INDULGE IN AN EVENING OF CHOCOLATE

WHILE SHINING A LIGHT ON
43-YEARS OF AAUW HOME TOURS
OUR OUTSTANDING HISTORY OF AAUW WOMEN
HELPING WOMEN AND GIRLS
College Fellowships/College Scholarships/Tech Trek Scholarships
We’ll deck the hall with Memorabilia (Posters & Brochures)

And hear a brief history of the
Community Foundation of Amador County
By Kathleen Harmon, Executive Director
and how they are partnering to help us meet our goals...

Thursday, March 12, 2015
Sutter Creek Community Building
6:30 PM -- 8:00 PM

It will be a very social event with decadent
CHOCOLATE FOUNTAINS
Fruit and other awesome morsels for dipping...

Please RSVP if you will be joining us so we don’t run out of chocolate!!
Sandi Baracco at
BaraccoArchitect@comcast.net
President’s Message

by Michele Powell

We are all delighted by this weekend’s rain and grateful for the needed water it brought to the Mother Lode. I’m keeping fingers crossed for more rain as we near the beginning of spring.

Spring brings with it Equal Pay Day on April 14 which is the symbolic day that women’s wages reach men’s for 2014. Please read Bonnie Krupp’s article on this topic on page 6.

April 18 is the 2015 Home Tour. Chair Nancy Schuster and her amazing committee have been working hard to ensure that this event is a successful fundraiser. This is our only fundraiser and the only way we have to generate monies to fund our scholarship program. This year we are offering $10,000 in scholarships.

In the AAUW Amador Branch 2014-2015 Directory on page 3 there is a brief section with the title Home Tour; the second to the last sentence urges all branch members to “Please plan to make this year’s Home Tour the best ever by being a hostess, purchasing a ticket, baking cookies and rendering service in other areas.”

Let me underscore the importance of your buying at least one Home Tour ticket. It is a basic expectation of membership. This is so important to the fundraising effort. If each of our approximately 92 members bought one ticket that would bring in $2,024. Last year only 26 members bought 43 Home Tour ticket totaling $946. I know we can do better than that this year.

Tickets will be for sale at the mini-tours and local outlets as listed on our website. Details are on page 4. Thank you.

I want to thank seven of our branch members who went to Ione on Thursday night February 12 to participate in a round-table discussion with Argonaut H.S. girls. The topics of discussion were varied, but the purpose was to share insights about the value of higher education, career paths and personal stories. A big thank you to:

Kelli Garcia  Isabel Singleton  Mara French
Greta McElroy  Lynn Morgan
Kristen Root  Karen Dickerson

When you read Nancy Street’s short report on the progress of the nominating committee, please consider stepping up to fill one of these vacant chair positions or offices. We need your involvement to ensure that Amador branch is a strong and vibrant member of the national AAUW community.

In closing, I look forward to seeing you at the March 12 program where we’ll recognize Women’s History Month by learning about our partner, Amador Community Foundation, from Executive Director, Kathleen Harmon and by celebrating our branch history and enjoying each others’ company while enjoying chocolate. Sounds great to me!

–Michele

Board Briefs

Board Briefs  2-19-15

• The Treasurer gave her report.

• Public Policy Chair, Bonnie Krupp, will showcase pay equity efforts and Equal Pay Day (April 14, 2015) in the Gold Filings.

• There will be a membership drive March 16-June 30; the March program will be open to prospective members.

• Home Tour highlights: brochure ads are coming in strongly; all hostess assignments have been filled, but some parking attendants are still needed. Postcards are ready, and tickets are at the printers. The poster was passed around. Ticket sales on April 18 will be at the Amador STARS on Ridge Road.

• The new website is up and running at amador-ca.aauw.net

• The branch is enrolled with National to participate in the Membership Payment Program, where branch members can opt to go to the National website to pay dues with a credit card.

• The Nominating Committee is now recruiting for elected officer nominees and appointed board members.

• The Stephen Honeychurch Memorial Scholarship will be awarded in May to an Upper Division/Graduate student. Anyone can make a donation in memory of or in honor of someone to the general scholarship fund. Information will be published in the newsletter.

• Opportunity Quilt donations are NOT tax deductible.

• A new branch representative to the Amador Community College Foundation is needed.

• The March program will feature Kathleen Harmon of the Amador Community Foundation, a Power Point presentation on Home Tour history and our connection to ACF, and a chocolate fountain.

• The G.H.O.S.T. round table at Argonaut High School featured seven AAUW Amador members and was attended by an estimated 25 girls.

–Nancy Street

April Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submitting articles and information for the April issue of Gold Filings is March 25th. Please submit material as soon as you can. Thank you.
Home Tour Preview

Canyon Oak Cottage

The term “cottage” understates the grandeur of this three-story home, which sits on 5 acres and has expanded from 3000 sq. ft. to its present 5,000 sq. ft. A modest gravel driveway leads to the home’s entrance. The entry door, featuring beautiful stained glass, was imported from Portugal. The foyer is a cozy greeting area with unique furniture pieces and lovely paintings.

The remodeled kitchen has light stained oak cabinets by local craftsman John LeSage, slate floors and granite counter tops throughout. The nearby dining room is open to the kitchen, living room and covered patio, with natural light streaming in. Step down to the sunken living room and admire the fireplace, surrounded by built-in oak cabinetry by LeSage and complementary oak flooring. Also to be admired is the ironwork throughout the house. Wrought iron handrails and balcony rails are accented with sculptured acorns and oak leaves, the work of Chris Parkey Iron Works in Martell.

This home has a room for everyone’s interest: a wrap-around library that leads to the living room, a quilting room which houses an impressive quilting machine, a “wine cellar” with bottles of wine lining the walls leading to the recreation room, and the “Canyon Oak Tavern”, a quaint and cozy bar that rivals any London pub.

The outdoor entertainment area and landscaping is impressive. The area includes a swimming pool, outdoor kitchen, outdoor shower, hot tub and gazebo. The centerpiece is the tranquil swimming pool, with a waterfall that automatically turns on and off twice a day. A hot tub completes the setting for outdoor living. Beautiful oak trees surround a wooden gazebo at the back of the pool area. The spectacular setting will make it difficult for guests to leave this Canyon Oak Cottage.

Avio Vineyards Residence, Carriage House and Tasting Room

Welcome to Avio Vineyards and wine country living. This 77-acre wine estate is reminiscent of a traditional Tuscan farmstead, surrounded by sunny vineyards. Owners Stefano and Lisa Watson moved to this beautiful property in 2004. They named the winery Avio after the city in northern Italy from which Lisa’s family originated. This vineyard residence is the location for the Home Tour Art Show. Complimentary wine tasting is also offered at the adjacent Avio Vineyards tasting room.

The setting is spectacular with views of the vineyards, rolling hills and Butte Mountain. A fountain of “The Three Graces” centers the courtyard driveway and leads to the vine-covered entrance of the estate.

The home’s entry is a raised foyer with travertine stone in a Versailles pattern. The dining room on your left has a soft luster stone hand-applied finish on the walls. The walls and columns throughout the main social spaces are painted in rich shades of soft gold.

The kitchen’s focal point is the large open-beam ceiling with bunches of dried herbs and wild flowers dangling from the beams. A wrought iron light fixture hangs over the work island. Countertops are black granite and flooring is a warm oak. An inviting corner breakfast nook has wraparound windows for viewing the surrounding scenery. The home was built by previous owners Martin and Diane Gates and was designed by architect Errol Esbit of Jackson.

The backyard area is a perfect setting for weddings and private parties. A lower level pool and terrace is the essence of a spa retreat. Guests can also rent the adjoining Carriage House. This one-room guest cottage is decorated in an upscale, yet rustic, Ralph Lauren western-style. The walls are wrapped in burlap and decorated with spurs and bridles.

See the Avio website at www.aviowine.com for more information. And don’t miss this enchanting wine estate, art show and wine tasting stop on AAUW’s 43rd Annual Home Tour.

Nominating Committee Progress Report

The Nominating Committee has been making recruitment phone calls and emails for elected officers and appointed board positions. Many branch members have agreed to serve next year and we are forming a great team. We still have some slots to fill and are hoping that you will consider stepping up to help our branch. The open elected positions are President Elect and Membership Vice President. The open appointed positions are Community Representative, Hospitality Chair, Home Tour Chair and Newsletter Editor. Our website (amador-ca.aauw.net) contains job descriptions for you to peruse. PLEASE HELP! If you are interested, please contact Nancy Street at streetjb@volcano.net or Jackie Martinez at jackiemartinezm@aol.com

—Nancy Street
Michele Powell and I are excited to let you know that our AAUW Branch now has a new website hosted by AAUW National. We thank Judy Regnier for all her work on and contributions to our original website and now we are entering a new era. Megan at National created our new website based on the information from the old one, so it will seem somewhat familiar, but it has a fresh new look similar to other Branch websites that National hosts and maintains. Our new web address is: http://amador-ca.aauw.net/

Anyone accessing the old site will be forwarded to the new one for one year. Soon the new site will start showing up in search engines, but that may take a couple of weeks.

We encourage you to click on this link and take a look around: http://amador-ca.aauw.net/

—Sue Harrington

The 43rd Annual AAUW Home Tour is in the final stages of preparation and I think you’re going to be happy to be part of it. We’re calling this one Vines, Views and Villas and you’ll know why when you check out the homes and the historic Pine Grove Cemetery. The posters are being printed and you’ll start seeing them all around the county very soon. This is our only fundraiser, so we’re counting on all our members to support this project. This year tickets will be available for our members to purchase at the mini-tours, as well as at the outlets throughout the area. Last year’s count showed that only 29 of us bought a ticket; so let’s aim for 100% participation this year. Also, please think of them as the “perfect” gift for a family member, a neighbor or a friend.

—Nancy Schuster
Home Tour Chair 2015

The 43rd Annual Home Tour: Be a Part of It

American Association of University Women
Amador Branch Presents
43rd Annual Home Tour

Vines, Views, & Villas

April 18, 2015
11 am ~ 4 pm
Tickets: $22
($25 on the day of the Tour)
Cash or check only

Purchase Tickets After March 16 at:
Jackson: Lady’s First
Ione: Ione Pharmacy
Pine Grove: Pine Cone Drug
Plymouth: Amador 360
Sutter Creek: Coming Attractions

Purchase Tickets by Mail:
Before April 8
AAUW Home Tour
c/o Sarah Hart
19974 Jesus Maria Road
Mokelumne Hill, CA 95245

On Tour Day:
At all locations above, and at Amador STARS, 60 Ridge Road, Suite D, Sutter Creek (between Barron’s Furniture and Umpqua Bank, about 1/2 block east of the signal at Sutter Hill).
Questions? Contact Lani at 209/245-6052 or at chapman@volcano.net
On the web: amador-ca.aauw.net

Your support of the annual Home Tour helps the AAUW Amador Branch provide college scholarships and educational programs for women and girls. The AAUW mission: advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.
Kristen Root drove from Pepperdine University where she is in graduate school (she will receive her MPP—a Masters in Public Policy—in April 2016) to meet me at noon on a warm Saturday. Though we had planned on lunch at the Blue Moon Cafe in Pine Grove, we found it closed and so we decided on lunch in Volcano at the St. George Bar. That is where we spent 3 hours, most of it discussing politics and her interest in running for office. If Kristen is representative of even a small portion of young folks today, we can all be hopeful for our political future.

Bob, long-time bartender at The George, served us drinks, beer with lemon for Kristen and a white wine for me, and then food, ½ Caesar Salad for Kristen and garlic fries for me. Neither of us spent much time eating as we were more focused on discussing Kristen's life in Amador County and her desire for a life in politics.

Kristen was born 25 years ago at the hospital in Lodi (her mother had a preference for the Lodi Memorial Hospital), but she grew up in Pine Grove in Amador County. Although neither of her parents went to college (her father who still lives in Pine Grove worked as a Captain for Cal Fire and later as a logger for Sierra Pacific), they were determined that Kristen have the advantage of a college education and so, to send her on that path, they sent her to a private school, the Community Christian School in Pine Grove, for her elementary education. During this period she also attended ballet classes at a dance school, no longer in operation, located at a retail space under the Pine Grove Grocery Store.

For her secondary education, Kristen went to Amador High where she played on the volleyball team. She excelled in this sport and later got a volleyball scholarship to Holy Name University in Oakland where she received her BA in International Relations. Kristen recalls recently reading an article pointing out that athletes often end up in leadership roles. And Kristen is quite clear that she wants a political leadership role.

In addition to receiving her BA in International Relations and enrolling in the MPP program at Pepperdine, she has been preparing for a political future by interning during summers first with Speaker John Perez and after that with Assembly Member Bill Quick. She also took a year off after completing her BA and before beginning her MPP to work for Annie Eagan Consulting, a political consulting firm.

Kristen has always been interested in local politics, attributing her interest to her father who told her as she was growing up that conditions we live in are directly attributable to the folks we elect. Although she was not able to vote for a supervisor in the last election because she is in District 4, a district whose supervisor was not up for election, she did attempt to interview all on the Board before the election. She was dismayed to find that some seem to support a no-growth policy. She queried: “How can we get jobs into our county with a no-growth policy?” She also was dismayed to find out that some on the Board find e-mail a challenge. She hopes someday to run for the Board: I hope to be able to support her.

And, oh, one last take-away from my discussion with Kristen: she was awarded a scholarship from AAUW when she graduated Amador High in 2008 and before she attended American River College. Kristen does not remember the specific topic but she does recall writing the following sentence: “When I think of a politician, I think of an old white male.”

Indeed. Let’s hope Kristen and those of her generation change that.

Samme McMahan was born in Sacramento but grew up in Chico from the age of 6. She attended CSU Chico and obtained a B.A. in Liberal Studies. She has K-8 and special education teaching credentials.

Samme has been a teacher for 20 years, the past 10 in Amador County. She currently teaches special education at Plymouth Elementary School. She is also the President of Special Educators of Amador County (SEAC), which is the separate union for special education teachers who are employed by the county, and not the school district.

Samme met her husband Ron at a professional mixer in Sacramento. She was still in school at the time, so they dated (continued on page 6)
Getting to Know You
(continued from page 5)

long distance for a year and a half before they got married. This is the second marriage for both, and this spring marks their 12th anniversary. They have two boys, Ian and Nolan, who are in 5th and 3rd grades and attend school in Sutter Creek. Samme spends a lot of her “free” time getting her boys to their various after-school activities, and at one point served as their Cub Scout den leader.

Samme enjoys reading contemporary fiction and watching movies. She would like to learn to play the piano if she could find the time and a good teacher! A more recent “obsession” of hers is researching her family lineage through ancestry.com. Being an only child of an only child has fueled her interest in finding out more about her family tree.

Vacation time for Samme and her family is hard to come by since her husband works graveyard as a stationary engineer/duty mechanic at Aerojet. However, she is looking forward to a 3-day family trip to Monterey in March, and she is going to make sure they hit all the highlights: the Aquarium, the Carmel Mission, the Lighthouse, and maybe even Santa Cruz on the way home.

Another upcoming event that Samme is looking forward to is our AAUW Home Tour. She has always wanted to go to one, and this is her year! Samme and her family live in a house on Amador Road in Sutter Creek that was featured in an AAUW Home Tour in the 1980’s. Of the changes made to the house since that time, Samme and her husband are proud to have installed solar panels and are seeing their investment pay for itself every day.

Samme was introduced to our local AAUW branch at the very first Libations & Conversations meeting in October of 2013. Her hectic schedule precluded her from joining for a while, but she signed up this fall and is happy to have found such an interesting group of women. Samme wants to be more involved in giving back to this community, and has a particular interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) in education.

–Suzanne Nicholson
April 14, 2015 is Equal Pay Day, the symbolic day when women's earnings (78 cents to men's dollar) finally catch up to men's earnings from the previous year. Achieving pay equity is AAUW's most important Public Policy Priority. Below are excerpts from AAUW's publication *The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap*. The full report can be found at the AAUW National website along with much more information about the Pay Gap.

The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap (AAUW 2007, updated March 2015)

Did you know that in 2013, women working full time in the United States typically were paid just 78 percent of what men were paid, a gap of 22 percent? The gap has narrowed since the 1970s, due largely to women's progress in education and workforce participation and to men's wages rising at a slower rate. But progress has stalled in recent years, and the pay gap does not appear likely to go away on its own.

Between 1967 and 2012, the percentage of mothers who brought home at least a quarter of the family's earnings rose from less than a third (28 percent) to nearly two-thirds (63 percent). Families increasingly rely on women's wages to make ends meet. Equal pay is not simply a women's issue—it's a family issue.

Critics charge that pay differences between men and women are simply a matter of personal choices. AAUW addressed this argument in our 2012 report, *Graduating to a Pay Gap: The Earnings of Women and Men One Year after College Graduation*. Our analysis found that just one year after college graduation, women were paid 82 percent of what their similarly educated and experienced male counterparts were paid. An earlier report, *Behind the Pay Gap* (AAUW, 2007), found that 10 years after graduation, the pay gap widened, and women were paid only 69 percent of what men were paid.

I encourage you to check out this and several other reports available on the AAUW National website ([www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)). There is much more information on how career choices affect the Pay Gap, how women and men in the workplace are affected by the responsibilities of parenthood, how women of different demographics are affected and several other topics. The report also addresses the many things we as a Branch and as individuals can do to make a difference in our workplaces and in our community.

–Bonnie Krupp
Public Policy Chair
Special Interest Groups

Afternoon Book Group
Robin Stolk, Chair
robinfstolk@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 March 9 we will be discussing *Peony* by Pearl S. Buck at the home of Dot Haislet. Contact Dot by email or phone if you’d like to join this discussion and contact Robin Stolk if you’d like to join the Afternoon Book Group.

Art in Action
Charlene Unger, Chair
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
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 March 23 we’ll be discussing *The Light Between Oceans* by M.L. Stedman at the home of Norma King. If you’d like to join us, contact Norma.

Cork & Fork
Greta McElroy, Chair
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 meetings of Cork & Fork are Sunday March 8 for two of the groups and Sunday March 15 for the third group. For details about the March meetings or if you’d like to join the group, contact Greta McElroy.

Garden Groupies
Nancy Schuster, Chair
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, March 18th the Garden Group will visit Daffodil Hill, one of Amador’s treasures! This year due to the incredibly warm weather Daffodil Hill opened for its 75th season on Monday, February 23rd. The rule is that it opens when the hill reaches approximately 25% bloom and stays open until 25% of the flowers remain. We hope March 18 is in this window of opportunity, but you can call the recorded phone message at 296-7048 just to make sure. You are all welcome to join the Groupies on our monthly outings. If you’re interested in going to Daffodil Hill, contact Nancy Schuster.

Lunch Bunch
Kelli Garcia, Chair
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 March 12 at Amador Vintage Market in Plymouth. RSVP by March 9 to Hostess Margie Guletz by phone or email. guletz@comcast.net

(continued on next page)
Supper Club
Claire Wait, Chair
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.

Please contact Claire Wait clairesc@sbcglobal.net if you are interested in joining this group of people who enjoy good food and great company.

Walking & Strolling Group
Sheila Berg, Chair
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 February
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 the following branch members:

Carolyn Hennings, Judy Venckus, Katie Scott, Family of Betty Branson, and Nancy Schuster.

As you may know, Marylyn Copper’s husband, John, recently passed away. If you want her address, call Michele Powell.

Lynne Brumit

Birthdays
Best wishes to our members with March birthdays.

Kathy Allen Norva Fagg
Iris Aparicio Suzanne Kreutzer
Carol Bilheimer Heidi O’Hara
Mona Evans Brown Judy Regnier
Marge Chisholm Elizabeth Rhein

Friends of the Amador County Library
Invite Your Donations for the Spring Book Drive
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.
To Save the Dates for the April Book Sale: April 10-12
www.friendsoftheamadorcountylibrary.org