

# Gold Filings

Amador Branch  
American Association  
of University Women



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**AAUW AMADOR  
Presents Kelsi Himmel:**

# IMPACTS ON ECOSYSTEMS **HERE AND ABROAD**



**Wednesday January 14, 2015  
4:00 PM to 5:30 PM**

**Sutter Creek Community Building  
33 Church Street**

The speaker will be Kelsi Himmel, Environmental Educator, discussing her recent experience viewing the impact of oil extraction and mining on ecosystems and communities in Ecuador's rainforest. Kelsi will be describing her recent trip and her direct observations of consequences in the region of the Yasuni which borders the Napo River, as well as other regions affected in Ecuador. She will show a film and follow it with a presentation on what she discovered and the effects, not only on the greatest variety of plants and animals in the world, but also on indigenous communities in the area.

Reliance on earth's nonrenewables has consequences on both a global and local scale. Over 70 years have passed since the end of metal mining as a major industry in Amador County, but the toxic effects are left unresolved in many areas, including the infamous Argonaut mine area. While we in Amador are attempting to reclaim our abused lands, the same sad story of irreparable damage to our earth plays out across the globe at a record pace. We have the inherent right to know what is happening to our water, land and air. Having this knowledge can empower communities to make choices for the future health of all.

Refreshments will be served.

Members of the general public are welcome to attend at no cost.

## 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.

## President's Message

by Michele Powell

Welcome to 2015! You may be saying, as I am, how did that happen?? For me as president, this AAUW year so far has just flown by. It's been challenging, exciting and really, most of all, fun. I truly feel privileged to be working with such an amazing board. You have a board that is "womened" by smart, talented, dedicated and hard-working members. We all need to thank and appreciate the members of our board.

I want to thank everyone who offered support and condolences on the death of my sister in late November. It was an unexpected and sudden illness; we are thankful she is now at peace.

On behalf of the membership I want to express condolences to Bev York on the death of her husband, Chuck, in a vehicle accident in mid-December. There is a service for Chuck on Saturday January 3 at 1:00 pm at Trinity Episcopal Church, 430 Hwy 49 in Sutter Creek.

The holiday open house at Bruce and Sandi Baracco's was overflowing with holiday spirit and good cheer. There were approximately 85 members and guests in attendance over the three hours. Many thanks are due to Bruce and Sandi for hosting us. As always, our amazing hospitality co-chairs, Sandy Campbell and Claire Wait, provided a wonderful atmosphere and made it all look beautiful and we thank them. Finally I want to thank everyone who brought appetizers to share.

Our next program is January 14 on the impact of oil extraction and mining on ecosystems home and abroad. I hope you can join us and bring guests. Please see the details on page 1.

On February 5 our community program is titled A Financial 'Potpourri' by Women for Women. There is a brief "save the date" item on page 7.

Nancy Street is forming the Nominating Committee in January; please help by volunteering to serve as a member of the committee. An even better option is to call Nancy to discuss the possibility of your taking a place on the board as an officer or a committee chair. We need everyone's ideas and everyone's help.

We say good-bye to Susan Staggs with sadness for us, but with joy for her and Hav as they start a new life adventure. Susan, our current VP membership, is moving out of the county; she and Hav have sold their home and are moving to Sonoma in mid-January. Susan will be missed by all for her many contributions, her tireless efforts on behalf of the branch and her energetic approach to all projects. In the three years that I've known her, these are a few of the projects that Susan has been part of: the Home Tour home finder; the chair of a committee of two

that solicited the sponsorship ads for the Home Tour booklet; VP for membership and in that role has increased the membership by ten since September. I wish Susan and Hav every success and happiness.

We welcome to the board and say 'hello' to Cathy Yochheim, our new Vice President, Membership. Cathy is a new branch member having joined last May. When I asked her to take on this role, she asked for time to consider it and called me back with a YES almost immediately. I have talked with her at Libations and Conversations gatherings and have enjoyed getting to know her. Cathy was part of the brainstorming team that developed the September Kick-off meeting. Cathy is a can-do kind of woman and I am completely confident that she will carry out the responsibilities of this office with intelligence, commitment, positive spirit and her own personal flair. Cathy was featured in Getting to Know You in September 2014.

Now as we look forward to the New Year my wish for us all is more opportunities to live to the fullest, to keep family and friends close to our hearts, and good health. Thank you for all you do for the success of the branch.

—Michele

## Board News & Updates

### January Board Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held on January 15. We always meet at 1 p.m. at the home of Margie Guletz. All branch members are welcome.

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

### Board Briefs

The board did not meet in December and there are no briefs.

## February Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submitting articles and information for the February issue of Gold Filings is **January 27th**. Please submit material as soon as you can. Thank you.

## Calling Interested Quilters!

**M**any of our AAUW quilters have moved on and are no longer AAUW members or moved away. Aileen Parker and Sue Harrington are seeking other



members who would like to join us in making the Home Tour Opportunity 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. We work together to cut the fabric, 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 Aileen (*Aileen@juno.com*) or Sue (*susanlh@volcano.net*).



We would like to hear from you in January so we know if we will have enough members to launch a quilt project for the 2016 Home Tour.



## Libations & Conversations Set for January 27

AAUW Amador's Libations & Conversations group will meet Tuesday, January 27, 5:30-6:30 pm at Element Restaurant (Hanford House Inn), 61 Hanford Street, Sutter Creek. Sharon Bertoli of Sutter Amador Hospital's Social Services Department will speak on the topic of Stress Management. Cathy Yochheim will be our program leader that evening. Mark your calendars!

Friends are welcome. No RSVP required. No host libations available for sale.

## Home Tour Opportunity Quilt 2015

The Home Tour Opportunity Quilt will soon be finished and ticket sales will begin. The full cost of the ticket goes to the AAUW Scholarship Fund for local women and girls, so the money not only goes for a good cause, but it is fully tax deductible.

I am sure you don't want to miss out on the chance to win this beautiful quilt. The quilt will be on display at the January 14 meeting and tickets will be available to purchase at that time. 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.

If you belong to an organization and would like to borrow the quilt to sell tickets please let me (Sue Harrington) know and I will put you on the touring schedule. Remember you can also sell tickets wherever you go - photos of the quilt are in the packets.

The drawing for the winning ticket will be held at the Home Tour Tea, Saturday, April 18, at 3:30 pm. The winner need not be present to win.

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.

Barbara Garcia, Aileen Parker and Sue Harrington constructed the quilt. Jackie Reeves donated the quilting.

If you are a quilter and are interested in assisting us with the next quilt, please contact Sue Harrington.

## Getting to Know You: Rita Bohl and Marianne Pantle

**Rita Bohl** was born September 18, 1950 in El Centro, California, and spent her childhood there as well. According to Rita, "El Centro is about as Southern California as you can get". It is only 15 miles from Mexico, and 40 miles from the Arizona state line. Rita attended Imperial Valley Junior College for a semester and a half before getting married. Over the years she took various classes, as she says, "to amuse myself",

and finally had so many units that she decided to do something useful with them. By then Rita's three children were grown and she was working in a clothing store, she says "spending more money than I was earning on clothes" in the store. She decided it was time to 'make the move', so began attending San Diego State, receiving her BA in Liberal Studies in 1995. In 1998 she graduated with her multiple subject teaching credential, and in 2004 she received a Master's Degree in teaching from National University.

Rita taught two years for the Imperial County Office of Education. Her students were in the Alternative Education program, in grades 9-12. They were students who had been expelled from other schools for a variety of reasons, and most of them were gang members. At any one time she may have had three gangs represented in her classroom, but there was also a probation officer in the room, so the students pretty much behaved. Rita says that at times it was easier teaching these students than those in the regular school population, because behavior was not a problem. After moving to the Sacramento area, Rita taught in the Sacramento City Unified School District until her retirement last June. While with Sac City, she taught full day combined 2-3 GATE, 5th grade, combined 4-5-6 GATE, and then a 4th grade GATE class. In all, she taught for 13 years.

Rita and her husband Mike have six children between them, and they share 17 grandchildren, from two months to 16 years old. Spending time with her family is one of her favorite things to do. She also enjoys camping with friends, reading a good book, and drinking a glass of wine, sometimes combining all three pleasures. Rita moved to Amador County in 2013, and is anxious to explore new camping destinations in the region.

Rita is excited to have the opportunity to join AAUW, and looks forward to meeting members and becoming involved in



social activities of the club. In turn, she hopes to become an active member and to participate in AAUW programs and projects.

*-Gretchen Carlson*

**Marianne Pantle**'s early years were spent living rurally near Winters, CA (West of Davis). She met her husband, Alan, at Chico State University while majoring in Child Development. They began their teaching careers in Tracy. When their second daughter was born in 1980, they decided to move back to Alan's hometown, Ione, and take over the family business, Pantle Chevron.



Marianne's focus has always been on education. When their three children were young, she started the "Discovery Preschool" in Ione. She served as a School Board member for several years before unification of ACUSD. She was an active member of AAUW. When Marianne's son was 7, she went back to teaching at Ione elementary. Marianne's many years of teaching have made her a familiar face to the community. She rarely goes anywhere without meeting former students or parents who know her. In response to "What was your favorite grade to teach?" she diplomatically said, "I loved them all but for the last 10 years, I have taught 1st grade".

In June, Marianne will join her husband in retirement. Alan's last teaching years were at Amador High teaching Vocational Auto Shop from 1992-2010. From her unique perspective of raising their three children and also being a teacher, she thinks that the Amador schools offer a good foundation for higher education. Their two daughters followed careers as scientific research specialist and Human Resource Consultant. Their son is a design engineer.

Marianne is looking forward to retirement and an opportunity to travel and pursue new activities and projects. In 2014, she received the Rotary Club award for "Service above Self". She is very proud of this award and rightfully so because it recognizes outstanding members of the community and represents her involvement in Ione and Amador County. AAUW Amador welcomes Marianne's return to membership in our organization.

*-Norva Fagg*

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## 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 January 12 we meet at the home of Iris Aparicio to discuss *Cuckoo's Calling* by JK Rowling published under the pseudonym, Robert Galbraith. If you wish to join us, call or email Iris.



### 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 Tabau 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  
[jackiemartinezm@aol.com](mailto:jackiemartinezm@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 January 26 we will be discussing *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt. If you'd like to join us, contact Jackie.



### 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 January 11. 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's first meeting of the new year will be on Wednesday, January 21. Last year we started what I hope will become a tradition – planning a schedule for the entire year at a group luncheon. It was fun, we had lots of input, and the result was lots of choices of fantastic garden sites. The Hotel Sutter was the location last year, which we can repeat, or choose another location. We have a number of potential active new members on our list this year, so I hope as many as possible are able to attend. Please RSVP to me by January 16th and place a vote for the restaurant of your choice. Most votes wins (and I'll let you know where that is).

### 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 are having Mexican food at Colina de Oro in Plymouth. The address is 17810 Highway 49, just past the Shenandoah Inn. Please RSVP to Sandy Campbell by January 4.

*(continued on next page)*

## 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 plan for 2015 on January 20. All Supper Clubbers are invited to contribute menu ideas and to volunteer their home for a meal.

We will meet at 2 pm at Claire's home, 149 Mill Street, in Sutter Creek.

I look forward to seeing you and hearing suggestions for delicious food and drink.

Happy New Year to all. For additional information, contact Claire Wait.



## 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 Tabebou, 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.

Cathy Yochheim and Bev York.

*Lynne Brumit*

### Bridge, Anyone?

Are you a bridge player who likes to play bridge or would be interested in starting to play bridge again after a long vacation away from it? I'm looking for bridge players in our AAUW Branch that might be interested in getting together to play bridge every now and then. At one time we did have a bridge group, so I would like to see if there is enough interest in starting another group. If this interests you would you please reply to Carol Bilheimer at [rsb35cab@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rsb35cab@sbcglobal.net).

Looking forward to hearing from you,

*-Carol Bilheimer*

### Birthdays

Best wishes to our members with January birthdays.

Greta McElroy  
Myrna-Kay Robison  
Kristen Root

Teresa Ryan  
Robin Stolk

### Community Program for February, 2015

## "A Financial 'Potpourri' by Women for Women"

The February program will be held at the Margaret Dalton Center at 975 Broadway in Jackson on Thursday, February 5 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. Note the time change from what is listed in your AAUW Directory.

We will have 3 to 4 speakers on such issues as wills and trusts, financial planning, financial literacy and debt reduction. The format will be like our last year's February program with speakers presenting information for 15 – 20 minutes and then follow-up at tables with time to talk individually with women and hand out information.

Be thinking about whom you would like to invite to attend with you. Save the date, February 5 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm on your calendar.

*-Norma King, Community Chair*