

Gold Filings



55th Anniversary
AAU
Amador Branch 1969-2024

April 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!

We're emerging from the quietest part of the year, but rest assured, there's always something happening at our busy Amador branch. Below are a few of the many events we've planned or are planning for the future.

Mel Welsh is leading our initiative to encourage Amador high school students to register to vote. If you care about the future of our country, please

volunteer to "get out the vote." As the saying goes, it takes a village. We need You!

Gov Trek participants recently completed their campaign videos and the results were truly amazing. Take a peek at the speeches and prepare to be impressed. These girls are definitely going places in the future.

Speaking of going places, Gretchen Carlson and her Tech Trek team have chosen three candidates and at least one alternate for this summer's Tech Trek camp. As you know, there is a persistent gender gap that exists in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields. According to a 2023 study conducted by MIT, women currently make up only 24% of the STEM workforce in the United States. Our Tech

Trek program is working to increase that percentage of women in STEM fields. You Go Girls!

Last, but not least, have a little fun by participating in our “Intentional Typo” contest. Kathy Guletz, Betty Olson-Jones, Janet Kendig, Terri Works and Zeffy Ruvalcaba have contributed their eagle-eyed proofreading skills to win a \$10 Choc-O-Latte gift card. Congratulations!

Here’s how it works: The first person who finds and reports the **ONE** “intentional typo” in this issue, will receive a \$10 Choc-O-Latte gift card. 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. Good luck!

Cheers,
Terrie Houseman
Leadership Chair

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Recap of March Programs

Women's Adventure Film Series -- March 8

We celebrated International Women's Day by viewing this film, series We hope other members were able to see the other two scheduled viewings on March 13 & 20.

Sojourner Truth Museum -- March 23

A group of branch members went on a fun and educational excursion to the Sojourner Truth Museum in Sacramento. The museum is a gem, the vision of Shonna McDonalds who has spent 30 years collecting and creating exhibits exploring African American history. The museum is also a center of learning with many children involved in tours and art workshops. If you missed the field trip but find yourself in Sacramento with a couple of hours to spare, a trip to the museum is highly recommended. Find more information about the museum and its programs at www.sojoartsmuseum.org.



Members standing in front of a quilt featuring Sojourner Truth (L to r):
Bonnie Krupp, Rebecca Wilson, Michele Powell, Debra Brown, Brenda Walker, Sue Harrington and Stephanie Young.

Libations & Conversations, March 21

Yorba Tasting Room in Sutter Creek

On March 21 we heard from two staff members from CASA. It was a moving and interesting talk and deserves our attention. There are currently 17 children on the waiting list who need advocates, mostly teenagers. CASA desperately needs volunteers to support these children.

CASA. Court Appointed Special Advocates, are the voice for youth in foster care. Their mission is to exclusively recruit, train and support volunteers who become a stable and constant presence for youth of all ages who have experienced trauma, abuse and/or neglect whose case is going through court.

CASA volunteers are ordinary people with giving hearts and helping hands who support, mentor and nurture children who have nowhere, and no one to turn to.

CASA volunteers speak up for children in foster care as they navigate the child welfare system to make sure their voices are heard. A CASA volunteer's main goal is to make sure the child's best interests are front and center of every decision.

Please consider volunteering for this program.



Members Pictured: A'laina Lyons, Zeffy Ruvalcaba, Katie Scott and Sandee Bowman. There but not pictured: Jacque Fletcher, Loretta Porteus, Kathleen Jones and Stephanie Young.



March L&C Speakers and Host: CASA staff member Fara Roberts, Yorba's Tasting Room Host Annie, and CASA Outreach Coordinator Amber Susich.

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April Calendar

Tuesday, April 2
Lobby Days

Four members will meet at the Jackson View Clubhouse to Zoom with two of our legislators.

Wednesday, April 3
AAUW National Voting begins

Wednesday, April 3
Equal Pay Day for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander women

Monday, April 8, 2:00pm
Afternoon Book Group

We are meeting at Hope Nelson's house to discuss *The Art Thief* by Michale Finked.
Contact Debra Brown if you would like to join our group debrown6@gmail.com

Thursday, April 11, 5:30pm
The Working Girls Book Group

The Working Girls Books Club is meeting at El Torrero in Martell. This month we will be reading *The Perfume Collector* by Kathleen Tessaro.
Contact Jacque Fletcher fletcherja4545@gmail.com if you would like to join or have any questions.

Wednesday, April 17
Get Out the Vote Event

(see article under "Save the Dates" below)

Monday, April 22
Earth Day

The theme for Earth Day 2024, "Uniting for Our One Shared Home," emphasizes the interconnectedness of all inhabitants of Earth and the shared responsibility to protect our natural world.

Monday, April 22, noon
Great Decisions Discussion Group

Topic: *Risky Energy Across Borders*
Jackson View Clubhouse
Contact Stephanie Young stephanieyoung856@gmail.com if you would like to join or have any questions

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

We will meet at Michele Powell's house to discuss *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride
Contact Sandee Bowman if you are interested in joining the group. Sbowman56@gmail.com

Tuesday, April 23 5:30pm
Libations and Conversations
Bella Grace Winery in Sutter Creek

We plan to showcase our members and their small businesses in our area. We have several members who are kicking off new businesses and others who have new and interesting features and offerings they would like to share. PLEASE reach out to Katie Scott (510) 209-9226 or Jacque Fletcher (209)606-1157 if you have local business information you want to share with this group. Once we know how many folks will be sharing, we can be sure to allocate time appropriately.

Members, guests and the public are welcome to attend this no fee presentation.
No need to RSVP, just come and join the discussion.

Saturday, April 27, 9:00am - noon
2024 AAUW California Annual Event (aka AAUW CA State Convention)
via Zoom--Link will be forthcoming

Save the Dates

"Get out the Vote" Events

Mel Welsh is leading an initiative to encourage high school students to register to vote. To that end, she has arranged 3 dates this spring for "Get Out the Vote" events on the high school campuses during their lunch hour. The dates are April 17, May 8 and May 30.

WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS. If you are interested, please contact Mel at melnbob@volcano.net.

DEI- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

From The Unite Against Book Bans team:

We're excited to announce that Unite Against Book Bans, in collaboration with the publishing community, just launched Book Résumés, a free resource to support librarians, educators, parents, students, and other community advocates in their efforts to keep frequently challenged books on shelves.

Created in partnership with dozens of publishers and featuring information provided by publishers, librarians, and our partner School Library Journal, Unite Against Book Bans book résumés are on easy-to-print documents designed to support readers' access to books that are targeted by censors.

Each book résumé summarizes the book's significance and educational value, including a synopsis, reviews from professional journals, awards, accolades, and more. Where possible, the book résumés also include information about how a title has been successfully retained in school districts and libraries after a demand for removal. The downloadable PDF format allows easy print or electronic sharing with administrators, book review committees, board meeting attendees, and the general public.

We will continue working with our publishing partners to regularly expand and update the collection, particularly in advance of National Library Week (April 7–13). In the meantime, please help us spread the word on social media ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#)) and by sharing the [Book Resumes](#) site with your community. Thank you for your support!

Continuing the Exploration of Holidays,

This month's celebration is the Jewish holiday of Passover.

What is Passover all about?

Passover starts the evening of Monday, April 22, 2024, and goes until the evening of Tuesday, April 30, 2024. This corresponds to the 15th through 22nd of the Hebrew month Nisan.

Passover celebrates the Jewish people's miraculous exodus from Egypt as told in the Biblical book of Exodus. Its name comes from the story of the tenth plague (the death of the firstborn), which passed over the Israelites' houses, sparing their children.

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks explained the rationale of Passover this way: "The journey from slavery to freedom is one we need to travel in every generation. So we were commanded to gather our families together every year at this time and tell the story of what it was like to be a slave and what it felt like to go free."

The Passover story is told and even reenacted at the seder, the traditional Passover dinner. With its central theme of redemption, Passover is a time for Jews to connect with their own history.

"Chag Pesach sameach" (Happy Passover)

Edited from "How to Celebrate Passover", by Sara Himeles (Jewishunpacked.com)

Bonnie Krupp, DEI Coordinator

[More Women's History](#)

April in Women's History

In 1939, DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, DC cancelled Marian Anderson's performance on the grounds of her race. When word got out, the people of DC were outraged. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt took action. First she resigned from the DAR and with Department of the Interior Director Harold L. Ickes, along with the NAACP, took the necessary steps to allow Anderson to perform at the Lincoln Memorial.

On Sunday, April 9, 1939 Marian Anderson performed to an integrated crowd of 75,000 from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. Millions of listeners tuned in to hear the performance as well. This was a landmark moment in the history of civil rights on the Mall. Click [HERE](#) for a brief video of this occasion.

Did you Know?

Charlotta Spears Bass (1874-1969) was an educator, editor, and civil rights activist. She published the California Eagle newspaper from 1912 until 1951. Bass advocated for voting rights and fought against discrimination and police brutality. She also ran a campaign that spread nationally: "Don't Buy Where You Can't Work." In 1952, Bass became the first African-American woman nominated for Vice President (by the Progressive Party).

Ethel Percy Andrus (1884-1967) was a volunteer for The Retired Teachers Association. She learned that many ex-teachers were living in poverty without health insurance. Dr. Andrus developed an affordable group health insurance policy for retired teachers. Then, in 1958, she established the AARP, an organization with more than 38 million members today.

From the Women's History Alliance

SUFFS, a Remarkable World Premiere Musical

A musical event one hundred years in the making, SUFFS brings to life a complicated chapter in the ongoing battle for the right to vote: the American women's suffrage movement. Written by and featuring one of the most exciting new voices in theater, Shaina Taub, this epic new musical takes an unflinching look at these unsung trailblazers. In the seven years leading up to the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920, an impassioned group of suffragists—"Suffs" as they called themselves—took to the streets, pioneering protest tactics that transformed the country. They risked their lives as they clashed with the president, the public, and each other. A thrilling story of brilliant, flawed women working against and across generational, racial, and class divides, SUFFS boldly explores the victories and failures of a fight for equality that is still far from over.

Appearing at the Public Theater in NYC. Sold out through May 29.

A Bit of Wisdom from Shirley Chisholm:

"If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair."

Membership

Be as Active as You Can, but Stay a Member



March Birthdays

- 4/01 - Andrea Sexton
- 4/11 - Renee Day
- 4/15 - Floy Goulart (100 years old!)
- 4/16 - Jacque Fletcher
- 4/17 - Kelli Garcia
- 4/22 - Anna Jones Williams

Walking Group: Marching Into Spring

- Saturday, April 6th - 2:00pm, Amador City
- Tuesday, April 16th - 9:00am, Lake Tabaud
- Saturday, April 20 - 8:30am, Mother Lode Earth Day Celebration - Erickson Ranch
- Tuesday, April 30 - 9:00am. Amador City

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

Announcements:

Cheri Peterson has been named Camp Nurse for the Monterey Tech Trek camp this summer. She'll get to spend a week in Monterey in July!

Deborah Yates has developed a Website Request Form which can be found on our branch website. You will find it under *Members Only*, then *Forms*. If you want to have Deborah post something on our website, please submit this form.

If you want to submit a **Gold Filings** article, please send the info to Stephanie by the 10th or the 25th of the month.

From California AAUW

AAUW PRIORITIES

The AAUW California website has a tremendous amount of information regarding the 2023- 25 gender equity through advocacy platform. There are four areas of interest that are priorities for change.

- Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society
- Equal Access to Quality Public Education for All Students
- Increased Representation of Women in Leadership Roles
- Economic Security for All Women

GOV TREK Final Project Presentations

Watch the Gov Trek Finale and Campaign Competition recording and share it with your branch members [HERE](#).

To just view each individual campaign video, click the team name.

- ✓ Grand Prize: [Vote Eliana](#)
- ✓ Best Candidate Speech: [Gov Trek Girlies](#)
- ✓ Best Campaign Management: [Melissa 4 Riverside](#)
- ✓ Best Campaign Ad & Flier: [Abby for Senate](#)
- ✓ Best Voter Outreach Plan: [Vote Delisha](#)
- ✓ People's Choice Award: Gov Trek Girlies

From AAUW National

National Vote Coming in April

Our membership requirement has changed many times in our history, in search of the realization of our mission to support equity for everyone!

- At first, only women receiving select Masters or more advanced degrees from select American universities were eligible.
- We raised money for Marie Curie's lab but could not have her as a member because her international university was not on our approved list.
- Eleanor Roosevelt had to be made an honorary member because she never attended college.
- We helped fund 150 women to flee Europe during World War II, working with Albert Einstein, who could not be a member!
- Before 1949, branches could exclude people of color and Jews. That year, we changed our bylaws to outlaw racial and religious discrimination.
- In 1961, those with bachelors degrees were allowed to join.
- In 1963, historically black colleges (HBCUs) were added to our approved list of colleges eligible for membership.
- In 1987, men were allowed to join.
- In 2005, we dropped the requirement for a four-year degree, allowing those with a two year associate degree to join.
- In 2009 we worked with Lily Ledbetter on the Fair Pay Act, but she couldn't join because she had no degree!

In short, we have amended our membership criteria steadily over the decades to open up to more and more people. In 2021, 63% of our members voted yes to drop the degree requirement, but a 67.7% majority was needed. Maybe this year will be the change necessary to finally promote Equity for All!!

Remember to vote! Watch for the election email. Voting opens April 3 and the online voting ends May 15.

We do love a good acronym, LOL.

So, ICYMI because you were perhaps daydreaming about Greek statuary or the periodic table, we suggest you watch the [recording](#) of our first-rate webinar, *Mary Church Terrell and the Fight to Integrate AAUW*. You'll be glued to the presentation by the biographer of this trailblazing Black woman who co-founded the NAACP (more acronyms!) and supported a winning anti-discrimination lawsuit against AAUW (oh dear, another acronym).

BTW, ICYMI stands for In Case You Missed It. And now you never will again.

Our Local Partners

Friends of the Library Book Sale

Friday April 12, 4:00pm to 7:00pm (*this is members only but anyone can join at the door*)

Saturday April 13, 10:00am to 4:00pm
Sunday April 14, 11:00am to 3:00pm (*Everything is 1/2 price all day*)

Earth Day Celebration

April 20, 11:00 - 4:00pm, Feeney Park, Murphys

Arts & Education

No box to check: When the census doesn't reflect you

Egyptian, Iranian, Lebanese, Amazigh, Arab, American. These are just a handful of ways that thousands of people who responded to a New York Times callout described themselves. The answers were as diverse as the group of individuals behind them. People with roots in the Middle East and North Africa, often abbreviated as MENA, represent a multitude of cultures, religions and languages. And they all have different viewpoints about how they fit into the American mosaic.

Accounting for MENA identity in the United States has become particularly relevant this year. The 2024 presidential election could hinge on a handful of swing states such as Michigan, where Arab American voters turned out decisively for President Joe Biden in 2020. But Biden has faced mounting frustration from Arab Americans and others within his party for his support for Israel in the war in the Gaza Strip.

Although people of MENA heritage are by no means monolithic, they do share one common experience in the United States. On official forms, most don't see themselves represented among the check boxes for race or ethnicity. With few good options, many end up being counted as "white."

A decades-old federal guideline defines "white" as anyone with origins in Europe, North Africa or the Middle East. In the 2020 census, "Lebanese" and "Egyptian" were offered as examples for the "white" box on the race question. The other categories included "Black or African American," "American Indian or Alaska Native," "Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander," a variety of Asian ancestries and "some other race." The Census Bureau recently announced that 3.5 million people listed a MENA origin in the 2020 decennial census, but the numbers included only those who first identified as white.

Six Exceptional Schools

From Assemblywoman Megan Dahle's newsletter

Six exceptional schools in our 1st Assembly District have been recognized among California's top elementary and secondary schools in the 2024 Distinguished Schools Program:

- **Jackson Junior High (Amador County Unified, Amador County)**
YAY!
- Diamond View Middle (Susanville Elementary, Lassen County)

- William & Marian Ghidotti High (Nevada Joint Union High, Nevada County)
- Central Valley High (Gateway Unified, Shasta County)
- Enterprise High (Shasta Union High District, Shasta County)
- University Preparatory School (Shasta Union High District, Shasta County)

These schools have been singled out for their exceptional commitment to student success, innovation, and community support. Their dedication to excellence is an example of the educational standards we uphold in our district. Their achievements underscore the importance of investing in education and providing our students with the resources they need to thrive.

Congratulations to **Jackson Junior High . . .**

Word of the Day (April 1): gegg

from Wordsmith.org

PRONUNCIATION: (geg)

MEANING:

verb tr., intr.: To play a hoax or practical joke. *Happy April Fool's Day!*

noun: A trick or practical joke.

ETYMOLOGY:

Of Scottish origin. Earliest documented use: verb: 1826, noun: 1855.

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