

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.

Home Tour Outcome

By Sandra Campbell

From all reports, a very good time was had by all at the Amador City Home Tour. The weather cooperated, bringing sunshine and temperatures in the mid-70s. The limited area of the tour, allowing people to park and walk, added to the festive atmosphere. The homes and gardens were lovely and the historic sites added enjoyment to the tour. The iris display at the cemetery was stunning.

Ticket sales were 425 for a total of \$9,554. Brochure ads contributed \$3,300 and quilt ticket sales totaled \$1,470. Sue Harrington will have a more complete quilt report elsewhere in the June *Gold Filings*. A last minute surprise was a \$1,000 donation on tour day from one of our generous homeowners.

Your Home Tour Committee put a tremendous amount of effort and time into making this a successful tour, which was obvious from the positive comments heard all day about how well organized the event was and how much fun everyone was having touring the sites while running into friends and acquaintances. Members and non-members helped by acting as hostesses at homes, historic sites

and tea, while others manned parking spots and directed visitors around the town. We are so fortunate to have so many people willing to volunteer year after year.

We owe a huge “thank you” to all of those who organized the tour and worked on tour day.

Very special thanks to Amador High School for opening its parking lot and to Amador Transit for the shuttle that transported everyone into and out of Amador City. Another goes to the Hotel Sutter for lending its shuttle to drive people up steep East School Street. We greatly appreciate the

support from the CHP and its Explorers who helped keep foot and vehicle traffic flowing smoothly. Additional thanks go to the city council and business association in Amador City for all the help and advice provided prior to the tour, for the beautification of the town with its floral displays, and for hosting this important event.

Steering Committee:

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Bobbie Brubaker | Judy Venckus |
| Sandra Campbell | Nancy Schuster |
| Claire Wait | |



President's Message

by Michele Powell

It could not have been a more beautiful day for Home Tour! The weather was amazing, the homes and historical sites were beautiful and interesting. I want to extend my thanks and appreciation to the coordinating committee led by Sandy Campbell as well as the entire Home Tour committee. They have been working hard since last fall. My gratitude goes out to all the hostesses and husband parking attendants; we could not have a Home Tour without this support and commitment. In 2014, 26 members bought 43 tickets, last year in 2015, 47 members bought 62 tickets This is an increase of 21 members who bought tickets and an increase of 19 in the number of tickets they bought from 2014 to 2015. This year 50 members bought 80 tickets; this is an increase of three members and 18 tickets. Sandy Campbell has an article on page 1, which contains more information.

Our next event is the Scholarship Awards Presentation on May 14 from 4:00-6:00 at the Sutter Creek Community Center. Please join us for this event. The Home Tour raises funds for our scholarship program and this when we see why we've worked so hard. We get to meet our recipients and celebrate with them and their families. There are six community college recipients, one upper division recipient and three Tech Trek recipients. I hope you can attend.

Our Annual Meeting is set for Saturday June 11, 9:30 – 12:00 when we'll repeat our success of last year and have a brunch catered by Mother Lode Deli. Details are forthcoming in May, but for now save the date. It will be held at the Sutter Creek Community Center. The Funds named Honorees will be presented to the members. As always, we'll vote on the draft budget and slate of officers for 2016-2017.

This is a critical meeting because we will also be voting on a restructure of the branch and the board. More information about this proposal will be published in June *Gold Filings*. The board of directors has approved this restructuring plan for 2016-2017 and now it goes to the membership for final approval at the Annual Meeting.

Our branch is in crisis and it has been coming on for at least six years. For five of the last six years we have not had a president-elect, which tells us that we had have a leadership succession crisis. This year it came to a head.

If you have read any of the Nominating Committee reports starting with February Gold Filings, you know that no one volunteered to be an officer. We then sent out the survey on

the future of AAUW Amador Branch and the responses were equally disappointing. The results of this survey are reported in April Gold Filings which is on our website. It is because of these things that the restructure is absolutely necessary. There will be a PowerPoint presentation to explain the plan followed by a discussion. I hope you can attend the meeting.


Isabel Singleton, Sandee Bowman and Rebecca Wilson went to AAUW State Convention in San Mateo on April 15, 16 and 17. They came back inspired, energized, and hopeful from the experiences of meeting with members of other branches, attending workshops and learning that we share successes and challenges with other branches. Isabel and Rebecca will report on their experiences at the Annual Meeting on June 11, but for now a brief report is on pages 5 and 6.

It is dues renewal season. Please don't wait. Do it now. Everyone with an email address received an email from memberinfo@aauw.org on April 21st.

Thanks to our treasurer, Isabel Singleton, this is second year that we are able to renew online. I just renewed, it is simple, secure and it makes Isabel's job so much easier. If you do not have email you will receive a notice through the USPS.

If you have not visited the national AAUW website lately, I urge you to do that soon. It contains a great deal of information about which we all care deeply. Financial literacy, equal pay, woman and leadership, sexual assault on college campuses and STEM education are only some the issues to which AAUW National is committed. The website URL is www.aauw.org

I look forward to seeing you at the Scholarship Awards Program.



www.AAUWMariposa.com

A Room with a View

Saturday
May 14, 2016
10 am - 4 pm

Tickets: \$20 Pre-Sale; \$25 Day of Event	Presale: Mariposa Visitors' Center from any AAUW member aauwmariposa.com	Day of Event: Mariposa Visitors' Center River Rock Inn
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Board Briefs – 4/20/16

- The minutes for March 16, 2016 were approved as written.
- The Treasurer gave her report.
- Home Tour Report: 425 tickets were sold. Fifty members purchased eighty tickets, an improvement over past years. A \$1000.00 donation was given to the branch by Karen Sage and Chuck Laughlin. The Amador Transit Shuttle was a success.
- Sandee Bowman presented the proposal for reorganization of the branch for 2016-17. It is based on the outcome of the March survey and the Nominating committee results. Its purpose is not just to preserve the branch, but to have it thrive and grow. After discussion, the board voted unanimously to approve the proposal, which will now be sent to the membership.
- A vote on the proposal, as well as Board officers, and the budget will take place at the annual meeting in June.
- The Scholarship Awards Presentation will be on May 14, 4-6 PM at the Sutter Creek Community Center. Needs for the program were settled.
- Three new members have joined.
- The Annual meeting is June 11, at the Sutter Creek Community Center. It will be a catered brunch.
- As there was only one applicant in the Upper Division/ Graduate/Re-entry Scholarship division, it was decided to use the extra funds to award two additional scholarships in the Community College division, which will now offer six awards.
- Membership renewal time has arrived. Dues are \$85.00. Notices will go out this week.

It's Membership Renewal Time Again!

Membership renewal notices have been emailed out as of 4/20/16 and are due no later than 6/30/16. Dues are \$85, which includes \$49 for National, \$20 for State, \$16 for Branch.

To facilitate the renewal process, it is best to renew online on AAUW's secure website. All of the information on how to make your payment is in the email that was sent to you on 4/21/16.

If you must send a check, please mail it to me directly at:

Isabel Singleton
14691 Sandar Road
Pine Grove, CA 95665

This promises to be an exciting year for the branch and membership. We hope that you will renew and take an active part in our branch activities and goals to empower all women in our community.

*Thanks,
Isabel Singleton
Treasurer*





Tech Trek

Community College

Upper Division

**Don't miss this
opportunity to meet
and honor our
amazing scholars!**

**Refreshments
Provided**

SATURDAY MAY 14, 2016 4-6 P.M.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PRESENTATION

**Please join AAUW Amador as we celebrate our
scholarship recipients for 2016!**

**SUTTER CREEK
COMMUNITY CENTER**

33 Church Street
Sutter Creek, CA

RSVP to szyqueue@gmail.com

AAUW State Convention

By Isabel Singleton

This year the branch decided to send 3 members to the AAUW State Convention in San Mateo. Sandee Bowman, VP Membership, attended for the 3 days of the convention, while Rebecca Wilson, Newsletter Editor and I, went for the Saturday conferences. We decided to attend different conferences in order to cover the most topics applicable to the branch and its membership.

I attended the four Leadership sessions, which consisted of: "Let's Get Disruptive: New Ways to Do Old Things," "What Does Your Branch Really Want to Do? Strategic Planning Simplified," "Uh Oh, Member Burnout? Care & Feeding of Volunteers," and "Embracing Change – Easier Said and Can Be Done!" All of these sessions were right on the money addressing the issues that our branch (and a lot of others) is facing. The sessions addressed issues such as an aging membership who have 'done it all and are tired', setting schedules and making plans that account for working and retired members, and learning what needs to be done to re-invigorate the branch and the mission of AAUW.

In the sessions and during the breaks and lunch, all of us had the opportunity to meet with other branch members and discuss issues and areas of concern for the continuation of the branch. We discovered new ideas for fundraising, membership retention and new member recruitment that other branches are doing and made plans to meet with other branches to brainstorm on how we can make things more FUN for our members.

I came away with a new enthusiasm and an outline of things that can be done to get us going again. It was decided to present to the next board that monies be allocated in the next budget to send members to the Convention next year and to include new members as well as seasoned veterans. It was definitely worth it!

Tech Trek News

By Gretchen Carlson, Tech Trek Coordinator

I am pleased to announce the recipients of the Amador County Branch Tech Trek scholarships for 2016: Hailey Kirkbride, Carissa Lowe, and Cherisse Carney. They will be attending Tech Trek STEM camp at California State University Fresno for a week in June. Thirteen 7th grade girls were nominated and we interviewed six girls. We would have been proud to send any of the six! Once again, the teachers did a great job of nominating outstanding candidates. Gretchen Kingsbury, Kelli Garcia, Margie Guletz and I did the interviewing.

This spring I have been in touch with some past TT campers, and am pleased that next year one will be heading to San Francisco State, and another to UC Santa Barbara. Anastasia Karnaze, the salutatorian for Amador High School, is off to study science at UC Irvine. Samantha Fischer, the student going to SF State, will be majoring in communications. Not only did she attend TT as a camper, she will be returning for the third time this summer as a junior counselor. She wrote, "I think camp affected me differently than other girls. I'm not planning on going into a STEM field, but camp gave me the confidence to be the person I am. Especially working as a counselor these past years, I've discovered my passion for helping other girls gain the confidence to pursue whatever profession they are interested in."

I hope that you will be attending the Scholarship Event on May 14 so that you may meet this year's recipients.

AAUW Home Tour Features Homes with Views

On a clear day, you can see forever. That is true for the Mariposa homes that will be on tour for the "Room with a View" fundraising event hosted by Mariposa AAUW (American Association of University Women) on Saturday, May 14, from 10 am to 4 pm. The tour will give people a chance to step inside eight distinctive homes and enjoy jaw-dropping views of the surrounding valleys and mountains. Docents and homeowners will share the special stories of each house and point out landmarks in the distance.

Tour goers will be able to graze as well as gaze. Each home will offer delectable finger foods. In addition, the charming River Rock Inn in Mariposa will provide a welcome rest stop where ticket holders will receive a complimentary side salad or cookie

with a purchased lunch. The Inn is also the venue for people to view and buy tickets for a chance at several creative gift baskets. The baskets' themes are based on AAUW special study groups such as reading, wine tasting, international studies, art, gardening, crafts and hiking.

Tickets are \$20 pre-sale and \$25 on the day of the event. Advance tickets can be purchased on the AAUW website www.aauwmariposa.com, at the Mariposa Visitors' Center or from any AAUW member. On the day of the event, tickets will be available at the River Rock Inn and the Visitors' Center. To see the list of homes, maps, photos and other details, visit www.aauwmariposa.com

Mission based programming. What's that?

By Rebecca Wilson

What exactly is mission based programming? If you are like me before I went to the State Convention last month, my understanding was kind of hazy. At the AAUW State Convention I chose workshops that primarily dealt with creating mission based programming in our branches.

Basically, mission based programs are those things we do as a branch to increase equity either for our members or in the wider community. We can do that through local, state, and national advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. State and national have some great programs to help our branch expand our mission based programming. Here are some of the programs I learned about:

Financial Literacy

Both state and national have a series of programs to teach women and girls financial literacy and improve economic equity.

FLIP (Financial Literacy Is Personal) – Teaches girls in grades 5 to 8 the basics of personal finance such as balancing a checkbook. This program can be taught in schools or to clubs such as Girl Scouts.

Money Trek – Money Trek has 6 modules that teach young women about banking, credit, investing, renting & buying homes.

Work Smart – Work Smart is a workshop that branches can host to teach salary negotiation to women of all ages.

Pay Equity – Some of the ideas suggested at the convention were attending local government meetings during April and requesting an Equal Pay Day proclamation or my favorite an “Unequal” bake sale. One branch hosted an “Unequal” bake sale where they made the pay difference visual by selling all the cookies for \$1 but giving women whole cookies and men partial cookies.

Upcoming Libations & Conversations

AAUW Amador's Libations & Conversations Group is meeting on Thursday, May 19th, 2016, 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Feist Wines, 15 Eureka Street, Sutter Creek. The topic for discussion is “ERA-What does it mean if it passes?” led by Isabel Singleton. No need to RSVP, just come join the fun and bring a friend.

Speech Trek

Speech Trek is a statewide speech tournament for high school girls. Each year State gives out a topic for speeches relating to the AAUW mission. For 2015/16 the topic was “Gender Bias & Inequality.” The contestants start competing at a local level. The three statewide finalists present their 5 minute speeches at the State Convention. I was privileged to listen to this year's finalists and they were amazing.

Human Trafficking

One of the issues State is focusing on is raising awareness of human trafficking. Did you know that California is almost always the #1 state for human trafficking? Or that 3 out of 4 people trafficked in the U. S. are American citizens. Opal Singleton, the presenter for the workshop I attended, discussed the ways our children from all backgrounds are being recruited and exploited through a combination of social media and direct recruitment by “boyfriends and girlfriends” in our high schools. Sex trafficking is overtaking drugs as the main source of income for Mexican cartels across California. I bought Opal Singleton's book *Seduced: The Grooming of America's Teenagers* at the convention and would be happy to share my copy with anyone who is interested.

State and national have many more programs that we could use in our branch and community to promote and advocate for gender equity.

Upcoming Events

May 14th

Scholarship Awards Ceremony

Time: 4 to 6 PM

Location: Sutter Creek Community Center

May 19th

Libations & Conversations

Time: 5:30 to 6:30 PM

Location: Feist Wines, 15 Eureka ST, Sutter Creek

June 11th

Annual Meeting

Time: 9:30 to 12 PM

Location: Sutter Creek Community Center

Getting to Know You: Brenda Walker

by Sandee Bowman

Welcome back Brenda Walker! Our new member is a Past President of our Amador Branch. She remembers when AAUW presented a silver spoon to members with new babies before it became too expensive; she can describe how AAUW spearheaded the development of the Senior Center and how babysitting co-ops and bulk food distribution co-ops (think pre-Costco) developed as members coalesced around their individual interests and needs. However, she set aside her role in the AAUW once she found herself looking after three children and managing a fulltime teaching career. Now she's back and ready to roar into action, bursting with ideas and energy! How about this idea for Tech Trek prep: 1) Partner with the local Chamber of Commerce, 2) Engage teachers at the elementary schools to participate, 3) Prepare questions for local business owners, i.e.: How do you use math in your daily activities? 4) Send the children (and a parent) out to the businesses, questions in hand and, 5) Voila! Math in Action. Oh, and then throw in a raffle for good measure. Brenda's grandchildren attend school in Olympia, Washington and their teachers are using this practice to refute the idea that one never uses the math one is taught in school. What a brilliant idea to build community, instill co-operation among its members and lay the foundation for long-term growth.

Brenda recently retired from 30 years of teaching math to 7th graders at Ione Junior High School. Hearing her describe her methodology for effective teaching might tempt those of us who Brenda describes as 'reluctant learners' to repeat 7th grade math as one of Brenda's students. Let's just say that her tactics involved Jelly Bellies and laughter as rewards for excellence. Equally fascinating is Brenda's approach to piquing girls' interest in Tech Trek: firstly, tell the boys they cannot participate; secondly, tell the girls that they must: be brave enough be away from home for 5 days, brave enough to meet and speak with a group of adults (heavy emphasis on bravery), and determined enough write a strong essay. Brenda believes in full disclosure, honestly presenting the opportunity, using story telling and a bit of intrigue to cull out the girls who are most prepared for the challenge of the Tech Trek experience. Brenda's Tech Trek candidates had some overlap with the Science Department nominees, resulting in good, strong candidates for The Trek. Brenda's established teaching practice of encouraging students to try and fail in order to succeed develops self-confidence and her students thrived.

Born in Evanston, Illinois, Brenda attended college at UC Berkeley and Stanford University; she is one of few who can legitimately claim a seat on both sides of the field! She has one son and two daughters (one of whom is an AAUW scholarship recipient), and six lively grandchildren. All of her children are employed in health-related fields. Since her mother and husband's recent passing and subsequent evacuation in the face of the Butte Fire, she spends her time reassembling her life and home. Juggling the wind-down of her mother's estate, seeking insurance coverage for dishwasher



repairs and asbestos infested mud; she walks and walks and walks with friends, for solace and to find ways to absorb her attention. Brenda is an activist, though she may

not describe herself as one; it's more likely she would say that she likes to be engaged. She reflects on how communities such as Amador County can improve and thrive. She is deeply aware that eliminating people's fear of something new and different is the best way to realize necessary change and she will bring new ideas to the Branch. We are very lucky that Brenda has returned to the fold.

Special Interest Groups

Afternoon Book Group

Robin Stolk, Chair
robinstolk@sbcglobal.net

Join us for a thoughtful and friendly book discussion the 2nd Monday of each month at 2 p.m. Our next meeting is May 9th at Judy Lerner-Liston's home. We will be discussing *Dead Wake* by Eric Larsen. New members are welcome. If you'd like to join the group, contact Robin Stolk.



Art in Action

Bev York, Chair
likacb@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 Lake Tableaud. 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 Bev for information about the next meeting.



Book Lovers & Page Turners

Jackie Martinez, Chair
jackiemartinez@aol.com

Come join us! We meet at 2 p.m. on the fourth Monday of each month (except December) at members' homes. We have great discussions about books while sharing a light dessert. New members are welcome. Our next meeting is May 23 at the home of Sue Harrington. We'll discuss *The Boston Girl* by Anita Diamant. If you'd like to join these conversations, contact the hostess by email or phone. If you'd like to join the book group, contact Jackie Martinez.



Cork & Fork

Michele Powell, Chair
powell.michele288@gmail.com

This group meets every other month to enjoy wine tasting and appetizers. Members' homes are the usual meeting place, but we sometimes gather at a winery tasting room or other appropriate venue. The next meeting is Friday, May 15 at 5:30. If you'd like to join Cork & Fork or for more information about the group, contact Michele Powell.



Garden Groupies

Judy Venckus, Chair
venckus@aol.com

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. On May 18, we will be going on a docent led walk in the El Dorado Master Gardener created Sherwood Gardens, located in Placerville. Please let Bobbie Brubaker (schome100@gmail.com) know if you'd like to attend. We'll go into Placerville for lunch afterwards.



Lunch Bunch

Kelli Garcia, Chair
kgarciaod@hotmail.com

May Lunch Bunch is meeting Thursday, May 12th at 11:45am at Rosebud's Cafe, 26 Main St Jackson. Come celebrate the May birthdays! Please RSVP to Judy Lerner-Liston by May 9th at dandjl@suttercreek.com.



Continued on next page

Supper Club

Claire Wait, Chair
 clairesc@sbcglobal.net

Supper Club will again meet this summer. Please contact Claire Wait for additional information.



Working Girls' Book Group

The Working Girls' Book Group will discuss *Spinster: Making a Life of One's Own* by Kate Bolick on May 31st. We will meet at Rebecca Wilson's home. Please contact Rebecca Wilson at rdiannaw75@icloud.com for more information.



Branch Member Notes

Sunshine Update for May –

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*, I have sent sunshine cards to Nancy Street, Rosalie Perfler, and Nancy Schuster.

–Lynne Brumit

Birthdays

Best wishes to our members with May birthdays.

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Helen Bonner | Aieleen Parker |
| Debra Brown | Judy Venckus |
| Bobbie Brubaker | |
| Mara French | |
| Bernice Honeychurch | |
| Judy Lerner-Liston | |

New Members

Marianne Chang
 Birthday: April 4

May Board Meeting

The next Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 18th. We always meet at 6 PM at the home of Margie Guletz. All branch members are welcome.

Board meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month except for June, July, and December when the Board takes a vacation.

June Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submitting articles and information for the June issue of *Gold Filings* is **May 25th**. Please submit material to rdiannaw75@icloud.com. Thank you.

Sober Grad is Looking for Volunteers!

Sober Grad will be held Friday, June 3rd at Gold Country Lanes.

If you would like to help, they are looking for:

- Cash Donations
- Prize Donations
- Food Donations
- Volunteers at the event

Contact Toni Fancher at (209) 304-7169 or expressions1928@hotmail.com