

# 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.

## Local Authors Discuss Life During the Gold Rush

Our Amador Branch, centered in California Gold Rush country, has a special interest in our history. Despite what we've heard for years, men weren't the only ones to take advantage of the Gold Rush. Writer and collegiate professor Mary Volmer grew up in Grass Valley, intrigued by its past. Her first novel, *Crown Of Dust*, takes a courageous young woman, disguised as a boy, into the rough and tumble of the mines. As the *Washington Times* reports: "Any illusions about the glamour of digging for gold are totally shattered."



Chinese are also a part of that history. Some wonder when we take the China Graveyard shortcut between Jackson and NY Ranch road, "Where's the graveyard?" Some of us wonder when we see evidence of Fiddletown's Chinese history, "how can this be?" Noted historian and writer, Elaine Zorba, author of *Banished & Embraced*, is going to tell us how influential and controversial the Chinese were in our county.

Dr. Helen Bonner, Program VP and author of the historical novel, *MSdemeanors*, will introduce the speakers.

**Come meet the authors:**  
Thursday, January 21 at 6:00  
Margaret Dalton  
Children's Center  
975 Broadway, Jackson

## President's Message

by Michele Powell

As we enter 2016 I'll be half way through my second year as branch president. The past year and a half has flown by punctuated by many wonderful and educational AAUW Amador programs and events. These programs could not happen without the contributions of those who had a hand in making them a success.

Many thanks go out to Lani and Jim Chapman for hosting our annual holiday open house; there were approximately 55 members and guests in attendance. All enjoyed good cheer, camaraderie and conversation. Many thanks go to everyone who brought their delicious treats to share.

These next months will be very busy for the branch. Our January program is the Local Authors' Presentation on Thursday, January 21. All the details are on page 1 and 3 of this newsletter. Libations & Conversation is Thursday, January 14 from 5:30 to 6:30 at the Imperial Hotel in Amador City.

Our International Affairs chair, Rita Bohl, is working on the program for February. As soon as we have confirmation, I will share the details.

March is Women's History month and Helen Bonner, Program VP, is presenting a one-hour film and discussion on the life of Jeannette Rankin who was the first women in the US to hold high elected office when she was elected to Congress from Montana in 1916.

Then the next three months go quickly with the Home Tour on April 16, the Scholarship Awards program on May 14 and the Annual Meeting in June.

In mid-January Nancy Street will be forming the Nominating Committee and she needs your help. Please contact her and volunteer to be on the committee or better yet to be an officer or committee chair for 2016-2017.

As we look ahead to the New Year, I wish you all health and happiness for yourselves and your families.

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

## Home Tour Update

Descriptions for the homes and historic sites are being completed and will be posted soon on the website. A new ticket outlet has been secured to replace the ones in Jackson and Sutter Creek, where parking was difficult. Claypool's Gift and Home in Martell has agreed to sell Home Tour tickets. The current locations in Plymouth, Ione and Pine Grove will continue. Something new for tickets will be the addition of PayPal on our website, enabling the purchase by credit cards. Quilt tickets have been ordered and Sue Harrington hopes to have them and the quilt available at our next program. The Home Tour Committee meets next on January 14 at 11:00 a.m at Margie's house, if you care to join us.



### Steering Committee:

Bobbie Brubaker  
Sandra Campbell  
Claire Wait

Judy Venckus  
Nancy Schuster

## LOCAL GOLD COUNTRY AUTHORS



### TELLING IT LIKE IT WAS!

Amador Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) presents a program featuring two local women historians/authors whose books are set in the California gold rush country of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, when tensions and fortunes were as volatile as the ground prospectors mined. Learn more about what life was really like in the "good old days."

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**SPEAKERS:** Elaine Zorbas and Mary Volmer

Date: Thursday January 21, 2016

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Place: First 5 Amador  
975 Broadway Jackson, CA 95642

This program is open to the public. All those interested in learning more about Amador's history and authors are welcome to attend. No fee. Light refreshments. For more information contact Helen Bonner at: (209) 257-1832.

**BANISHED AND EMBRACED: the Chinese in Fiddletown and the Mother Lode**  
by Elaine Zorbas

Chinese from southeast China flocked to towns and encampments in the foothills during the Gold Rush. In the communities they established in Amador County, immigrants found support and strength despite prejudice. This book gives insight into their experience.

**CROWN OF DUST** by Mary Volmer

*"Crown of Dust"* is a lovely paean to all the little towns born during the California Gold Rush, and an emotional elegy to the forgotten souls who worked, loved, and died in such places. The author also makes a vital contribution to the literature of women living in the Mother Lode.

## Board Briefs – 11/18/15

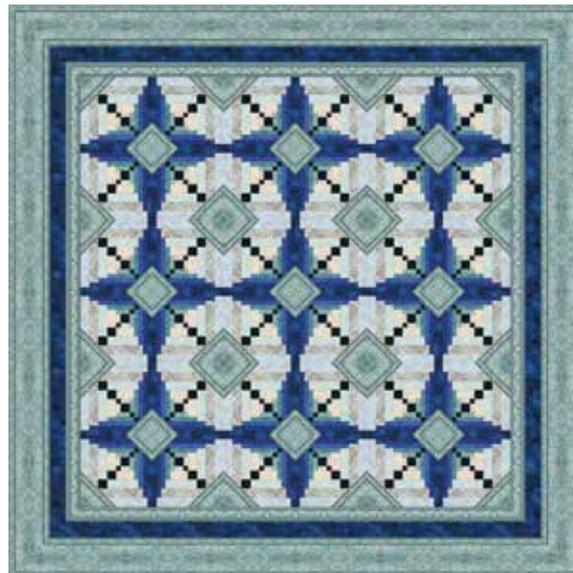
- The minutes for October 21, 2015 were approved as written.
- The Treasurer gave her report.
- The October program had a poor member turnout. Ways to improve attendance were discussed.
- January program needs were discussed. Karen Baker volunteered to be in charge of refreshments. She suggested getting help from high school community service students. Norma King will take photos. Michele Powell will email to solicit set up and clean up help.
- The program committee is still working to secure the Malala documentary and a venue for the February program.
- Two new members have joined.
- The fourth house for the Home Tour has been confirmed.
- Isabel Singleton will print membership cards for all members.
- National does not allow individual branches to make contributions to other charitable organizations.
- Scholarship Report: The committee is discussing the possibility of a dedicated scholarship for an ACCF student and the decision will depend on learning more about the ACCF credit loads that students carry. Community College Scholarships will be limited to high school seniors. Documents are in revision. Also under discussion is an “online application process” and requiring signatures on applications. It was agreed and decided to require applicants to submit four copies of documents. Major changes in the scholarship program may not take effect until next year.

# Home Tour Opportunity Quilt 2016

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 goes for a good cause.

I am sure you don't want to miss out on the chance to win this beautiful quilt. Tickets will be available at the January meeting to check out and to purchase. 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 Sue Harrington know and she 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 16, at 3:30 pm. The winner need not be present to win.

The quilt measures approximately 80" x 80". It is a Jinny Beyer design called Chelsea, and features an asymmetrical log cabin block with blues and contrasting colors. The two halves of the block create a beautiful secondary design. Border print medallions complete the look.

The quilt was constructed by Aieleen Parker, Jo Ann Ogburn, Nancy Schuster, Cynthia Greer, Lois Brand and Sue Harrington. The quilting was donated by Jackie Reeves.

This photograph is not of the actual quilt, but it gives you an idea what it looks like.

# AMADOR COUNTY CEMETERY BOARD

## FIFTH ANNUAL

# SPAGHETTI FEED

with

### MEATY TRADITIONAL RED SAUCE PESTO

serving:

GARLIC BREAD

SALAD

DESSERT

and no-host beverages:

WINE

SODA

BOTTLED WATER



Please, no outside alcohol.

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2016

AT THE

## ITALIAN PICNIC GROUNDS

5:30	6:30	7:00
DOORS OPEN	DINNER	RAFFLE

### TICKETS

\$20 EACH \$25 DOOR

TO PURCHASE, CONTACT ACRA AT

## 223.6349



PROCEEDS BENEFIT

### THE AMADOR COUNTY CEMETERY BOARD

## Getting to Know You: Sharon Berglund

by Jo Ann Ogburn

I met a new member and began a friendship through AAUW. Sharon Berglund has owned a home in Pioneer for the past 11 years. She and her husband, John, have been happily married for 48 years and lived in 20 residences throughout California, Germany and Hawaii. A good thing John is a builder and able to remodel her castle.

Along the way, she earned her BA in Textile Design at San Jose State University. As a hobbyist, Sharon designs the yarns she dyes and spins from sheep, lama, quiviut fiber, which is the under down of the arctic muskox, silk from cocoons, paper, and cotton from flax. Then she weaves them into scarves, jackets, coats and more that she designs.

Her professional career has spanned banking, real estate, and librarian. While as a school librarian in the 1980s, she received a grant to teach a class using online search strategies. Now this was very early in the Internet and computer development where her students wrote programs and accessed the big computer through telephone couplings and keyboard. Remember those? She enjoyed that so much that she sought out the best research program and they moved to Honolulu, where she earned her MA in Library and Information Systems at the University of Hawaii. She spent the next 9 years working at the Hawaii Medical Library where she set up one of the first web pages for the library.

She is a fit gal, walking an average of 6-7 miles daily and competing on the tennis courts. She and John traveled in their 5th wheel to Alaska. When touring Denali, they made the impromptu decision to fill a need for camp managers in Denali and remained for 5 months. They also worked on the Pacific Coast Trail near Devil's Post Pile for a major project.

I could go on, but I think you need to find her at one of our events and discover your own interesting nuggets about my fantastic new friend. Welcome to our Amador AAUW Chapter, Sharon!



Sharon Berglund

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## Nominating Committee Members Sought

Nancy Street is heading up the nominating committee to identify candidates for the 2016-2017 Board. Our bylaws require that a past president lead this committee; Nancy is the most immediate past president.

She needs **several members** to work with her on this important project. The committee will begin to meet mid-January. When

you join Nancy in this effort you will be providing a necessary and important service to the Branch.

Responsibilities include attending one or two meetings and contacting potential Board members. Please call or email Nancy to volunteer or for more information.

## Getting to Know You: Karen Dickerson

By Judy Lerner-Liston

This morning — over coffee/breakfast at the Blue Moon in Pine Grove — I had the pleasure of interviewing Karen Dickerson for the *Gold Filings*. I've always felt that the best way to get to know someone is to find out what they are passionate about. I've known that Karen has been a major force in the development of the Amador Community College Foundation and the fruition of the Amador Centers for Higher Learning. Her passion is for education — and for making higher education possible for underserved low-income women in particular. Learning more about her life story has helped complete the full circle.



Karen Dickerson

Karen grew up in Bakersfield, the oldest of seven children. After completing high school there she started college at the University of San Francisco, but returned home to help her mother during her father's lengthy illness. She enrolled in CSU Bakersfield hoping to prepare to become a teacher — this was her dream.

She met her future husband, Wyman, who was preparing to become a pharmacist. She was advised by her teachers not to pursue that dream, since in those days of "Woman's Lib" she could "do anything." Following that advice, she graduated with a BA in Political Science and worked as a paralegal.

Thus Karen and Wyman started married life and together had a dream of eventually leaving Bakersfield and moving up into a small town in the Sierra foothills. In 1980 they had the opportunity to do just that and bought a pharmacy in Jackson, a home in Pioneer and their first daughter was born. By 1987 they had a second daughter and a pharmacy in Buckhorn.

Karen felt a renewal of her dream to become a teacher and obtained her credential at the University of San Francisco. She taught elementary school in Calaveras Unified School District first at West Point Elementary and later at Jenny Lind Elementary. She earned her MA in School Administration from CSU Stanislaus and became Principal at Jenny Lind. Later she established a Pre-school Program at the district level for CUSD. Retiring in 2008 after a 20-year career in education she had indeed fulfilled her dream.

Now for the full circle — a year later, in 2009, a grant became available for the renewed effort to establish community college classes in Amador County and Karen found her new calling. The Amador Learning Center, established by the Amador Community College Foundation is now operating long distance degree and certificate programs online with three colleges and video-conferencing classes with two more. The Learning Center provides services for the students at each stage of their education, including mentoring, financial aid applications, one-on-one tutoring, everything to help achieve their goals. ACCF statistics show that from May 2013 to May 2015 the Center served 169 students. 74% were women and 84% lived at the lowest levels of poverty.

At our October meeting, AAUW members had the opportunity to hear first hand the experiences of three students who are working on degrees in Human Services and Accounting. What better example of fulfilling our mission statement — and more importantly — that of Karen Dickerson?

### Upcoming Events

**January 14th**

**Libations & Conversations**

**Time:** 5:30 to 6:30 PM

**Location:** Imperial Hotel  
Amador City

**January 21st**

**Local Gold Country Authors**

**Time:** 6:00 to 8:00 PM

**Location:** First 5 Amador  
975 Broadway, Jackson

### Upcoming Libations & Conversations

AAUW Libations & Conversations will next meet on Thursday, January 14 from 5:30 - 6:30 at the Imperial Hotel in Amador City.

Our discussion will be led by AAUW member Isabel Singleton, and the topic of conversation is "7 Resolutions for Women in the New Year."

Wine, beer, and cocktails are available at the bar. No RSVP is required. Please come and bring a friend!

## Special Interest Groups

### Afternoon Book Group

Robin Stolk, Chair  
[robinfstolk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:robinfstolk@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 Jan. 11th at Debra Brown's home. We will be discussing *The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein. New members are welcome. If you'd like to join the group, contact Robin Stolk.



### Art in Action

Bev York, Chair  
[likacb@volcano.net](mailto: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 Tabaud. 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  
[jackiemartinezm@aol.com](mailto:jackiemartinezm@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 January 24 at the home of Bonnie Krupp. We'll discuss *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr. 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](mailto: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 5:30 PM Sunday January 10 at Amador 360 in Plymouth. The address is 18590 Highway 49. If you'd like to attend this meeting or if you'd like general information about Cork & Fork, please call or email Michele.



### 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. Instead we visit some very interesting places. The Group met December 16 to schedule plans for 2016. We will not meet until February and are looking for a new group leader.



### Lunch Bunch

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

Lunch Bunch meets the second Thursday every month at 11:45 a.m. We patronize new and favorite restaurants in Amador County. The duty of the hostess rotates each month. The hostess is responsible for all arrangements including receiving reservations. We plan to meet on January 14th at Panda House in Martell.

Please RSVP to Kelli Garcia by Monday January 11th at [kgarciaod@hotmail.com](mailto:kgarciaod@hotmail.com) or call/text.



*Continued on next page*

## Supper Club

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

If you and your significant other would like to participate, please join us for a planning meeting in January. Bring your ideas and cookbooks to Claire's house in Sutter Creek on January 8 at 2 PM. Call Claire for additional information.



## Working Girls' Book Group

Liz Powell, Chair  
[mslzpowell@gmail.com](mailto:mslzpowell@gmail.com)

The Working Girls' Book Group will hold its next meeting at 7 PM on Monday, January 25th at the home of Sara Wilson, 355 Gold Strike Court in Sutter Creek. We will discuss *Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline. Please contact Liz for additional information.



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## January Board Meeting

The next Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 20. 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.

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## February Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submitting articles and information for the February issue of *Gold Filings* is **January 29th**. Please submit material to [rdiannaw75@icloud.com](mailto:rdiannaw75@icloud.com). Thank you.

## 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*, I have sent sunshine cards to Margie Guletz and Kelly Trotter.

—Lynne Brumit

### Birthdays

Best wishes to our members with January birthdays.

Greta McElroy

Teresa Ryan

Liz Powell

Robin Stolk

Myrna-Kay Robison

Carolyn Vargas

Kristen Root

### Contact Information Updates

Bernice Honeychurch is moving to Walnut Creek in January. Her new address is below and her email [honeybbx@gmail.com](mailto:honeybbx@gmail.com) will remain the same.

### Addendum

In the November/December issue of *Gold Filings* we introduced new members Carolyn Vargas and Virginia Vasquez, but neglected to include their telephone numbers.

### Lost and Found

Two items were found after the Holiday Open House. One was a red insulated wine carrier with a combination knife/wine opener located in a side pocket on the carrier. The other item is a rectangle shaped clear glass dish with the glass bottom etched in leaves.