

# Gold Filings



55th Anniversary  
**AAU**  
Amador Branch 1969-2024

**January 2024**

**Happy New  
Year!**



---

**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](#)**



As 2023 is coming to a close, I'm reflecting on what we've accomplished as a Branch since July 1st, our new fiscal year. We've welcomed several new members, many of whom were introduced at our Membership Appreciation meeting in September, and also at our delightful Holiday Party in December. Lots of laughter and warm conversations were shared at both events.

We had a very successful Giving Tuesday on November 28th, and along with the Leadership Committee, I stand in awe of our members' generosity. The total raised was beyond our wildest imagination and provides funds to continue our vital scholarship programs. THANK YOU!!!

We have a great lineup of programs for the coming year that you won't want to miss. Next up is the Candidate's Forum on January 25th. Past candidate forums have been well attended, so plan to arrive early for a good seat.

The Branch was chartered in 1969, so stay tuned for news of our 55th-year celebration in 2024. Plans are being made to celebrate our continued success as a Branch and we have a lot to celebrate. If you have items you think should be included in our celebration plans, please feel free to contact me.

Now for some fun! In the December issue of Gold Filings I announced 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 daylights out of these issues, but unintentional typos do happen. We hope you enjoy this ridiculous contest and have some fun.

In closing, I wish you all a healthy, joyous, and peaceful New Year! See you in 2024!

With heartfelt gratitude,  
Terrie

\*\*\*\*\*

## Programs

### January Program

**Candidates' Forum, Thursday, January 25 at 7pm**  
"Meet the Candidates – County Supervisor Districts 2 and 4"

Amador County is governed by a five-member Board of Supervisors, each of whom is elected to a four-year term from a separate district where he/she lives. The Board of Supervisors serves as the County's legislative body, setting policies and priorities to best serve the needs of the community and acts as the governing body for several "special districts" within Amador County, such as water, sewer, county service areas, and other government entities.

Three Amador County Supervisorial districts will elect Supervisors on the March 5th Presidential Primary ballot. Our Branch will be sponsoring a forum for the Board of Supervisors candidates in the contested District 2 (Ione) and District 4 (Amador City, Sutter Creek, and greater Pine Grove). At this forum, the candidates are invited to describe their qualifications and answer questions from the moderator.  
(Note: Pat Crew is running unopposed in District 1)

The audience will have the opportunity to submit written questions to be asked by the moderator, but we want to also have a few questions prepared to start off the evening. If you have any questions you would like to make sure get asked, please send them to Sue Harrington asap.

District 2 Candidates:

Dan Epperson  
Jack Mitchell  
Russell Johnston Parker

District 4 Candidates:

Logan J. Carnell  
Susan M. Peters

The program will be held at the American Legion Hall, 11350 American Legion Drive, Sutter Creek

**WE NEED 3 MORE VOLUNTEERS to assist at the Candidates Forum**

The following members have already volunteered:

- \* Sue Harrington, Event Coordinator.
- \* Beth Goodlin-Jones, Moderator.
- \* Greta McElroy, Timer.
- \* Rebecca Wilson, Mel Welsh and Stephanie Young, question sorters/selectors.
- \* Michele Powell, Membership Table.

We need three additional volunteers to distribute and collect question cards to the audience. Please help us that night, and definitely plan to attend!

This program is an excellent example of our mission-based programming. Last year's forum was an interesting event and provided a real service to the community. Please come to the forum and volunteer to assist!

\*\*\*\*\*

**February Program**

***Meet the Authors***

## **Authors and Chocolate, Saturday, February 10 at 2pm**

Mara Feeney and Mike Dunne will be the featured authors at our Authors and Chocolate program this year. They will be discussing their books about our wine country.

**Mara Feeney** was born in Canada. She earned her degrees in Anthropology and Community and Regional Planning, then worked for several years in the Northwest Territories, including at Rankin Inlet. She came to Fiddletown in the 1990s, establishing Damas Vineyard in 1998 with Deborah Grady. She published Rankin Inlet, a novel, in 2009 and Estate Grown: Planting Roots in Fiddletown, a memoir, in 2023.

**Mike Dunne** has written about wine for over 50 years. He was the food editor, restaurant critic, and wine columnist for The Sacramento Bee for over 30 years, retiring in 2008. Last year he published The Signature Wines of Superior California: 50 Wines that Define the Sierra Foothills, the Delta, Yolo, and Lodi.

The program will be held at the Jackson City Hall. Ticket information will be forthcoming.

We will also need several volunteers to help with the event that day.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Giving Tuesday Was a Huge Success!**

# AMADOR GIVING TUESDAY

**Congratulations  
AAUW Amador  
Members. 2023  
Giving Tuesday  
donations  
exceeded our \$5K  
goal and then  
some.  
You raised \$6,503  
ACF match = \$733  
Grand total raised  
for scholarships is  
\$7,236  
Thank You!!!**



— \$7,500  
— **\$7,236 RAISED!**  
— \$6,500  
—  
— \$5,500  
— \$5,000 goal  
— \$4,500  
—  
— \$3,500  
—  
— \$2,500



Giving Tuesday, held on November 28 held at St. Katharine Drexel Catholic Parish in Martell, was an important opportunity to raise funds to send local junior high girls to Tech Trek camp and provide financial support to women pursuing upper-level college courses. Many members commented that this was their first time at the event. We blew past our \$5,000 goal (which was double the 2022 goal) and, on one day, raised \$6,502.53 from members and others! The partial matching amount by the Amador Community Foundation (ACF) of \$733.51 made the grand total **\$7,236.04**.

The branch Leadership Committee is thrilled by this result as it

provides a scholarship funds cushion (without the Home Tour in 2024) and the flexibility to consider awarding more scholarships and/or higher amounts to scholarship applicants. To everyone who donated and participated, you have our sincere appreciation for helping to make this fundraising event fun and successful.

AAUW's table was happily staffed by Kathy Guletz (Scholarship Chair), Terrie Houseman, Julie Taylor, and Heidi Christensen. We were awestruck by your generosity and couldn't have done it without you. Thank you!

All donors should have received a letter from ACF confirming their donation for tax deduction purposes (contact the ACF office if you have not). And, hopefully you opened a thank you e-card sent via American Greetings on behalf of the branch Leadership Committee (check your spam folder in case it fell into it).

With thanks,

*Julie Taylor, Funds Chair*

\*\*\*\*\*

## California Gov Trek Update

A reminder that there will be an Orientation to the 2024 Gov Trek program on Monday, January 8 at 7:00pm via Zoom. Click HERE to register.

Below is a link to all things Gov Trek in California. So far, Amador County has not registered any girls who would like to participate in Gov Trek – there is still time! There are currently 21 girls registered to participate in Gov Trek.

If you are interested in participating as a volunteer, click on the link below to find out more about the level of commitment and become acquainted with what the expectations are for volunteers.

Tomorrow a follow up email to ACUSD teachers and counselors will be sent out with a reminder and additional program details.

Registration deadline for students is January 20 and the program begins February 3, 2024.

<https://www.aauw-ca.org/gov-trek-internal/>

\*\*\*\*\*

## January Calendar

**Tuesday, January 2, 2:00pm**  
**Afternoon Book Club**

We will meet at Mona Brown's house to discuss *The Reading List* by Nisha Adams. Contact Debra Brown if you are interested in joining the group. [debrown6@gmail.com](mailto:debrown6@gmail.com)

**Monday, January 8, 7:00pm on Zoom**  
**Gov Trek Orientation**

See article above for details about signing up for this orientation session.

**Thursday, January 11, 4:00pm**  
**Leadership Committee Meeting via Zoom**

All members are welcome to join us. Email Terrie Houseman for the link. [terrie.houseman@gmail.com](mailto:terrie.houseman@gmail.com)

**Monday, January 15**  
**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

The 2024 MLK Day theme is "Living the Dream: It Starts With Me - Spreading Hope, Courage and Unity"



**Working Girls Bookclub - Thursday, January 18, 5:30**

We are meeting at Saluti's Restaurant, 719 Hwy 49, Jackson. We will review 2 books, "It Ends With Us" and "It Starts With Us" by Colleen Hoover. It is a 2 book series. Contact Jacque Fletcher [fletcherja4545@gmail.com](mailto:fletcherja4545@gmail.com) if you would like to join or have any questions.

**Monday, January 22, 2:00pm  
Page Turners & Book Lovers**

We will meet at JoAnn Chevrette's house to discuss *Rebecca* by Daphne DuMaurier. Contact Sandee Bowman if you are interested in joining the group. [Sbowman56@gmail.com](mailto:Sbowman56@gmail.com)

**Wednesday, January 24, 5:30 pm  
Libations and Conversations**

The location is Lukas Restaurant at 35 Main Street, Jackson (Back Room). Our speaker is Meghan O'Keefe, Executive Director of The Amador County Arts Council. Members, guests and the public are welcome to attend this no fee presentation.

*No need to RSVP, just come and join the discussion.*

**Thursday, January 25, 7:00-9:00pm  
Program: Candidate's Forum**

American Legion Hall  
(See details above)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Membership**

**Celebrating the Holidays**



Janet Kendig, Barb Gurnari, Julie Taylor, Renee Day, Bonnie Krupp

Sandee Bowman, Rebecca Wilson,  
Rita Bohl



A day of Conversation and 49er Football!

Karen Dickerson, Mary Lou Lane, Terrie  
Houseman, Kathy Guletz





Bonnie Krupp, Claire Wait, Kate Kramer  
Ingvolstad, Sue Harrington



Terrie Houseman, Macie Dentone, Kellie  
Garcia



Armen Kendig, Barb Gurnari, Janet Kendig,  
Renee Day

Greg and Rachel Stahl, Julie Taylor, Rose  
Guthridge, Janie Brown, Loretta Porteous



Stephanie Young, William Price, Candace Diamond, Char Arnberg, Michele Powell, Marge Chisolm,  
Deborah Mackay, Janie Brown

\*\*\*\*\*

*Thanks to the members who contributed personal care items at our Holiday Party. They were delivered to Operation Care to share with their clients, victims of domestic violence. Thanks so much for your generosity!*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Walking Group 2024 Kickoff**

For anyone interested in joining our Walking Group, we will kick off 2024 with a walk at Lake Tabeaud in Jackson (same starting point as the Amador County Turkey Trot) on Monday, January 8 at 9:00 a.m.

For the month of January, I am proposing different days of the week and different locations so we can get the feel of what days, walks, times work for the most people. Beginning in February, we will have settled on 2 consistent days of the week on alternating weeks (possibly a weekday and a weekend day).

### **January's schedule:**

Monday, January 8 at 9:00 a.m. – Lake Tabeaud -meet at the parking lot

Saturday, January 14 at 9:00 a.m. – Amador City – meet at the gravel parking lot on the right, entering Amador City from Sutter Creek

Tuesday, January 23 at 9:00 a.m. – Lake Tabeaud, meet at the parking lot

Wednesday, January 31 at 9:00 a.m. – Erickson Ranch, Sutter Creek, meet in the parking area across from the High School

All walks are from 3-5 miles long and the level of difficulty, depending on walking speed, is moderate – we live in Amador County so none of the walks are flat, there will be some up and down hill trails.

Any questions, please call or text (415) 420-5098 or email [sbowman56@gmail.com](mailto:sbowman56@gmail.com)

## **Do You Need a Ride to a Program or Meeting?**

We have some exciting programs 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.

\*\*\*\*\*



### **January Birthdays**

Betty Olson-Jones -- Jan 3

Nancy Fast -- Jan 8

Janie Brown -- Jan 9

Greta McElroy-White -- Jan 18

Teresa Ryan -- Jan 22

\*\*\*\*\*

### **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](mailto:aieleenparker@gmail.com) or 209-217-8120

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Future Member Opportunity:**

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](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Business Cards**

Amador branch business cards for outreach purposes were recently purchased from Gold Web Printing to provide members with a fast and convenient way to give our social media, mailing address, and email contact information to the public, neighbors, friends etc. They were used on the Giving Tuesday table and available at the November Libations and Conversations event. It helps to carry a few in your purse when you are out and about as potential members are hiding in plain sight! If you would like to have a few business cards, contact [Julie Taylor](#).

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Suzanne Nicholson: We Wish You Well!**

A few of our members met at The Copper Room at the Hotel Sutter to say goodbye to Suzanne before she moved to Oregon to be closer to her family.

*Pictured are Sandee Bowman, Alaina Lyons, Keli Garcia, Katie Scott, Rebecca Wilson, Suzanne Nicolson, Renee Day, and Rita Bohl. Photo credit: Stephanie Young*

Bonus: We happened to meet on Trivia Night and our group came in second!



## **Our Branch History**

### **A Look Back at Our Achievements from 2009-2019**

Written by Brenda Walker / Read by Michele Powell

#### PART 6 of 6

CHANGING WITH THE TIMES best represents the fifth decade of AAUW-Amador. In this decade, the digital world in general transformed life as we once knew it to a world of instant communications and perhaps less personal involvement. We begin the decade with the standards of the past, a monthly newsletter, potluck meetings introducing the program plans of the year, our home style holiday parties, an established format for women's health forums, and luncheon or evening informational programs such as our Law Enforcement Panel. We have a website which is being updated. Our standard Educational Foundation luncheons begin to morph as directions from National AAUW change.

Our mission statement was adjusted to read, *"The purpose of AAUW is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research."* And we were encouraged to reach out to other organizations, co-sponsoring events, or personal financial support. Member surveys indicate that mixing day and evening events would be helpful, and speakers with authors, educational or health information topics are encouraged. The Gold Filings are filled with numerous opportunities to volunteer your time helping out in schools, the AARP tax aide program, Friends of the Amador County Library, the Commission on Aging, the Interfaith Food



Bank, Christmas Committee, and numerous other organizations. Evening public panel discussions “Hunger in Amador” and “Resources for a Brighter Future” educated us and the public about a variety of support programs for citizens. “Resources for a Brighter Future” was awarded California State AAUW recognition for mission based programing.

A new program was launched in 2014 titled “Libations and Conversations” as a fun casual way to draw in the community of AAUW members and prospective members to discuss various topics over no-host drinks. No RSVP, just drop in and participate in the conversation. Over the years many interesting topics have been discussed such as “Achieving Equal Pay”, “The Value of Confidence”, “Mid-Life Career Changes”, and “What does it mean to be a Strong Woman.”

Our Tech Trek program continued through the decade with great success. Science Saturday was launched in spring 2016 to bring STEM activities to the school aged community. Our ability to support scholarships and Tech Trek was maintained as concerns arose about revitalizing our Home Tour and while seeking out new fund raising events. Members were encouraged to donate to our Branch or National endeavors as all have tax exempt status.

As the decade ends, so too does the Gold Filings in hard copy form. It then becomes difficult to find the trail of offerings to the organization. A lack of leaders to maintain AAUW-Amador initiated a new leadership structure in 2017. Leadership team members meet four times a year to conduct the business of running the organization, while sub-groups are tasked with supporting the program. As was true for much of AAUW’s history, finding volunteers to fill in as leaders for our various committees has remained difficult. We know the right person for the job is out there, we just have to find them. In most cases, there are always AAUW members ready to support a leader...the leader just doesn’t know that until they step into “leadership shoes.”

\*\*\*\*\*

## From AAUW California

### **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.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **California Enacts Law Prohibiting Book Bans and Curricula Censorship**

Kathi Harper, Chair Public Policy School Board Project

On September 25, 2023, Governor Newsom signed AB 1078 into law, officially preventing school districts from banning books and censoring curriculum based on the materials' depiction of inclusive and diverse perspectives. Specifically, the new law:

- Reaffirms, in the Introduction, that:
  - California supports accurate and inclusive education;
  - the California Constitution guarantees pupils equal protection under the law;
  - California schools have an obligation to combat bias against pupils within their schools;
  - and accurate and inclusive education are essential to ensure the educational success of all pupils
- Requires the Department of Education to develop guidance and public educational materials to ensure that all Californians can access information about educational laws and policies that safeguard the right to an accurate and inclusive curriculum
- Requires all school districts to have sufficient instructional materials for all students that align with approved content standards
- Adds to list of included topics in social scene textbooks: the role and contributions of people of all genders, Latino Americans, LGBTQ+ Americans, and members of other ethnic, cultural, religious and socioeconomic status groups
- Reduces a school district's funding formula allocation if the district does not provide sufficient instructional materials pursuant to these provisions
- Prohibits governing members of school districts from refusing to approve or prohibiting the use of any book or instructional material on the basis that it contains inclusive and diverse perspectives

It is not certain at this point how school districts will respond to the new law. We anticipate that most will comply but suspect there are some that will not.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Arts & Education**

### **A Lasting Legacy Protecting Marine Life The first woman to become Chief Scientist at NOAA**

**Dr. Sylvia Earle's** pioneering research has revolutionized our understanding of marine ecosystems and their vulnerability to human activities. Her accomplishments have elevated her status as a renowned scientist and inspired countless individuals to join the fight for a more sustainable future.

Perhaps the most celebrated ocean researcher of our time, Dr. Earle has spent almost 7,000 hours underwater, written 180 publications, led over 100 ocean expeditions, and holds 22 honorary degrees due to her work in oceanography.

Her extraordinary achievements have been recognized with numerous accolades, including being named Time Magazine's first Hero for the Planet in 1998 and winning the Seattle Aquarium's inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award and the prestigious TED prize.

She serves on the Advisory Circle for Daughters for Earth, a campaign powered by One Earth to mobilize women-led climate action around the world to protect and restore the Earth. ([Learn More](#))

\*\*\*\*\*

## **EVEN MORE Groundbreaking Discoveries by Women Credited to Men**

### Rosalind Franklin: DNA Double Helix

Franklin's X-ray photographs of DNA revealed the molecule's true structure as a double helix, which was a theory denounced by scientists James Watson and Francis Crick at the time. However, since Watson and Crick originally discovered the (single) helix, they ended up receiving a Nobel Prize for their research.

### The ENIAC Programmers: First Electronic Computer

The ENIAC (Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer) was the first computer ever built. In 1946, six women programmed this electronic computer as part of a secret World War II project. Inventor John Mauchly is often the only one who gets credit for its creation, but the programmers are the ones who fully developed the machine.

### Lise Meitner: Nuclear Fission

Lise Meitner discovered the true power of uranium, noting that atomic nuclei split during some reactions. The discovery was credited to her lab partner Otto Hahn, who won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1944.

### Katherine Johnson: Moon Landing Path

You may recognize Johnson's name from the 2017 box-office hit *Hidden Figures*. Before her recognition in the film adaptation, Johnson was nicknamed a "computer" for her intelligence. She discovered the exact path for the Freedom 7 spacecraft to successfully enter space for the first time in 1961 and later for the Apollo 11 mission to land on the moon in 1969. She often went unrecognized by her male colleagues and faced racial discrimination.

### Mary Anderson: Windshield Wipers

Anderson first came up with the idea of windshield wipers while riding in a streetcar in the snow. She tried selling her device to companies after receiving the patent for it in 1903, but all of them rejected her invention. It wasn't until the '50s and '60s when faster automobiles were invented that companies took to the idea. By then, Anderson's patent had expired, and later, inventor Robert Kearns was credited with the idea.

### Nettie Stevens: Sex Chromosomes

Stevens discovered the connection between chromosomes and sex determination. Despite Stevens' breakthrough, her colleague and mentor E.B. Wilson published his papers before her and is often noted for the discovery.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **A.Word.A.Day** with Anu Garg

### **Bechdel test**

PRONUNCIATION: (BEK-duhl test)

MEANING:

*noun*: A test of inclusion and representation of women in a work of fiction.

ETYMOLOGY:

After cartoonist Alison Bechdel (b. 1960), who described the concept in her comic strip *Dykes to Watch Out For* (1985). Earliest documented use of the term "Bechdel test": 2005.

NOTES:

Alison Bechdel attributed the test to her friend Liz Wallace and hence the test is also known as the Bechdel-Wallace test. A work of fiction passes the test if it has:

1. At least two women
2. Who talk to each other
3. About something other than men

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Martin Luther King Jr. Day – January 15, 2024**

Martin Luther King Day is a federal holiday in the United States that honors the civil rights leader and activist, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. It is observed on the third Monday of January each year. It commemorates the birthday of American civil rights leader Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and celebrates his life, achievements and legacy.

King was hugely influential in the American Civil Rights Movement and was the chief spokesperson of non-violent activism in the struggle for the end of racial discrimination under US law. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in 1968. The federal holiday in King's honor was created in 1983, during the presidency of Ronald Reagan, and first observed in January 1986.

In recent years it is increasingly seen to be a 'Day of Service' when Americans are encouraged to volunteer to help others less fortunate than themselves. The 2024 MLK Day theme is "Living the Dream: It Starts With Me - Spreading Hope, Courage and Unity".

\*\*\*\*\*



[aauwamador@gmail.com](mailto:aauwamador@gmail.com)



[amador-ca.aauw.net](http://amador-ca.aauw.net)



[facebook.com/AAUW - Amador](https://facebook.com/AAUW - Amador)



[instagram.com/aauwamador/](https://instagram.com/aauwamador/)



[youtube.com/@aauwamador](https://youtube.com/@aauwamador)



P.O. Box 611, Sutter Creek, CA 95685-0611



AAUW Amador (CA) Branch | PO Box 611, Sutter Creek, CA 95685

[Unsubscribe syoung@calarts.edu](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [aauwamador@gmail.com](mailto:aauwamador@gmail.com) powered by



[Try email marketing for free today!](#)