

Gold Filings



55th Anniversary
AAUW
Amador Branch 1969-2024

December 2023

AAUW Mission: Advancing gender equity through research, education, and advocacy

Vision: Equality for all.

Values: Nonpartisan. Fact-based. Integrity. Inclusion and Intersectionality

Message from the Leadership Chair



Greetings to everyone! Hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday.

Now for some fun! In this issue of Gold Filings and for issues to come, we're including an "Intentional Typo" contest. The first person who finds and reports the **ONE** "intentional typo" in this issue (only Stephanie

and I will know), will receive a \$10 gift card from Choc-o-Latte. Just email what you find to me and the first correct answer gets the gift card. There's one winner per issue and it has to be the "intentional typo." Hopefully, we don't have other "unintentional typos" because those don't qualify, So sorry! We proofread the daylight out of these issues, but unintentional typos do happen. We hope you enjoy this ridiculous contest and have some fun.

As Mara Feeney, a new member, said at our last Libations and Conversations event, Amador County is run by nonprofits. That was certainly on display at Giving Tuesday. A BIG THANKS goes to Julie Taylor for creating our successful campaign and to our many donors for your generous contributions.

Next up is our Holiday Party at Michele Powell's lovely home on Sunday, December 10th. Read on for more details (remember that "intentional typo"). What a great way to spend the day meeting new members and sharing the holiday spirit with other members and guests. We hope to see you there with bells on your toes!

Here's wishing you all a beautiful holiday season!

Best regards,

Terrie

Celebrate the Season at the Holiday Party!

MEMBERS & A GUEST ARE INVITED

**TO OUR
2023 AAUW
HOLIDAY
OPEN
HOUSE**



**SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 10
2PM - 5PM**

**POWELL RESIDENCE
13910 ROSE QUARTZ COURT
PINE GROVE**

RSVP TO MICHELE BY DECEMBER 7
powell.michele288@gmail.com
or text 209-256-2922

**If your last name is A-K,
bring an appetizer**

**If your last name is L-Z,
bring a dessert**

**Hot drinks & water provided
please bring wine to share**

**Donations of items, especially personal care items, for the
women's shelter will be much appreciated**

**Directions: from Ridge Road, turn onto Ponderosa (opposite Volcano Communicati
Ridge Road nursery). At the 4-way stop at the top of the hill, go straight into th
cul-de-sac. House is on the left, light green color. Park head-in.**



Giving Tuesday Update

A Successful Scholarship Fundraiser!

Wow, what a fun evening at the Giving Tuesday event at St. Katherine Drexel Parish Hall on Tuesday, 11/28. It was such a pleasure to see so many branch members at the Charity

showcase event and to hear the buzz in the room. The hall was a lively place filled with community members visiting tables and non-profit volunteers and staff from the minute the doors opened at 4:00pm.

Highlights of the evening were speaking with the parents of a former Tech Trekker who is now a freshman at Pepperdine University. Her parents were encouraged to remind her to submit a scholarship application when her junior year approaches. Then there was a young woman who wants to return to school after taking time off; someone who could benefit from our support as she figures out the next steps on her education journey. This year's branch representatives were Terrie Houseman, Kathy Guletz, Heidi Christensen, and Julie Taylor. Brenda Walker contributed three eye-catching "Who Are We" yellow folders full of photos of past branch events. The folders, along with brochures, a basket of candy and business cards made the table look attractive and sparked conversations (thank you, Stephanie and Brenda, for the candy).

We are humbled by your generosity and it was gratifying to total in-person donations of **\$2,650** from 20 donors at the end of the evening. The final amount of in-person and online donations, other transfers to the scholarship fund through the Amador Community Foundation (ACF), and matching dollars from ACF, will be known in a few weeks and will be shared as soon as it is announced. Hopefully the fundraising thermometer will have reached the top of our \$5,000 goal!

With thanks,

Submitted by Julie Taylor, Funds Chair



Gov Trek

Gov Trek 2024 Volunteers Still Needed



GOV TREK
AAUW California

Over seven two-hour sessions, students will engage in interactive and inspiring activities with exposure to women legislators, career options, and the inner workings of a political campaign. The program will culminate in a group competition to create a realistic campaign simulation.

Be a part of it!--Be a Zoom Breakout Room Facilitator.

Breakout Room Facilitators manage a group of up to 14 students in a Zoom breakout room. You will help them stay on task, assist with the understanding and implementation of assigned activities, and facilitate

collaboration among the group for active participation. It's likely that the groups will be mostly self-directed.

What is required to be a Zoom Breakout Room Facilitator? Don't worry!

- You must read and comply with the AAUW California Bullying Prevention Guidelines.
- # of Volunteers Needed: 60 per session (3 per room). This might vary slightly due to the number of participants.
- **Orientation Session-- January 8 at 7:00pm. (Optional)**--The training will be recorded if you can't make that session.

Time Commitment: Volunteers must be available for four Saturday virtual sessions. (although you are invited to attend all 7 sessions)

- **Session 1** requires a volunteer to manage a breakout room for 40 minutes.
- **Session 4** requires a volunteer to manage the breakout room for 1 hour.
- **Sessions 5 & 6** require a volunteer to manage the breakout rooms for two hours.

GovTrek Schedule:

02/3/24 10AM – 12:30PM. SESSION 1: Orientation, Meet & Greet

In this session, volunteers will facilitate two ice-breaker activities.

02/10/24 10AM – 12:30PM. SESSION 2: Exploring Political Careers

In this session, volunteers can listen to a panel of women leaders and legislators.

02/17/24 10AM – 12:30PM. SESSION 3: Women's Leadership & Political Participation

In this session, volunteers can listen to women leaders and legislators.

02/24/24 10AM-12:30PM. SESSION 4: Ready, Set, *Live*! Campaigning 101

In this session, volunteers will listen to women leaders for the first hour, then facilitate a breakout room for the second hour

03/02/24 10AM – 12:30PM. SESSION 5: Campaign Simulation

In this session, volunteers will facilitate a breakout room for the full two hours.

03/09/24 10AM – 12:30PM. SESSION 6: Campaign Simulation

In this session, volunteers will facilitate a breakout room for the full two hours.

03/16/24 10AM – 12:30PM. SESSION 7: Gov Trek Finale & Campaign Competition

In this session, volunteers can enjoy watching the live online campaign competition and awards.

December Calendar

Sunday, December 10, 2–5pm

Holiday Party

A pot-luck celebration of the year and the season. See invitation above for details.

Monday, December 11, 2:00pm

Afternoon Book Club

We will meet at Mona Brown's house to discuss *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby van Pelt.

Contact Debra Brown if you are interested in joining the group. debrown6@gmail.com

Tuesday, December 12, 4:00pm

Leadership Committee Meeting via Zoom

All members are welcome to join us. Email Terrie Houseman for the link.

terrie.houseman@gmail.com

Tuesday, December 12, 5:30

The Working Girls Book Group

Our December read is "Tom Lake" by Ann Patchett. Our next meeting will be held at Rita Bohl's home.

Wednesday, December 13, 11:30am

Page Turners & Book Lovers --

We will have a pot luck lunch and choose our book list for 2024.

Contact Sandee Bowman if you are interested in joining the group. Sbowman56@gmail.com

DEI--Diversity, Equity and Inclusion



Celebrating Kwanzaa- an African American cultural holiday

Kwanzaa is a week-long celebration that honors African heritage and cultural values, primarily observed by African Americans. Running from December 26th to January 1st, Kwanzaa derives its name from the

Swahili phrase "matunda ya kwanza," meaning "first fruits." It was created in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, a professor of African Studies, as a way to celebrate African heritage and values.

The holiday centers around seven principles, known as the Nguzo Saba, which guide individuals in living a prosperous life. These principles are: Umoja (Unity), Kujichagulia (Self-Determination), Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility), Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics), Nia (Purpose), Kuumba (Creativity), and Imani (Faith).

Celebrations include lighting the Kinara, a candleholder with seven candles, each representing one of the principles. Families exchange symbolic gifts, share stories, and partake in music and dance rooted in African traditions. Kwanzaa fosters a sense of unity, cultural pride, and community bonding. It serves as a reminder of the resilience and rich heritage of the African diaspora.

Kwanzaa's values and rituals offer a meaningful way to connect with one's African roots, build stronger communities, and promote a sense of identity and purpose.

Bonnie Krupp, Branch DEI Coordinator
[*bonniekrupp@yahoo.com*](mailto:bonniekrupp@yahoo.com)

From Megan Dahle, District 1 Assemblywoman

In 2021, I was surprised to find out that Native cultural ceremonies were not considered an excused absence for students. Thanks to Judy Flores, Shasta County Superintendent of Schools, for bringing the issue to my attention based

on feedback received from the American Indian Advisory, we were able to pioneer AB-516, amending education code surrounding excused absences.

Because of this bill, students from our local tribal groups- and cultural groups all across California- are now able to celebrate their culture without the threat of consequences that come with absences that are unexcused. Thank you to Shasta County Superintendent Judy Flores for participating in this project, and to Redding Rancheria for sharing much of the footage used in this video. In putting this together, it was important to us to showcase local cultural ceremonies and the people who inspired this legislation. To all involved, thank you for your hard work on behalf of California's students.

To view more about this issue, Click [HERE](#).

Membership

Do You Need a Ride to a Meeting?

We have some exciting meetings planned and want to help you attend in person. Several members have indicated that they would be happy to provide a ride to members who need one. Now we need to connect those who need a ride and those who can provide a ride. If you want to attend one of our meetings and need a ride, contact *Hope Nelson or Aieleen Parker*. They will connect you with someone who is also planning to attend.

AAUW Branch Walking Group--New Special Interest Group Formed

In the spirit of supporting usage and trail development in Amador County, it would be great to start up an AAUW Amador Branch Walking Group. In the past, we had an active Walking Group that has since dispersed and, currently, we have a wonderful opportunity for us to gather to enjoy nature and connection in our County.

Interested? Members' Next Steps:

Submit 3 days and times and a comfortable distance good for you to Sandee Bowman sbowman56@gmail.com and we will select a day and time for our next walk. The group is still forming so new participants are welcome.



December Birthdays

- 12/05 - JoAnn Chevrette
- 12/16 - Michelle Pechette
- 12/19 - Diane Christensen
- 12/19 - Rachel Stahl
- 12/24 - Michele Powell
- 12/30 - Suzanne Nicholson
- 12/30 - Loretta Porteus

Sunshine

If you have news about a member who needs to be congratulated on a special occasion or accomplishment, who needs to be encouraged during illness or difficult time, or to be reminded we are here for him/her, please contact Aieleen Parker at aieleenparker@gmail.com or 209-217-8120

If a new member joins at a branch program or meeting they can join at the discounted rate of \$76 for the first year as part of the Shape the Future campaign. That includes *Libations & Conversations* events. So if you have a friend or neighbor who may be interested, invite them to one of our programs or L&C's! If you have questions, contact [Michele Powell](#)

Our Branch History

A Look Back at Our Achievements from 1999-2009

PART 5 of 6

Written by Brenda Walker / Read by Sue Harrington

CONNECTIONS – that’s the theme of this decade in the history of AAUW–Amador. The newsletters are filled with interest groups varying from Book Groups, Gardening Group, Cork & Fork, Ski Group, Walking/Hiking Group, Culture Connection Group, and Fair Weather Friends. Not only were we connecting on a personal level, we were also connecting with our Amador County community. We invited the Grand Jury Foreman to inform us of the job

of a Grand Jury, the current findings of the Grand Jury, and the response from the Board of Supervisors. We enjoyed luncheons while learning about family support resources with speakers from First Five, as well as speakers on international topics, financial topics, legislative topics, and AAUW regional and national topics.

The Gold Filings was filled with short articles about the local Red Cross, the New Family Resource Center, ARC-Amador, Relay for Life, Grief Busters, and other non-profits. Numerous events were announced that members could choose to attend supporting Operation Care, the Interfaith Food Bank, Christmas Committee, programs sponsored by Friends of Music, and more; this list was long and varied. Our leadership traveled to the state and national conventions to keep us informed of priorities which were woven into our programs.

With an informed and dedicated membership came some long-lasting projects. Members noted a “lack of education opportunities locally on the subject of women’s health issues.” This was the basis of the Women’s Health Forums. Held yearly, the 12th Forum was titled “Beyond the Mainstream: Exploring Complementary Medicine.” “Project College: Getting Your Student on Track,” was designed to educate parents of junior high students about the many different opportunities that were available for post-secondary education. This successful program ran for 4 years. AAUW sponsored three Bead for Life sales of jewelry made by Ugandan women raising over \$13,000 for programs designed to improve their lives.

The most amazing project started in 2003 and currently running today is our Tech Trek program, which offers 7th grade girls an opportunity to live on a college campus for a week and study Science, Technology, Engineering and Math with other 7th grade girls from all over the staTE.

Gold Filing articles alerted us to legislative action items as well as state and national topics that encouraged letter writing. Guest speakers and candidate nights proved informational. These connections into our Amador community and our AAUW state and national communities enforced our core commitment to promoting equity for all women and girls, life-long education, and positive societal change.

AMADOR BRANCH 2009-2010 ELECTED OFFICERS:



At the June 2009 Annual Meeting and Ice Cream Social, AAUW Amador Branch welcomed members and guests and elected the following officers for 2009-2010: Seated (left to right) Presidents Lani Chapman and Mary Thorpe. Standing (left to right) Program Co-Vice Pres Carol Campbell, Past President Carolyn Hennings, Program Co-Vice President Gretchen Kirby, Treasurer Sarah Hart, Membership Co-Vice President Iris Aparicio, and Co-Secretary Brumit. Missing are Membership Co-Vice-President Hilde Langlet, Vice President Education Sandi Baracco, Vice President Legal Advocacy Foundation Rhoda Immer, and co-Susan Tigner.

In Memorium

Former First Lady Became a Global Humanitarian

BY JOE HOLLEY AND KEVIN SULLIVAN
THE WASHINGTON POST

Rosalynn Carter, a close political and policy adviser to her husband, President Jimmy Carter, created the modern Office of the First Lady and advocated for better treatment of the mentally ill during her years in the White House and for four decades afterward. She died at 96 on Nov. 19 at her home in Plains, Ga.

During her husband's 1976 presidential campaign, Mrs. Carter acquired the label "steel magnolia," a reference to her soft-spoken Southern demeanor that disguised an ambitious and resolute nature. Determined not to be relegated to a ceremonial role, she worked in the tradition of former first lady Eleanor Roosevelt to make herself an extension of the president and his policies. She was the first first lady to maintain an office in the East Wing of the White House and only the second, after Roosevelt, to testify in Congress.

In 1977, President Jimmy Carter dispatched his wife on a diplomatic trip to Latin America that was substantive rather than social and unprecedented for a first lady. Her grueling trip took her to seven countries and across more than 12,000 miles. Her mission was to explain American foreign policy to a part of the world that her husband believed the United States had neglected. She engaged Central and South American government figures on issues that included human rights, beef exports, arms reduction, demilitarization, drug trafficking and nuclear energy. After each day's talks, she filed a report with the State Department. At many of her meetings, she spoke in Spanish, having recently completed an intensive language course.

Mrs. Carter worked hard for issues that interested her personally: mental health, elder care and the Equal Rights Amendment. She encouraged her husband to bring Menachem Begin of Israel and Anwar Sadat of Egypt together at the presidential retreat at Camp David in Maryland for peace talks in 1978. Dividing her time between Camp David and the White House, she provided support and advice as her husband brokered a deal. The historic high point of the Carter administration was the signing of the Camp David Accords between Egypt and Israel in 1978.

With her husband's support and over the objections of others, Mrs. Carter expanded the role of the first lady. She attended Cabinet meetings, worked on mental health and other policy priorities, and formally created the Office of the First Lady in the East Wing with its own chief of staff.

Years later, in the decades after Jimmy Carter's loss to Reagan, the couple continued their partnership as co-founders of the Carter Center, an Atlanta-based nonprofit organization committed to human rights and the elimination of suffering around the world. She traveled around the world for the Carter Center on trips to promote human rights and peace initiatives and to monitor

elections. She and her husband spent a week a year building homes for low-income people with Habitat for Humanity, and they built or remodeled more than 4,300 homes in 14 countries.

From AAUW California

From Sandi Gabe, AAUW-CA President

My AAUW family is astounding. From the local friends who brought me into the AAUW fold and started me on my AAUW journey to the state leadership team which amazes me every day, I am grateful for the inspiration and motivation they provide. I had an opportunity to be captivated once again at our October Leadership Team meeting where I was blown away by what we've accomplished since July. It was rewarding to see everyone pulling in the same direction, engaging their peer groups and committees, and readying their programs for this year.

These are the characteristics of YOUR leadership team.

Tenacious
Hardworking
Ambitious
Noble
Kick-butt
Stalwart
Gracious
Industrious
Vigorous
Intrepid
Nourishing
Gritty

Call for 2024-25 State Candidates

We seek candidates for:

- Secretary (two-year term 2024-2026)
- Four Directors (two-year terms 2024-2026)
- One Director (one-year term 2024-2025)

We are specifically looking for technology gurus and individuals with knowledge of AAUW Fund and how it works.

Thanks to those of you who have stepped up to the plate or given names to approach – keep it up, we can do this if we continue to work together.

What I need to know: There will be six opportunities to serve on the state board of directors next year.

What I need to do: Consider running for an elected position or talk to potential candidates in your branch about the opportunity. Watch for an announcement that the nomination form has been posted on the website.

Arts & Education

Merriam-Webster's word of the year for 2023?

Hint: Be true to yourself

In an age of deepfakes and post-truth, as artificial intelligence rose and Elon Musk turned Twitter into X, the Merriam-Webster word of the year for 2023 is “**authentic.**”

Authentic cuisine. Authentic voice. Authentic self. Authenticity as artifice. Lookups for the word are routinely heavy on the dictionary company's site but were boosted to new heights throughout the year.

“We see in 2023 a kind of crisis of authenticity. What we realize is that when we question authenticity, we value it even more.”

Merriam-Webster's entry for authentic:

“Not false or imitation: real, actual,”

“True to one's own personality, spirit or character.”

“Worthy of acceptance or belief as conforming to or based on fact.”

“Made or done the same way as an original.”

“Conforming to an original so as to reproduce essential features.”

Angela Ruiz Robles Invented the Ancestor of the e-reader

More than 60 years before Kindles, Nooks, iPods, and other electronic devices that revolutionized ways of reading, a gadget invented in a village in Spain had the potential to do the same. Encyclopedia Mecanica was not the brainchild of a multinational corporation, like Apple or Amazon. It was invented in 1948 by Angela Ruiz Robles, a widowed teacher who wanted to make learning easier for her students and her three daughters. Her invention was about the size of a textbook which allowed a user to read words in any language and on any topic. She created the device “to get maximum knowledge with minimum effort.” She could not persuade financiers to fund her creation, and it was never widely produced. Decades later in 2007 Amazon introduced Kindle. This year it’s reported that 15.92 million e-books are produced every month.

In 1947 Angela was awarded the Cross of Alfonso X the Wise for her innovations in the field of education, research, and social work. In 1952 she was awarded a gold medal at an exhibition for Spanish inventors.

Angela was born in 1895 in a small town in northwestern Spain. She graduated from a teachers college in Leon and taught there until 1916. In 1918 she moved near the coast and taught there until 1926, when she founded the Academia Elmaca. She offered classes both day and night, serving students of little means. She developed effective methods for students with disabilities, sometimes going to their homes to offer extra help. In 1934 she became manager for orphans and girls who might otherwise be disadvantaged to thrive in society. She found great meaning in working on behalf of others.

New York Times, November 13. Part of a series on Overlooked Women, which will soon be published in book form.

The Florida Librarian Who Couldn’t Take It Anymore

Excerpted from an article by RUBY CRAMER, THE WASHINGTON POST

KISSIMMEE, Fla

It was her last Monday morning in the library.

Freedom Week: It was one more thing the state had asked of them, a mandatory recitation of parts of the Declaration of Independence “to reaffirm the American ideals of individual liberty,” along with something else she had

heard from the district. “They asked us to please not celebrate Banned Books Week,” Tania said.

She was tired. She had thought about pushing back against the district, had imagined putting up posters all over the walls from the American Library Association celebrating “freedom to read,” a final act before her last day on Friday. But even if she did put up the posters, who would be there to see them once she left? The library would be closed after this week, until they found someone to take her place.

Tania had planned to spend the rest of her career in the Osceola County School District. That was before the school board meeting on April 5, 2022, when Tania watched parents read aloud from books they described as a danger to kids. It was before she received a phone call from the district, the day after that, instructing her to remove four books from her shelves. It was before a member of the conservative group Moms for Liberty told her on Facebook, a few days later, that she shouldn’t be allowed anywhere near students. It had been 18 months since then. Nine months since she had taken Florida’s new training for librarians, a mandatory hour-long video, and heard the state say that books in the library must not contain sexual content that could be “harmful to minors” and that violating this statute would result in a third-degree felony.

And sometime in the middle of all that, as she showed up every weekday at 7 a.m. and tried to focus on the job she had signed up for, which was, she thought, to help students discover a book to love. The relationships between students and books, and parents and libraries, and teachers and the books they taught, and librarians and the job they did – all of it was changing in a place she thought had been designed to stay the same.

A library was a room with shelves and books. A library was a place to read.

The purple folder on her desk contained printouts of 79 pages of Florida law and statutes that told her how to think about what students should and should not read.

The Plan:

She and another librarian to quit and open an independent bookstore. . . .



Life is short...be the girl on the left...

www.womenafter50.com



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amador-ca.aauw.net



facebook.com/AAUW - Amador



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