

Gold Filings



55th Anniversary
AAU
Amador Branch 1969-2024

February 2024

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, everyone!

It's truly exciting to see the many interesting and important events that have been planned for the enjoyment of the community and the Branch this year. It's also gratifying to see many members volunteering to help at these events. A good example is our successful Candidates' Forum on January 25. Thank you to all who

planned and participated in this event to make it a success! It does indeed take a village.

You'll definitely want to attend our Authors & Chocolate program on Saturday, February 10. If you've never heard Mara Feeney and Mike Dunne speak, you're in for a treat. All while enjoying some sweet treats. See details below. I hope to see you there!

Please take a look at the article about Lobby Days below. This year the event will take place on April 2 and 3. It's a wonderful opportunity to meet with legislators to

advocate for legislation to advance AAUW's values. We can meet virtually over Zoom as well as in person at the Capitol. More details will be available in future Gold Filings.

Last, but not least, have a little fun by participating in our "Intentional Typo" contest. Kathy Guletz, Betty Olson-Jones and Janet Kendig correctly identified the "intentional typo" in our last three issues, so they'll receive a \$10 Choc-O-Latte gift card for their eagle-eyed proofreading. Janet found the typo in the Lobby Days article in mid-January. "There" participation should have been "Their" participation.

Here's how the contest works: 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. Good luck!

Hope to see you soon!

Terrie Houseman
Leadership Chair

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Programs

February Program

Meet the Authors

Authors and Chocolate, Saturday, February 10 at 11am *

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 wine and 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. *Estate Grown: Planting Roots in Fiddletown, a Memoir*, was published 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 his book *The Signature Wines of Superior California: 50 Wines that Define the Sierra Foothills, the Delta, Yolo, and Lodi* was published.

This always enjoyable program will be held at the Jackson Civic Center, corner of Hwy 88 & Broadway. Park in the lower lot. Several members have volunteered to help.

Ticketing is through [Eventbrite](#) Tickets are \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members, with proceeds supporting branch operations.

Please reserve your tickets by Wednesday, February 7 so the appropriate amount of food is ordered. And please spread the word! Check your email for a copy of the flyer that you can post or send to friends who might enjoy the event.

* Note time change.

Successful January Programs!

The Candidate's Forum program was held on January 25 at the American Legion Hall and provided a valuable community service. We had all five Supervisor Candidates (for districts 2 & 4) and about 120 attendees. The program was recorded and broadcast on the [KVGC YouTube](#) Channel. If you weren't able to attend, the recording is available there and on the [KVGC Facebook](#) page. Tell your friends and neighbors to view it to learn about each candidate's positions on local issues.

Thanks to the members who planned and ran the event: Sue Harrington, Stephanie Young, Beth Goodlin-Jones, Greta McElroy, Mel Welsh, Rebecca Wilson, Cheri Peterson, Michelle Pechette, Gail Schifsky, Michele Powell, and Julie and Lindsay Taylor. A special thanks to Scout Troop 37 for help in setting up and breaking down the tables & chairs.

And of course our thanks to the candidates who participated: Dan Epperson, Jack Mitchell, and Russell Parker from District 2; Logan Carnell and Susan Peters from District 4.

Reminder: Tuesday, Feb. 20 is the deadline to register to vote in the Primary on March 5. Go to RegisterToVote.ca.gov to check your registration or register or update your data.

For more election details, click [here](#).



Libations and Conversations
at Luka's Restaurant, January 24

An intimate group enjoyed hearing about art programs in Amador County from the Executive Director of Amador Arts, Meghan O'Keefe.

If you are interested in the local arts and culture scene of poetry, music, dance, art, speech, and other events, check out the new Arts Community Calendar

at <https://www.amadorarts.org/calendar-events/>

Field Trip! Save the Date: March 23rd

We are planning a Branch field trip to the Sojourner Truth African Heritage Museum and Marketplace in Sacramento for our March program. Reports from people who have been there say that the museum is very interesting and educational, and the marketplace is great to explore. The Museum is the vision of Shonna McDonalds, a visual artist and community activist. "The Museum's mission is to open minds and change lives through the exploration and celebration of African American history, experiences and culture through art education and outreach."

If you would like more information about the Museum, visit <https://www.sojoartsmuseum.org/>

Look for more information about the field trip (time, carpooling and other details) in future issues of Gold Filings.

Note: The original March program is being rescheduled to May.

Bonnie Krupp, DEI Coordinator and Stephanie Young, Program Committee Chair

Gov Trek Update

There are currently approximately 60 girls registered to participate in Gov Trek, but unfortunately none of them are from Amador County. Greta McElroy and Stephanie Young attended the GovTrek Orientation last week. The program sounds really interesting and provides the participants with challenging experiences that will benefit them in the future, whatever their career ambitions. All members should spread the word about this program to family and neighbors who have high school girls who might be interested next year and beyond.

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

Tech Trek Update

The 2024 Tech Trek interview team is Gretchen Carlson, Amador Branch TT coordinator, Helen Loffland, Samantha Fischer, and Rita Bohl. Amador Branch sent Samantha to Tech Trek in 2011, and she went on to become a junior counselor and staff member at later camps. Samantha recently returned to the county and joined our branch! She is the first past Tech Trekker to be on the interview committee.

February Calendar

February 1 through February 29
Black History Month

Saturday, February 3, 10:00am
Gov Trek Opening Session

Sunday, February 4, 3:00pm
CA Webinar about Black activist Mary Church Terrell
Via Zoom (see article below to register)

Wednesday, February 7, 4:00pm
School Boards: The Battleground for the Education Culture Wars
The webinar provides an informative look at several national policies and practices, including the soon-to-be-announced member civility policy.
Click [HERE](#) to register for the Webinar.

Saturday, February 10, 11:00am
Authors and Chocolate
Enjoy a cup of tea and sweet treats at Jackson Civic Center and hear from local authors Mara Feeney and Mike Dunne who have written books on their wine country experiences. *See article above.*

Saturday, February 10, 2:00pm

Celebration of Life for Gretchen Kingsbury
Creskide Methodist Church, Sutter Creek

Thursday, February 15
Deadline to register for Lobby Days
(See article below for details & a registration link.)

Tuesday, February 20, 5:30pm
The Working Girls Book Group
We will meet at Pho Royal Restaurant, 12240 Industry Blvd, Jackson. This month we will be reading *Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride
Contact Jacque Fletcher fletcherja4545@gmail.com if you would like to join or have any questions.

Wednesday, February 21, 2:00pm
Afternoon Book Group
We will be meeting at Mona Brown's house to discuss *The Hare with Amber Eyes* by Edmund de Wall.
Contact Debra Brown if you would like to join our group debrown6@gmail.com

Thursday, February 22, 5:30 pm
Libations and Conversations
Our speaker is Ann Kraemer, Vine Tender at Yorba Winery. She will be speaking about her history in the wine industry and experience of being a woman viticulturist. The location is Yorba's Tasting Room, 51 Hanford St, Sutter Creek. Members, guests and the public are welcome to attend this no fee presentation. No need to RSVP, just come and join the discussion.

Monday, February 26, noon
Great Decisions Discussion Group
Jackson View Clubhouse
Contact Stephanie Young stephanieyoung856@gmail.com if you would like to join or have any questions

Monday, February 26, 2:00pm
Page Turners & Book Lovers
We will meet at Stephanie Young's house to discuss *The Book of Lost Names* by Kristen Harmell
Contact Sandee Bowman if you are interested in joining the group. Sbowman56@gmail.com

Save the Date!
Jackson Cinema will present the **Women's Adventure Film Tour 2024** on Women's History Day, March 8 at 7:15 pm. This will be a great evening of films made by and about women. Find the flyer [HERE](#) on Nextdoor.

DEI--Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

The Gender Pay Gap and the Not-So-Golden Years

(Edited from “Women and Retirement” at AAUW.org)

Did you know?

- Women are more likely than men to be poor in their later years: In 2018, 62% of Americans over age 65 living below the poverty line were women.
- Women have only 70% of the overall retirement income that men have.

Women encounter a pay gap at every stage of life, but nowhere is it more pronounced than during the retirement years. On all three components of the “three-legged stool” of retirement security — Social Security, pension, and savings — women fall short. As a result, they have 70% of the income that men have during retirement.

In 2018, 11% of women over age 65 lived in poverty, compared to 8% of men. And even those who aren’t impoverished struggle to get by on meager incomes: While white men over 65 have an average annual income of \$44,200, Black women in that age group have only \$21,900, Latinas have \$14,800, and white women have an average annual income of \$23,100.

That’s because, over the course of a lifetime, the gender pay gap causes women to lose out on hundreds of thousands of dollars in earnings, making it difficult for them to accumulate savings. What’s more, because women, who make up nearly half the U.S. workforce, and two-thirds of women are their family’s primary or co-breadwinner, are more likely to work part-time, or to move in and out of the workforce as they juggle caregiving responsibilities, they are less able to save for retirement and less likely to have access to an employer-sponsored retirement plan. Lower wages — coupled with time away from work — results in lower Social Security benefits.

At the same time, women typically live longer than men, meaning they will face higher costs in retirement, both in terms of daily living expenses and health-care costs. And women are more likely to rely on Social Security to meet those expenses: Social Security accounts for 47% of total income for unmarried women, including widows, compared to 34% of total income for unmarried men. 46% of unmarried women over 65 receiving benefits rely on Social Security for nearly all (90% or more) of their income.

American women deserve a secure retirement, no matter what career choices they made during their lifetime. To ensure that, we need laws and policies that will strengthen retirement programs, including protecting Social Security, improving pension benefits, and ensuring women receive fair pay throughout their careers to bolster their savings. Gender equity is a lifelong proposition!

NOTE: This could be an interesting topic for discussion during AAUW CA Lobby Days, April 2 and 3, 2024.

Bonnie Krupp, DEI Coordinator

Membership



February Birthdays

2/04 -- Marilou Lane
2/18 -- Deb Bergman-Donnell
2/19 -- Sherry Lukens
2/22 -- Cheri Peterson
2/26 -- Francine Pogue

For all new members who joined throughout the last half of 2023:
We want to highlight you so we can get to know you better.
Expect an email asking for details.

Walking Group February Schedule:

Our Group succeeded in dodging the raindrops during January! We have beautiful photos and some ideas for new walking trails. We will face the same weather challenges in February and that's how it goes for walking during the winter months.

Thursday, Feb 8th at 9:00 a.m. – Meet at Gretchen Carlson's for a walk and, if you can, some tea and cookies (I'll bring them). Address 410 Sargent Street. **Please RSVP for this one so we can provide parking instructions.**

Monday, Feb 12th at 9:00 a.m. – Amador City – meet at the gravel parking lot on the right, entering Amador City from Sutter Creek

Saturday, February 17 at 11:00 a.m. – Erickson Ranch, Sutter Creek, meet in the parking area across from the High School

Tuesday, Feb 20 at 9:00 a.m. – Lake Tabeaud in Jackson (same starting point as the Amador County Turkey Trot). Parking lot by the restrooms

Friday, Feb 23rd at 9:00 a.m. – Amador City - - meet at the gravel parking lot on the right, entering Amador City from Sutter

Saturday, March 2 – location TBD

It makes sense to continue to vary the days of the week so that we have options for everyone, regardless if we are working or just plain busy with life. This month we scheduled a weekend walk for later in the morning. We will continue to flex our schedule, allowing for changes in the weather and members' schedules.

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 uphill and downhill trails.

Any questions? Please call or text (415) 420-5098 or email sbowman56@gmail.com

From California AAUW

Learn about a Woman Who Changed the Face of AAUW!

Join us via Zoom on Sunday, February 4th, at 3 pm to hear about Black activist Mary Church Terrell, her work for women's suffrage and racial equality, and her role in the integration of AAUW. A co-founder of the NAACP, Terrell became the first Black member of AAUW after winning an anti-discrimination lawsuit. We will hear from Dr. Alison Parker, author of *Unceasing Militant: The Life of Mary Church Terrell*, as she recounts stories and major successes in the life of this extraordinary woman. Don't miss this unique opportunity to hear firsthand about this little-known activist and her unusual history with AAUW. Register [HERE](#).

from Charmen Goehring, Director, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, AAUW California, diversity@aauw-ca.org

Time to sign up for Lobby Days

LOBBY DAYS 2024 -- Tuesday and Wednesday, April 2 & 3

AAUW California's Public Policy committee is evaluating new bills for the 2024 Legislative agenda, with the goal of selecting 30 bills that reflect the AAUW mission and public policy priorities, and three bills for which we will directly advocate.

Lobby Days, when members meet with elected represents to gain their support, will be **April 2-3**. For the first time since the pandemic, our branch will organize a delegation for virtual meetings with Assemblywoman Megan Dahle and State Senator Marie Alvrado-Gil or their staffs. If you're interested, **the registration deadline is Feb. 15**.

A mandatory training webinar will be held from 7-9 pm March 25.

Registration is now open. Apply [HERE](#). When you register, select "virtual" and Tuesday as preferred method and time for our lobbying effort. We will be arranging a "watch party" for a group Zoom with our elected officials.

Training materials on the bills and event will be posted on the state website mid-March.

The Two Minute Activist

If Lobby Day seems daunting, you can still make your opinions heard. Become a Two-minute activist. Send emails and texts to your legislators to fight for equal pay, family leave, stopping sexual harassment, equality in education and more.

Sign up to get regular alerts to be able to take timely action. You provide the voice, AAUW will provide the megaphone. [Sign Up to be a Two Minute Activist](#)

School Boards: The Battleground for the Education Culture Wars Wednesday, February 7, 2024, 4:00 PM PST

Please join us for the AAUW National Inclusion & Equity Committee webinar on inclusion policies and practices. The webinar is designed to aid local branches and

states as they explore various national policies and bylaws of AAUW national, featuring the resources available in AAUW's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Toolkit. The webinar provides an informative look at several national policies and practices, including the soon-to-be-announced member civility policy. Please join us! Click [HERE](#) to register for the Webinar.

From AAUW National

National Vote Coming

The conversation is afoot about whether to open membership to everyone, regardless of their degree status. Many members question our requirement of an AA degree to join AAUW, while others prefer to maintain the status quo. We have met people who are supportive of our mission---- *"To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy"* and yet they lack the qualifications to be members. AAUW National is proposing bylaw changes and one of the changes is to open up membership.

There were two major changes proposed and adopted in our recent history: letting men join and then substituting the AA requirement instead of the full degree. Arguments were that if men joined they would take over the organization—well that certainly didn't happen! And then the discussion centered around the issue of full degree and that by keeping it we set higher standards which encouraged women to pursue their education. This organization is losing members and needs to find ways to increase its membership. Now is the time to start this discussion as voting opens April 3 and the online voting ends May 15.

Occupational Segregation Continues

New data released in December from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2022 American Community Study (ACS) illustrates two distressing trends: 1) Higher education is not enough to solve the gender pay gap and 2) occupations dominated by men usually pay better than female-dominated fields, even when those jobs require the same level of education and skill. This new data is consistent with previous AAUW research documenting occupational segregation and its impact on women of color.

Despite women's educational gains over the past several decades, men with a bachelor's degree or higher continue to earn more than women with the same education in all fields. For example, in electrical engineering, women earn 85 percent of what men were paid (\$123,800 vs. \$105,200).

Additionally, the data demonstrates that degrees with a higher share (at least 60%) of women had relatively lower earnings than those with higher share of men. In 2022, women held 90 percent of elementary education degrees and were still paid 84 percent of what men were paid, working in the same field with the same education (\$54,070 vs. \$64,380).

AAUW is addressing many of the causes of these inequities, including fighting to expand paid leave, access to affordable childcare, and elder care. In addition, AAUW works directly to end occupational segregation through programs like STEMed for Girls, our free online program to inform and inspire girls in grades 9-12 who are interested in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields. Our grants and fellowships, including career development grants and selected professions fellowships, are also used, in part, to reduce the impact of caregiving responsibilities for women seeking degrees and make higher education and career opportunities more accessible to women.

Excerpted from the AAUW Action Fund Newsletter

Arts & Education

Welcome to Black History Month.

Did you know?

- The NAACP was founded on February 12, 1909, the centennial anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln.
- In the decades that followed, mayors of cities across the country began issuing yearly proclamations recognizing "Negro History Week." By the late 1960s, thanks in part to the civil rights movement and a growing awareness of Black identity, "Negro History Week" had evolved into Black History Month on many college campuses.
- President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month in 1976, calling upon the public to "seize the opportunity to honor the too- often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history." Today, Black History Month is a time to honor the contributions and legacy of African Americans across U.S. history and society—from activists and civil rights pioneers such as Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Marcus Garvey, Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X and Rosa Parks to leaders in industry, politics, science, culture and more.

Black History Month 2024 Theme

Since the mid-1970s, U.S. presidents have issued proclamations supporting the Association for the Study of African American Life and History's themes to celebrate African Americans' many achievements, culture and history. The 2024 theme is "African Americans and the Arts" spanning the many impacts Black Americans have had on visual arts, music, cultural movements, and more.

(Courtesy of: Natural History Museum of African American History and Culture)

Malcolm X was way ahead of his time

February 21 marks the 60th anniversary of the assassination of Malcolm X, arguably the greatest U.S. leader of any color in the 20th century. He was 39 when he died on

Feb. 21, 1965, the same age as Martin Luther King Jr. when he was assassinated in 1968. Without reaching 40, these two leaders seem to have lived a thousand years.

Malcolm X was way ahead of his time. He redefined the freedom movement as one of human, not just civil, rights. He carried the U.S. struggle against racism into the global arena, linking it to the anti-colonial movements of Black people in Africa, and of people of color around the world. As a Nation of Islam minister, he advocated Black pride, Black power and the rejection of white standards of beauty as soon as the early 1950s. His charismatic leadership enlarged the Nation of Islam from 400 members to 40,000 by 1960.

He was born Malcolm Little and spent much of his youth in Lansing and Detroit, Michigan. After dropping out of school, he moved to Boston, where he became a small-time criminal and street hustler. He sold weed, ran numbers, stole money and worked with pimps. In 1946, at the age of 21, Malcolm was imprisoned for six years for burglary. In prison, he absorbed the teachings of Elijah Muhammad. Stressing self-discipline, self-determination and self-sufficiency, the Nation of Islam had cleaned up addicts and alcoholics. A light went on in Malcolm's head. He gave up pork and cigarettes and felt remorse and guilt for his past.

Brilliant and analytical, Malcolm wasn't afraid to acknowledge error. He separated from the Nation of Islam in 1964. During a pilgrimage to Mecca, he was moved by the racial unity he witnessed among orthodox Muslims. In June 1964, he founded the Organization of Afro-American Unity.

He remained a Black nationalist, asserting African Americans must control their institutions and economies to gain equality. But he altered his views of whites and race relations, affirming that whites and Blacks were all part of the human family.

Closing the wage gap for Black women is investment, not charity

BY LIZ GRANDERSON, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Dawn Staley has never been shy about talking stats. As a Hall of Fame WNBA player and coach, her numbers are a point of pride. But the figures she is bringing up these days are not – and she thinks we all need to hear them.

Among Black women, 40% have annual household incomes of less than \$50,000. For Americans overall, the number is just 24%. Only 43% of Black women have health insurance, compared with 53% of Americans overall. And although 56% of workers have paid sick leave, only 50% of Black female workers do.

Watching Staley grow from athlete to coach to change agent has been one of the best stories in sports. Never one to run from a fight, Staley said she brings the same assertive energy from her upbringing in the projects of North Philly everywhere she goes. Whenever there's an underdog, she's ready to fight.

That led her to partner with the One Million Black Women project. Its goal with that \$10 billion commitment is to make a course correction in the American economy and society, for the benefit of everyone. The organization's data found that reducing the wage gap faced by Black women could increase the nation's gross domestic product

by nearly half a billion dollars and create up to 1.7 million jobs. In other words: It's not charity; it's an investment.

"I really don't know how women do it with kids," Staley said, noting the cost of child care in addition to lower-than-average wages. "We need to change that." Indeed. Employers need to take a hard look at compensation and eliminate racial and gender disparities. Government support for child care is probably also part of the solution, along with other policy changes to support families.

For Staley, change starts with helping Americans understand the scope of this problem. "We have to shed light on this," she said. "It's our job to help this movement."

Screening of *Who We Are: A Chronicle of Racism in America*
Sunday, February 18, 2024 -- 2:00 - 4:00 PM

(from the Hayward Branch)

Castro Valley Library
3600 Norbridge Ave., Castro Valley, CA

Interweaving lecture, personal anecdotes, interviews, and revelations, criminal defense and civil rights lawyer Jeffery Robinson draws a stark timeline of anti-black racism in the United States, from slavery to the modern myth of a post-racial America.
Running time: 2 hours.

No registration required.



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