

# Gold Filings



**April 2022**

**Mission: Advancing gender equity through research, education, and advocacy. Vision: Equality for all.**  
**Values: Nonpartisan. Fact-based. Integrity. Inclusion and Intersectionality.**  
**Branch Website: <https://amador-ca.aauw.net>**

## **Program: We're Celebrating Our Members on April 23!**



**First,** It takes a village to make things happen: dedicated people, planning, cooperation, organization, fun. Anyone can start something, but the challenge is to keep it going and growing. We've planned a fun and interesting program to celebrate ourselves--to welcome new members and to visit with ongoing members. We hope to have a big turnout to celebrate the fact that we can again meet in person and to celebrate our past, our present and our future.

Enjoy a dessert bar and beverages (Coffee, Tea and Wine) while we talk and get to know each other. We now have 9 new members this year so there are plenty of new faces with whom to get acquainted. We can also think and talk about moving the branch forward. Special recognition will be given to our new members, the lifeblood of any organization.

**So please join us at 1pm on Saturday, April 23 at the Jackson View Clubhouse.**  
(108 Nicolas Court, Jackson)

Guests welcome, so bring a friend you think may be a potential new member.

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### **SAVE THE DATE!**

Our Annual Branch Meeting will be Saturday, June 18 at 11am.  
Details to follow.

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### **Our March Program** was a big success.

What an interesting life Michelle Roland has had and how much she has contributed toward treating the AIDS epidemic, both in the US and in Rwanda. More than half the audience was comprised of community members so we were successful in offering a program of interest to the public. For those members who couldn't be there, it was a missed opportunity to meet a really interesting woman and doctor.

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## **Membership Matters**

**Note--Don't try to renew online until you get an email from us or from National--the new database is not completely ready.**



### **Member Spotlight**

One of our Branch's longer-term members is **Dot Haislet** who originally hails from Canada where she was born and raised. When she was 19, her parents moved to Florida, so Dot transferred from the University of Toronto to Florida State where she graduated with a degree in Home Economics with an emphasis in Fashion Merchandising. But this didn't turn out to be the career path meant for Dot. While at Florida State, Dick Haislet, one of several Air Force pilots in training, knocked on the sorority house door where Dot lived. Dot answered the door, and the rest is history. She and Dick married and had children. Then Dot entered the field of Real Estate and was a Real Estate Broker for many years - a job she loved.

Many of Dot's clients were young couples purchasing their first home. She thoroughly enjoyed teaching them the ropes of home buying and since they were often expecting, she was able to put her hobby of knitting to good use by knitting baby blankets for them. A current, favorite pastime is working in the garden giving her some quiet time to reflect. Reading is also an important activity for her.

When Dot and Dick retired, they moved from the Bay Area to Amador County. Dot joined AAUW shortly after moving here and has been a member about 28 years. Her main interest has been the Home Tour. She had been on the Tour when visiting Amador County and knew that is where she wanted to focus her efforts. She started writing the home descriptions for the brochure and did a little publicity and then moved into finding the homes for the Tour. A role we couldn't do without.

Over the years, Dot and Dick's travels took them to the British Isles, Western and Eastern Europe, Asia, Peru and the United States and Canada.

Other organizations Dot has been active in, include Newcomers where she served as President and met good, long-term friends who became fellow bridge players and travel partners. Dot was also active in Questers when there was a local chapter. They are a non-profit, international organization that studies antiques and is involved in the restoration and preservation of historical landmarks. The local chapter outfitted the third floor of the Mine House at the Kennedy Mine.

When asked what AAUW has meant to her, Dot said that she admires the women who are members of our Branch who have followed their dreams and achieved so much and is proud to be associated with them. She has found that members of her book group often have diverse and interesting life experiences that often relate to the books they are reading.

Thank you, Dot, for taking the time to share a little about your life with us and for serving as our current Sunshine Chair.

*by Sue Harrington*

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**New Member Welcome!**



**Sylvia Pardini** was born and grew up in Germany. Her parents were involved in the wine industry there, so she remembers being in a basket as a young child while her parents worked in the vineyard. She received her degree in enology and viticulture while living in Germany. She met her husband who was in the U.S. Air Force based in Germany. They eventually moved to California in 1989 and lived most recently in San Jose where they raised two children.

In 2021, Sylvia and her husband attended the annual Behind the Cellar Door event. They enjoyed being in Amador so much that they made the decision to move here during the pandemic. They found a lovely home in Amador and moved in late last year. Sylvia then joined

AAUW at the suggestion of branch member Beth Goodlin-Jones.

Sylvia's hobbies include cooking and traveling. Having received her degree in enology and viticulture, Sylvia feels like she has come full circle living in Amador. With our vibrant wine industry, she looks forward to becoming involved in some capacity. In the meantime, she is preparing to open an Airbnb business, which may include using her great cooking skills.

Please welcome Sylvia to AAUW the next time you see her!

by Terrie Houseman

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### And We Have Another New Member!

**Julie Taylor** (Lyndsay)                      650-483-5465  
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 San Francisco State Univ, BA Urban Studies  
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### Historian's Corner

#### Unfinished Business for AAUW

(Picture at left is of the ERA Rally that took place in Jackson in 1982)

#### "Equal Rights Amendment

"**Section 1.** Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

"**Sec. 2.** The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

"**Sec. 3.** This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification."

This Constitutional Amendment was initially proposed in 1923 , three years after the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment prohibiting the United States and its states from denying the right to vote to citizens of the United States on the basis of sex. At that time the ERA sought to secure full equality for women, ending legal distinctions between men and women in relation to divorce, property, employment, and other matters. The ERA failed to get ratified at that time.

As the years passed, women gradually achieved more equality through legal victories. Middle class women were supportive of the ERA, but working class women were often opposed as they had gained special protections regarding working conditions that they did not wish to lose. Following the rise of the

women's movement in the 1960's, the ERA gained increasing support and it was approved with bipartisan support in Congress and sent to the states for ratification in 1972. A time limit of March 22, 1979 was set for the ratification by at least 38 states. This date was later extended to June 30, 1982.

I write these details so our younger members can understand this unfinished business. 35 of the needed 38 states had ratified the amendment by 1977. During AAUW-Amador's 1978-79 programs, California State Senator Rose Ann Vuich spoke to the branch and community about the ERA. For members who are aged 70 or older, you probably remember thinking this was winnable. Phyllis Schlafly and a coalition of reactionaries promulgated concerns that women would be drafted into the military, lose alimony and custody in divorce cases, and be forced to use uni-sex bathrooms. Labor unions said women would lose the protection they had gained from recent labor laws and court cases. As these voices grew louder, 5 state legislatures rescinded their ERA ratifications. These actions muddied the waters and progress halted, with the ERA failing to pass in the three additional state legislatures needed for ratification. On June 30, 1982, AAUW-Amador supporters of ERA met on the steps of the Courthouse in Jackson to mourn the loss of the Equal Rights Amendment. Speeches were made by both male and female supporters of the cause.

Over the past 40 years there have been attempts to revive the ERA. The world has changed in ways that make some think that the Equal Rights Amendment is no longer needed. However, many women would tell you that there are still ways that women suffer discrimination that are not protected by the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment and not all states have legal protections equal to the ERA. Looking at the manipulations of various state legislatures today on voting rights it becomes clear that the ERA is needed now.

My thanks to Wikipedia for the historical information in this article. Is this a project you would like to put time into? Would you like to volunteer to lead or participate in a study group? Would you write a letter to AAUW national and suggest they fire up the branches on this topic?

***Brenda Walker, Historian***

***Additional Note:*** The *Equal Rights Amendment* has now been ratified in the required 38 states. It is not yet the law due to an arbitrary deadline that Congress has the power to change.

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## **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**

### **Reminder: What applies to white women in the U.S. does not apply to ALL women in the U.S.**

*[Posted March 15, 2022 by Lata Murti, Santa Maria Branch]*

Today, on Equal Pay Day for white women, I would urge everyone to remember that what applies to white women in the U.S. does not apply to all women in the U.S. or globally. We need to start naming race when it comes to women's rights.

For example, 2020 was not the centennial celebration of women's suffrage and right to vote. It was the centennial celebration of white women's suffrage and right to vote. For most women of color, that centennial celebration does not come until 2065 – 100 years after the Voting Rights Act of 1965. And, as we know, there are still barriers to voting for many BIPOC [Black people, Indigenous people, and People Of Color] in the U.S. today.

Similarly, Equal Pay Day is not until May 3 for Asian American women, September 21 for Black women, November 30 for Native women, and December 8 for Latina women!

Let's name race and racial identity in relation to whiteness and white people and not just in relation to BIPOC. We all have a race and gender which still greatly determine our equity, access, inclusion, privilege, and lack of each in the U.S. and globally.

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## Monthly Calendar --Local Events

### Monday April 11, 2:00 pm

**Afternoon Book Club**-- We will be discussing *State of Terror* by Hillary Rodham Clinton and Louise Penney.

Meet at Debra Brown's house.

### Thursday, April 14, 4:00pm

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

### Thursday, April 14, 5:30

**The Working Girls Book Group** will be meeting at the Tin Roof Cafe in Drytown to discuss "The Maid" by Nita Prose.

### Tuesday, April 19, 2pm

**Great Decisions Group**--We will be discussing "Putin's Russia"

### Thursday, April 21, 6-8pm

**Candidates' Forum**--We are co-sponsoring a forum that will include all candidates for Sheriff and for District 3 & District 5 Supervisors.

Pine Grove Community Hall--If you need a ride, contact Stephanie at 209-217-8432

### Saturday, April 23 at 1pm

**Program--Member Celebration.** Dessert and Beverages (Coffee, Tea & Wine)

Jackson View Clubhouse, 108 Nicolas Court, Jackson

### Monday, April 25, 2pm

Page Turners & Book Lovers—*Once I was You* by Maria Hinojosa

JoAnn Chevrette's house (this may change to a Zoom meeting)

### Wednesday, April 27, 5:30-6:30

**Libations & Conversations**--Our speaker this month is Paul Molinelli Jr. from Aces Waste Service in Amador County. Paul will speak about his family's 100 year old business and spend some time talking about their recycling program. Members, guests and the public are welcome to attend.

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

### April 30th 9am-3pm via Zoom

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

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

### April 23 - May 15

#### CA-AAUW Elections

The Nominations and Elections Committee is excited to announce that we have candidates for each of the seven open director positions as well as the secretary position, and we will have a contested election for the director slots. We thank everyone who stepped up to serve on the State Board and wish them all well. Nominations are now closed. All members will receive an email with their ballots. Members may also request a paper ballot. You can click [HERE](#) to read most of the candidates' bios on the state website.

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## Members Celebrating Birthdays in April!

Renee Day  
Jacque Fletcher  
Kelli Garcia

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## Sunshine

A sympathy card was sent to Sylvia Pardini.

*Please notify Dot Haislet if one of our members needs a sympathy or get-well card, but also if a "Congratulations" card is in order.*

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## Path-Breaking Diplomat Dies at 84

**Madeleine Albright**, a child refugee from Nazi- and then Soviet-dominated Eastern Europe who rose to become the first female secretary of state and a mentor to many American leaders, died March 22 of cancer. She was 84.

Albright was chosen in 1996 by President Bill Clinton to be America's top diplomat, making her the highest-ranking woman in the history of the U.S. government. She was not in the line of succession to the presidency, however, because she was born in what was then Czechoslovakia.

Many careers were shaped by Albright's example, from her history-making appointment as the first female Secretary of State to the decades she spent mentoring, teaching and speaking to women. Albright's path and her identities as a child refugee, wife and mother who carved out a career in a male-dominated field gave women a new vision for their lives. Albright also was known for bringing countless women into politics or policy work, often without ever meeting them face-to-face.

Albright has been sometimes criticized for her support of severe sanctions on Iraq during Saddam Hussein's rule and her staunch backing of Western intervention in Kosovo. Others remain offended by Albright's implication that all women had a duty to support Hillary Clinton over Bernie Sanders in the 2016 Democratic presidential primary. On the eve of that year's New Hampshire primary, Albright appeared at a rally for Clinton supporters and quipped, "There's a special place in hell for women who don't help each other."

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## Member Corner: Idea Exchange

### "Design Matters" Podcast

Named "one of the most creative people in business" by Fast Company, and "one of the most influential designers working today" by Graphic Design USA, Debbie Millman is also the author of seven books, a curator, and the host of the podcast [Design Matters](#). Design Matters is one of the first and longest-running podcasts, and as host and founder, Millman has interviewed nearly 500 of the most creative people in the world over the past 17 years.

**The "Art & History" website** publishes a weekly blog focusing on various art-related subjects (you can have it delivered to your email address). Three that I have found interesting recently are:

#### Female Photographers Who Shaped the Way We Look at the World

In the summer of 2019, the New-York Historical Society presented more than seventy images taken by six of the most important photographers of the past century: Margaret Bourke-White, Marie Hansen, Martha Holmes, Lisa Larsen, Nina Leen, and Hansel Mieth. All employed by *LIFE* magazine, these women contributed to the development of modern photojournalism between the 1930s and the early 1970s.

#### 11 Lesser-Known Women Artists from Art History

When you ask people to name their favorite artist, and a female artist is given, the same names always seem to come up: [O'Keeffe](#), Kahlo, and Cassatt. While all three made incredible art, there are countless other women artists who deserve to be household names. In this roundup, we shine the spotlight back on eleven of our favorite lesser-known female artists from our art history coverage.

#### Encanto: The Art History & Anthropology Behind the Movie

[Disney's](#) latest Oscar-nominated animated feature Encanto has been widely praised for what many have described as an unprecedented degree of well-executed, even poignant, representation. Set in Colombia, the film tells the story of Mirabel Madrigal who must come to terms with being "normal" in a family that possesses magical powers. The Colombian Cultural Trust seems to be at the heart of its creative success. Created by Disney at the beginning of the film's development and comprised of a wide range of experts that filmmakers met with weekly, the group became an especially crucial source of information after the onset of the pandemic made research travel impossible.

## Topaz Stories: Remembering the Japanese-American Incarceration

January 18-December 31, 2022 -- Utah State Capitol Building

Volunteers from the Friends of Topaz Museum have gathered these stories of Topaz survivors, told by the survivors themselves or their descendants. To visit the stories: <https://topazstories.com/>

*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.*

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## Holidays and Special Events in April

**There are both serious and fun holidays and special events in April.**

**Here are some that I think deserve attention:**

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, National Poetry Month & National Garden Month

4/3-9 is National Library Week

4/7 is Day of Remembrance for victims of the Rwanda Genocide

4/16-23 is Passover

4/17 is Easter Sunday

4/18 is Tax Day

4/25 is Take Your Sons & Daughters to Work day

4/29 is National Arbor Day

Some others I can get behind: (notice that most of these celebrate food!)

4/1 April Fool's Day

4/1 National Sourdough Bread Day

4/3 National Chocolate Mousse Day

4/6 National Walking Day

4/13 National Scrabble Day

4/17 National Bat Appreciation Day

4/27 National Prime Rib Day

