was a member in the 70s and 80s, serving as president for one year.

Pam moved to Amador County in 1975 with her former husband. Together, they ran the Amador Progress-News and the Amador Ledger, which eventually merged with the Amador Dispatch to become the Amador Ledger-Dispatch. At the same time, their children, Amanda, Matt and Emily Bohl were born.



The University of California at Santa Barbara is her alma mater, where she earned a BA in English. After selling the newspapers in 1989, Pam returned to school to earn her teaching credential. She first taught at Sutter Creek Elementary, moving to Ione Elementary in the mid-90s where she has taught 5th grade ever since. Retirement is only a few years away.

Community involvement has been important to Pam. She is a member of the Ione Picnic Association, Native Daughters of the Golden West, and was previously involved with the Ione Business Association. While her children were in 4-H, Pam was community leader and a board member, as well as a leader of groups such as sewing, cooking, leatherwork, etc. She enjoys activities at the Amador County Fair, especially now that her six grandchildren are old enough to participate.

A few years ago, Pam discovered she could sing and joined the Amador Choraliars as an alto. She truly enjoys rehearsing and the spring and Christmas programs the group presents. Creating in her garden also brings her a lot of pleasure. She moved into a new house near the Castle Oaks golf course two years ago and had a lot of fun designing and building her backyard oasis. It has been her hope to someday become a Master Gardener, and she has just started the classes to complete that goal.

Pam is happy to have re-joined AAUW. She’s enjoying seeing familiar faces and meeting new friends.

– Submitted by Pamela Bennetts

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## Getting to Know You

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**Linda Rianda** was born in Salinas and grew up there. Her great-grandparents settled in Salinas in the 1850's, speaking only Italian their entire lives. Linda has been an Amador County resident for more than 25 years and a resident of Sutter Creek for 12 years. She has recently wrapped up six years of service on the Sutter Creek City Council.

Linda attended Salinas High School, Hartnell Community College, and Fresno State University, graduating with a degree in English and a teaching credential. She taught junior high and high school in Fresno for nine years before becoming a peace officer with the State Department of Corrections. As she worked her way through Corrections, she pursued increasingly diverse and complex roles. After a 26-year public safety career in the Department, Linda retired in 2008 as Associate Warden at Folsom State Prison. During her career with Corrections, she always felt that her work made a difference in people's lives by making communities safer and by ensuring public monies were spent responsibly.

In 2009, Linda was appointed by Sutter Creek City Council to fill a vacant seat on the Council. As a City Council member, Linda was instrumental in balancing the City's budget for the first time in years. It was in an effort to give back to the community she loves and to help ensure that Sutter Creek remains forever the jewel of the Mother Lode. In 2010, Linda was elected to the City Council for a four-year term, and served as Sutter Creek's Mayor in 2012.



For the past two years Linda has been working as the Tasting Room Manager for Bella Grace Winery three or four days a week which she enjoys greatly. And if all that wasn't enough, she is serving or has served on the board or as an active member of the following community organizations:

Amador County Recreation Agency (ACRA), Kennedy Mine Foundation, the Sutter Creek Woman's Club, Sutter Creek Community Benefit Foundation focusing on the Historic Sutter Creek Grammar School Restoration and other community projects including the Eureka Mine Restoration Project, and serves as secretary of AmadorArts. We embrace Linda as a new member of AAUW and welcome her involvement and participation in our programs and activities.

— Sandi Baracco

**The Friends of the Amador County Library  
Proudly Present In Concert**

# **TOM RIGNEY AND FLAMBEAU**



**Sunday,  
March 22  
3 PM**  
Doors Open at 2:30 pm  
**The Call**  
(formerly Calvary Chapel)  
18400 Ridge Road,  
Pine Grove

**TICKETS: \$22 in Advance;  
\$25 At the Door, if Available**  
Tickets at Hein & Co. Bookstore,  
Jackson, or By mail (until March 15) at  
FACL Concert, 13910 Rose Quartz Ct,  
Pine Grove, CA 95665  
Make checks payable to FACL  
Information: 209.296.1712

Light Refreshments/Raffle  
Door Prizes

Proceeds benefit the  
Friends of the Amador  
County Library

**Friends**  
of the  
Amador County Library

Sponsored by:  
**The All-New  
JACKSON  
RANCHERIA  
CASINO RESORT**

## Home Tour Preview

(continued from page 3)

In contrast, the kitchen seems cozy with its lowered ceiling, warm cherry cabinets, and triangular-shaped island. All cabinets throughout the home were custom built by local craftsman John LeSage of the Wood Wizard in Sutter Creek.

The home has 3 bedrooms and 3<sup>1/2</sup> baths. The master bedroom has a 15-foot ceiling and a stunning view of Mt. Diablo. The exterior features a large Porte cochère carport in the front and natural landscaping off the living room, to frame the panoramic hill-top view. We think you will agree that the home succeeds in capturing the spirit of Frank Lloyd Wright.



## Special Interest Groups

### Afternoon Book Group

Robin Stolk, Chair  
[robinstolk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:robinstolk@sbcglobal.net)

Join us for a thoughtful and friendly book discussion the 2nd Monday of each month at 2 p.m. We meet at members' homes to discuss a book chosen from our yearly list compiled in September. Our list is a mix of fiction and nonfiction. New members are welcome. On February 9th we are meeting at the home of Marge Guletz. We will be discussing *A Higher Calling* by Adam Makos. We would love any branch member to join us who is interested in a book group. If you are interested, please call Robin Stolk.



### Art in Action

Charlene Unger, Chair  
[cux2@volcano.net](mailto:cux2@volcano.net)

We are a group whose members enjoy drawing and painting at each others' homes or various outdoor locations such as PiPi Valley, Bear River and Tabeau Lake. We share information about art workshops and gallery exhibits. Art in Action group members are responsible for the Art Show at the Home Tour. Beginners are welcome. Lunch is always part of the day. Meetings are every 2nd & 4th Tuesday. Contact Charlene for information about the next meeting.



### Book Lovers & Page Turners

Jackie Martinez, Chair  
[jackiemartinez@aol.com](mailto:jackiemartinez@aol.com)

We meet at 2 p.m. on the fourth Monday of each month (except December) at members' homes. We have great discussions about the books and how their themes and characters relate to our own lives and worlds. New members are welcome.



On February 23 we will be meeting at Sue Harrington's home to discuss *Remarkable Creatures* by Tracey Chevalier. If you'd like to join us, contact Sue.

### Cork & Fork

Greta McElroy, Chair  
[gretamcw@coastside.net](mailto:gretamcw@coastside.net)

This group meets every other month with significant others to enjoy wine tasting and appetizers. Member's homes are the usual meeting place, but we sometimes gather at a winery tasting room or other appropriate venue. Cork & Fork meets the 2nd Sunday except in May when we meet on the 3rd Sunday because of Mother's Day. The next meeting of Cork & Fork is March 15. Details about this meeting will be in the March issue of G.F. If you'd like to join the group or want more information, contact Greta McElroy



### Garden Groupies

Nancy Schuster, Chair  
[nancys@volcano.net](mailto:nancys@volcano.net)

Garden Groupies love plants and the beauty they add to our lives! No digging, raking or pruning is required - just join us in visiting some very interesting places.

The Garden Group met in January to schedule our plans for the entire year. I think we came up with great destinations and we're all ready to get started. On Wednesday, February 18th we'll be heading to Green Acres Nursery in Folsom, in time for the planting season. This is the time to prune fruit trees, start planting vegetable seeds and check out bare root roses. We'll meet at the parking lot next to the post office in Sutter Creek at 10 a.m. Please contact Nancy if you'd like to join us.

### Lunch Bunch

Kelli Garcia, Chair  
[kgarciaod@hotmail.com](mailto:kgarciaod@hotmail.com)

Lunch Bunch meets the second Thursday of every month. We patronize new restaurants and local favorites. Each month a different hostess chooses the restaurant and makes the reservations. Attendees pay for their own meals. New Lunch Bunchers are always welcome.

This month we meet February 12 at Caddy's Restaurant at Castle Oaks Golf Club. The address is 1000 Castle Oaks Drive, Ione. Please RSVP to Claire Wait [clairesc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:clairesc@sbcglobal.net) by February 9.



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## Supper Club

Claire Wait, Chair  
[clairesc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:clairesc@sbcglobal.net)



Supper Club meets quarterly for good food and great fellowship. The menus are decided by the hostesses and usually feature a theme. Each hostess volunteers for a certain date and selects the recipes to spread the preparation among all the couples attending. Supper Club will meet on February 16 to celebrate Washington's Birthday. Lani and Jim Chapman will be our hosts and are currently determining the menu--one thing, however, is certain...we are ending with cherry pie!

Please contact Claire Wait [clairesc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:clairesc@sbcglobal.net) if you are interested in joining our group of people who enjoy good food and great company.

## Walking & Strolling Group

Sheila Berg, Chair  
[sberg@volcano.net](mailto:sberg@volcano.net)



The group determines which walks will be taken at a planning meeting early in the year. The group takes one walk each month. Some popular walks of the past have taken us to PiPi, Lake Tabeau, French Bar and Electra Road. We usually bring a lunch to share along the way or at the end of the walk. If there is rain, the walk is cancelled. Please be sure to bring water/fluids. Bring ideas for walks for the coming months . . . bring friends or spouses . . . more is good! No need to rsvp. Contact Sheila for more information.

## Branch Member Notes

### Sunshine Update for January

I would be honored to send a card on behalf of our branch to any member you feel needs sunshine for illness or loss; congratulations for significant family happenings or noteworthy community contributions; or just "thinking of you." As I am a technological illiterate, you will have to call me.

Since our last issue of Gold Filings Lynne has sent sunshine cards to the following branch members.

Marylyn Copper and Margie Guletz.

*Lynne Brumit*

### Birthdays

Best wishes to our members with January birthdays.

Laurie Brunson	Nancy Schuster
Dixie Camardo	Jacqueline Martinez
Angel LeSage	Isabel Singleton
Shirley Snell	

## Friends of the Amador County Library Invite Your Donations for the



# Spring Book Drive

**Saturday, February 21, 10 am – 2 pm; and  
 Saturday, March 28, 10 am – 2 pm**

**at the FACL Book Storage Building  
 42A Summit Street, Jackson (behind the old Court House)**

We accept gently read books and audio-visual materials in good condition. Please, no magazines, VHS or cassette tapes, or damaged materials.

For information, call (209) 267-0855.

The Friends of the Amador County Library is a 501(c)3 organization. Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Save the Dates for the April Book Sale:  
 April 10-12!

[www.friendsoftheamadorcountylibrary.org](http://www.friendsoftheamadorcountylibrary.org)

**Friends**   
 OF THE  
**Amador County Library**