

# Gold Filings



February 2022

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## Message from the Chair

### Nominating Committee Needed.

This Committee will, most likely, only be required to meet once or possibly twice. Please seriously consider volunteering for this important Committee and/or suggesting names of other Members who should be considered for inclusion on the Committee. I may be contacting you, via phone or e-mail, if I think your participation would enhance the Committee's effectiveness.

**We need to find the next group of members who will step up and lead our branch for the 2022-23 year!**

If you are interested in being a part of the Leadership Team or the Nominating Committee, please contact me this month at [syoung@calarts.edu](mailto:syoung@calarts.edu) or 661-478-0138

### Upcoming Programs

We have 2 excellent programs planned for February and March:

**Saturday, February 5 -- *Author and Chocolate***, featuring Kevan Hunt. This event is sold out since there is very limited seating due to Covid considerations. 2pm at Hein & Company. Bring your mask and your badge.

**Tuesday, March 8 at 6pm -- *Dr. Michelle Roland*** will present a program about her work in the field of HIV/AIDS in the U.S. and in Africa, accompanied by photos produced by her husband, Richard Miles. We hope this program will be held in person at the Senior Center. Attendees would have to be vaccinated, boosted and wear masks. Depending on the status of our public health situation we may need to pivot and do the presentation via Zoom. More information will appear in the March edition of GF.

### Other Important Info Coming

Shortly you will be receiving a separate email with two important pieces of information:

1. A list of the five new members in a format ready to print & past into your directory.
2. A member interest questionnaire that we need all of you to fill out so we can continue to grow and plan for our branch in the future. PLEASE take the time to fill it out!

**February is Black History Month and  
March is Women's History Month**

Tuesday, February 1  
Black History Month  
National Freedom Day

Friday, February 4  
Rosa Park's Birthday

Tuesday, February 15  
Susan B. Anthony's Birthday  
The Suffrage Monument dedicated at  
the U.S. Capitol (1921)

Sunday, February 27  
US Supreme Court upholds the 19th  
Amendment to the  
Constitution, which guarantees  
women the right to vote (1922)

Tuesday, March 1  
Women's History Month

Thursday, March 3  
Women's Suffrage Parade in  
Washington D.C. (1913)

Tuesday, March 8  
International Women's Day

Tuesday, March 15  
Ruth Bader Ginsburg's Birthday

Thursday, March 31  
The National Council of Women of  
the United States is organized (1888)

## Four Black Women Who Fought for Gender Equality

2020 marked the 100th anniversary of the adoption of the 19th Amendment, a milestone in securing women's right to vote. But it wasn't until 45 years later, when the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was passed, that women of color were granted the right to vote. Sadly, Black women routinely faced racism within the women's suffrage movement. And even today, a variety of laws threaten to prevent them from casting their ballots.

Black women have not remained silent in the face of these setbacks. Although they have often been leaders and innovators in the fight for equality, history tends to erase their legacy and voices.

In honor of Black history month, here are four amazing women of color who have helped fight for — and win — greater equality for women.

### 1. Sojourner Truth (1796–1883)

Famous for her 1851 speech “Ain't I a Woman?,” Sojourner Truth was a strong abolitionist and women's rights advocate. Today her speech still resonates and continues to encapsulate the intersection of race and womanhood.

### 2. Ida B. Wells (1862–1931)

Ida B. Wells was a prolific investigative journalist and suffragist who campaigned tirelessly for anti-lynching legislation. Her activism began in 1884 when she refused to give up her train car seat, leading to a successful lawsuit against the train company. Motivated in part by racism within the women's suffrage movement, Wells went on to found and co-found a variety of civil rights organizations, including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Association of Colored Women, and the Alpha Suffrage Club.

### 3. Dorothy Height (1912–2010)

Known as the “godmother of civil rights,” Dorothy Height was renowned for her work on the desegregation of schools, equal pay for women and voting rights. She advised numerous American leaders, ranging from Lyndon B. Johnson to Eleanor Roosevelt. She focused especially on helping advance Black women's equality and served as president of the National Council of Negro Women for 40 years. In 2010, AAUW posthumously honored her as a Woman of Distinction.

### 4. Vanzetta Penn McPherson (born 1947)

Vanzetta McPherson, who grew up in Montgomery, Alabama, was an active participant in the civil rights movement. With help from an AAUW Fellowship, McPherson attended Columbia Law School, she returned to Alabama, where she established a private practice and later became a magistrate judge, dedicated to protecting the rights of working women and African Americans. She is now a retired United States magistrate judge in her hometown of Montgomery, Alabama.

## A Good February Read

**Half in Shadow: The Life and Legacy of Nellie Y. McKay** by Shanna Benjamin, a 2011-12 AAUW American Fellow. Shanna has long been interested in exploring how the scholar and critic Nellie Y. McKay helped to carve out a place for Black women in the literary canon. Her new book brings together McKay's private life and public work to expand how we think about Black literary history and the place of Black women in American culture.

## Diversity, Equality and Inclusion

*Bonnie Krupp*

Are you interested in a discussion group that explores the above topics? Have you thought about but not quite known how to approach a conversation on subjects like diversity, equity vs. equality, unconscious bias? As a Branch we have been invited to join a "Living Our Mission of Equity" book discussion group, co-sponsored by the Sacramento and Citrus Hights/American River (CHAR) AAUW Branches. The leader of the group, Charmin Goehring, started the group a couple of years ago as a monthly equity conversation looking at our own biases and how to become better people in the process.

Each month the group discusses a portion of an assigned book. Books they have read include, So You Want to Talk About Race, Caste, and Minor Feelings: An Asian American Reckoning. The next book up for discussion is The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together by Heather McGee. Meetings are the second Wednesday of each month on Zoom, 7pm. The next meeting is February 9, discussing Chapters 1-3.

Anyone who is interested can join the meeting using the Zoom meeting ID 737 420 3780.

I have attended and found it to be interesting and enlightening.

Contact me ([bonniekrupp@yahoo.com](mailto:bonniekrupp@yahoo.com)) or Charmin Goehring ([charminme@yahoo.com](mailto:charminme@yahoo.com)) for more information.

### Another way of seeing this issue:

"Diversity is being invited to the party."

"Inclusion is being asked to dance."

"Equity is how much space on the floor you get."

"Belonging is being asked to help choose the music."

### And another:

News from AAUW California -- Take three and a half minutes to learn why AAUW's interest in DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) is not just about gender and race!

Our state committee recommends this compelling [video](#). This will make you think.

## Branch Activities

### Libations and Conversations

We will meet on Thursday, February 17. Place and topic TBD. This no host event is open to all members, friends and the public. We encourage everyone to get out and support our monthly Libations and Conversations. It is a nice time to visit with current members and hopefully attract new members. We are reaching out to members who might have a topic they would like to present or know of an interesting speaker we can contact. Please notify Jacque Fletcher [fletcherja4545@gmail.com](mailto:fletcherja4545@gmail.com) or Katie Scott [kbscott3576@gmail.com](mailto:kbscott3576@gmail.com).

### Special Interest Groups

#### Afternoon Book Club

We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 2pm, also including dessert. All members are welcome to join us. Please contact Debra Brown at [debrown6@gmail.com](mailto:debrown6@gmail.com).

The book list for the year is:

*Allie & Bea* by Catherine Ryan Hyde (Feb)

*Worst Hard Time* by Timothy Egan (Mar)

*State of Terror* by Hillary Rodham Clinton and Louise Perry (Apr)

*Moloka'i* by Alan Brennert (May)

*How to be an Anti-Racist* by Ibram X, Kandi (June)

*The Agitators* by Dorothy Wickenden (July)

*The Rose Code* by Kate Quinn (Aug)

*The President's Daughter* by Bill Clinton & James Patterson (Sep)

*Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate (Oct)

*Hershey* by Michael D'Antonio (Nov)

*The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles (Dec)

*Vanderbilt* by Anderson Cooper and Katherine Howe (Jan)

### Page Turners and Book Lovers

Our February book choice is *American Baby* by Gabrielle Glaser. We will be meeting on February 28 at 2pm via Zoom this month. New members are always welcome. Please contact Christine van Fleet at [vancoh7@gmail.com](mailto:vancoh7@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining the group.

### Working Girls Book Group

Working Girls Book Club will be meeting Tuesday, February 15, 5:30 at Rita Bohl's house in Ione. The book we will discuss is *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett. New members are always welcome-- contact Jacque Fletcher if you would like more information or join the group. 209 606-1157.

### Cork and Fork

A reminder that this year's Cork and Fork groups are re-forming, so if you are interested and have not yet contacted Rita Bohl, please do so this month: [ritab@softcom.net](mailto:ritab@softcom.net). Traditionally Cork and Fork includes spouses or significant others, but Rita hopes to add a "ladies only" group this year as well.

### Supper Club

Contact Claire Wait if you are interested in participating in this group. Newcomers are always welcome. The group's first meeting of 2022 has been postponed due to Covid concerns. We hope to be able to meet in March.

### Great Decisions

Four of us have formed a Great Decisions group. The aim of the group is to explore some of the issues facing the world today, We will have our first meeting in February--date and time still TBA.

If you would like to join us, please contact Stephanie Young ([syoung@calarts.edu](mailto:syoung@calarts.edu)) for more info.

You can go on the Foreign Policy Association website [fpa.org](http://fpa.org) to find out more about this year's discussion topics.

## AAUW Funds

**Bonnie Krupp, Funds Chair**

Last month I shared a portion of an article from the Chico Branch newsletter that talked about the importance of Funds to the AAUW mission of Economic Security, Leadership, and Education and Training, focusing on Economic Security. This month we will look at how Funds sponsors **Leadership**.

Do we want more women to run for office at all levels of government? To reach for leadership positions in both the public and private sectors? Each year AAUW invites hundreds of college women from around the country for two days of leadership training, inspiration and networking at the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders. Every year, new leaders emerge with confidence and conviction thanks

to AAUW.

Our Tech Trek program has a similar effect when we introduce young women to careers in STEM fields. We stoke the pipeline to those important careers (in which women are still seriously underrepresented) starting in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

Next month, Education and Training.



## Historian's Corner-- a tribute to a member gone

AAUW-AMADOR lost a quiet, special member of the branch. Iris Aparicio was a member for 34 years and passed on to the Lord on January 7<sup>th</sup>. Iris was born in Oregon and at some point the family moved to Amador County. She graduated from Sutter Creek High School in 1950. She went on to obtain her B. A. in Social Science and an M.A. in Special Education at Sacramento State College. She taught Special Education to Kindergarteners for 20 years. Iris joined AAUW-Amador in 1988. By 1990 she was offering her services as Hospitality Chair, and our Phone Tree Chair. In 1995, she became our Educational Funds Vice President. As the years rolled on she served as the International Chair(1996-97), the Education Funds Vice President again, and was named the Education Funds Honoree in 1999. She continued to serve as Education Chair, Upper Division Scholarship Chair, Educational Equity Chair, and in 2009 the Membership Vice-President. Iris was a costumed Home Tour hostess multiple times and a dedicated member of the Afternoon Book Club from the 1990's until she became ill last year. The Book Club members enjoyed going to her house at Christmas time to enjoy her decorations and delicious desserts.

The picture above was taken at the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. Iris' thoughtful book reviews will be missed by her Book Club friends. Iris' willingness to help grow our organization and her gentle manner shall be missed by our club. To quote Judy Lerner-Liston "Iris was a quiet person who cared about people and would choose jobs that she knew she could get done."

### ***Brenda Walker, Historian***



## A Look into Our Past-- More Women Inventors

### **The Modern Electric Refrigerator**

In 1914, Florence Parpart invented the modern electric fridge. Parpart also received a patent for a much-improved street-cleaning machine in 1900.

Very little is known of Florence Parpart, other than census records and United States Government patent applications. Born in the Hoboken, New Jersey, Parpart was listed as a housewife in the United States Census for the majority of her life. As is the case with many early female inventors, local sources paint an entirely different picture.

Parpart won a second patent for the modern refrigerator, rendering the icebox obsolete for those with access to electricity. Many believe that Parpart's then fiancée was highly skilled in electrical circuitry and assisted in the design of the first prototype. Already an experienced entrepreneur, Parpart was highly successful in marketing and selling her refrigerators. She attended multiple trade shows, developed her own advertising campaigns and managed the production operations, alongside her husband, of additional refrigerators. Parpart was a true female entrepreneur and gifted inventor.

## Wireless Transmission Technology

Wi-Fi, or wireless fidelity, allows us to stay plugged into the internet while roaming our homes for the perfect spot to type up emails or binge-watch our favorite shows. As with the invention of the computer, the technology that made Wi-Fi possible came about during another devastating global event: World War II. The head inventor wasn't a scientist or engineer, but a famous Hollywood actress with an obsession with tinkering.

Hedy Lamarr's path to inventing the cornerstone of Wi-Fi began when she heard about the Navy's difficulties with radio-controlled torpedoes. She recruited George Antheil, a composer she met through MGM Studios, to create what was known as a Secret Communication System.

The idea behind the invention was to create a system that constantly changed frequencies, making it difficult for the Axis powers to decode the radio messages. The invention would help the Navy make their torpedo systems become stealthier and make it less likely for the torpedoes to be rendered useless by enemies.

Lamarr was the brains behind the invention, with her background knowledge in ammunition, and Antheil was the artist that brought it to life, using the piano for inspiration. In 1942, under her then-married name, Hedy Kiesler Markey, she filed for a patent for the Secret Communication System, patent case file 2,292,387, and proposed it to the Navy.

## Monthly Calendar--Local Events

### Saturday, February 5 at 2pm

Program--Author & Chocolate. 2pm at Hein & Company. Reservations required. (Sold out) Bring your mask and your badge.

### Thursday, February 10 at 4pm

Leadership Committee Meeting-- via Zoom. All Members welcome. Contact Stephanie if you want to join the meeting.

### Monday February 14, 2:00 pm

Afternoon Book Club-- *Allie & Bea* by Catherine Ryan Hyde. Meet at Stephanie Young's house, 2059 Thomas Drive, Jackson.

### Wednesday, February 15, 5:30

Working Girls Book Club -- We will meet at Rita Bohl's house in Ione. The book we will discuss is *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett.

### Thursday February 16 5:30-6:30

Libations & Conversations Topic and meeting place TBD

### Monday, February 28 at 2pm

Page Turners & Book Lovers--via Zoom. *American Baby* by Gabrielle Glaser.

## Monthly Calendar--Other Branches, State & National Events

### Wednesday, February 9 at 7pm via ZOOM

DEI book discussion group, co-sponsored by the Sacramento and Citrus Heights/American River (CHAR) AAUW Branches. See above for details.

### Saturday, February 19 9am-noon

The Sacramento Branch's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Speech Trek contest will be held on ZOOM. The link will be sent a few days before the event to those who have registered through EventBrite. You can register to attend by going to this [link](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aauw-sacramento-speech-trek-tickets-246451943397). (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aauw-sacramento-speech-trek-tickets-246451943397>) Speakers from all the branches will participate in the final contest later in the spring.

### Sunday, February 20

World Day of Social Justice is a day recognizing the need to promote efforts to tackle issues such as poverty, exclusion and unemployment. The United Nations General Assembly has decided to observe 20 February annually as the World Day of Social Justice. Observance of World Day of Social Justice should support efforts of the international community in poverty eradication, the promotion of full employment and decent work, gender equity and access to social well-being and justice for all.

Social justice is an underlying principle for peaceful and prosperous coexistence within and among nations. We uphold the principles of social justice when we promote gender equality or the rights of

indigenous peoples and migrants. We advance social justice when we remove barriers that people face because of gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture or disability.

### **Saturday, February 26 at Noon** via ZOOM

Diversity in STEM Disciplines: A Look at Astronomy / Speaker: Dr. Dara Norman

Annual Inter-branch Meeting of the AAUW branches of Santa Cruz County and the Monterey Peninsula [REGISTER HERE](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. **Guests are welcome.**

### **Save the date:**

**The Annual Event: "Adventures in AAUWLand"** (aka the State Conference)

**April 30th via Zoom**

It will be an all-day event with great speakers, awards, and an afternoon of freewheeling conversations. More Information to come.

### **Happy Birthday to our members celebrating birthdays in February**

- Cheri Peterson
- Marilou Lane

### **Sunshine**

Sympathy card sent to Joe Aparicio

Get Well cards sent to Emily Wilkinson and Deborah Yates

### **Member Corner: Idea Exchange**

*Remember: this section of Gold Filings is for recommendations from members about things they discover—books, films, TV shows, events, etc.*

*Please contribute when you find something you like and want to share.*

### **Webinars and Virtual Programs**

To see a video about our first 140 years as an organization:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/140-anniversary/>

For more information on past and upcoming AAUW Webinars, go to

<https://www.aauw-ca.org/2020-2021-webinars/>



Turns Out the  
**RIGHT MASK**  
CAN MAKE YOUR  
**VALENTINE'S DAY**  
a lot MORE FUN!

