

Gold Filings



55th Anniversary
AAUW
Amador Branch 1969-2024

May 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!

The Strategic Planning Committee is busy preparing a new strategic plan for 2024-2026. Please take a few moments in the next few days to think about what you'd like to see our branch accomplish in the next few years. We've created three focus groups: Programming, Membership and Fundraising. Stephanie, Sandee and I will be calling to invite you to participate in the planning for our healthy future. All you

need to do is take a look at what we're proposing for our future goals and let us know what you think. We'd also like to hear your ideas for making this group reflect your interests. It's that simple! Please join us to make a difference in how our branch moves forward. Your ideas are important!

This spring, we will again vote on a bylaws amendment to eliminate the degree requirement for AAUW membership. The state board recently voted to support the move because they believe it will help AAUW become the inclusive organization that many of us strive to see. Our branch could join the effort to set AAUW up for success in the coming years. Please vote by May 15th.

I recently went to Indianapolis to view the total solar eclipse on April 8th. The eclipse was FABULOUS, but so was the program that the Indianapolis Speedway, Purdue University and NASA produced while we were waiting for the eclipse. Also, take a look at the pictures my husband took of the eclipse.

Last, but not least, have a little fun by participating in our "Intentional Typo" contest. Kathy Guletz, Betty Olson-Jones, Janet Kendig, Terri Works, Zeffy Ruvalcaba and Julie Taylor correctly identified the "intentional typo" in our last few issues, so they received a \$10 Choc-O-Latte gift card for their eagle-eyed proofreading.

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! Enjoy the beautiful spring weather and have fun!

Cheers,
Terrie Houseman
Leadership Chair

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Recap of April Programs

Libations & Conversations, April 23 at Bella Grace Winery



Katie Scott, Co-Chair of Libations & Conversations



Pictured: Lisa's mother, Speaker Lisa Lucky, Speaker Toby Salk and Jacque Fletcher, Co-Chair of Libations & Conversations

Program Details:

Several of our members as well as a few guests made short presentations about their businesses and the services they provide:

This fall, A'Laina Lyons and her husband are opening "Foothill Kitchen," a specialty food market and shared commercial kitchen. Based in Amador city, Foothill Kitchen will feature fresh, locally sourced and made food, baked goods, fresh produce and hand crafted food to go. You can follow their progress on instagram @ [foothill_kitchen](#).

Loretta Porteous made a presentation about her long-time business "Motherlode Monuments." She and her husband have provided most of the headstones in the county for decades.

Kelli Garcia, spoke about new testing procedures at her Optometry clinic, Amador Eye Care, located in Sutter Creek. website: amadoreyecare.com

Sandee Bowman has started a new business with her daughter, Katie. "Kasanna Walks" offers all-inclusive, multi-day, walking experiences for women throughout

California and ultimately, the world. She is also providing short free Community Walks in Amador County twice a month. www.kasannawalks.com and on FaceBook.

Lisa Lucke of "Lucke Writing and Editing Services" provides writing, editing and marketing services. She also works with web developers on general website content and writes two blogs--"The Surreal Housewife" and "Amador Food & Review Blog". View her website [HERE](#).

Toby Salk (new member) teaches Mahongg through monthly classes and at special events. Her website: www.mahjonggforeveryone.com

Katie & Jacque have done a wonderful job over the past few years bringing great speakers to Libations and Conversations, and we have recruited many new members through these events!

They are always looking for new ideas about speakers or topics to feature. Please help!

*

May Calendar

Thursday, May 2, 4:00-6:00pm

Leadership Committee Meeting via Zoom

All members are invited to attend. If you wish to be included, please contact [Terrie Houseman](#).

Wednesday, May 8

Get Out the Vote Event--Argonaut High School

(several members will help students register to vote)

Monday, May 13, 2:00-4:00pm

Afternoon Book Group

We are meeting at Stephanie Young's house to discuss *Rebecca* by Daphne DuMaurier

Contact Debra Brown if you would like to join our group debrown6@gmail.com

Wednesday, May 15

AAUW National Voting ends

Wednesday, May 15, 5:30pm

The Working Girls Book Group

This month we will be reading *The Heiress* by Rachel Hawkins. Meeting place TBD.

Contact Jacque Fletcher fletcherja4545@gmail.com if you would like to join or have any questions.

Thursday, May 23 5:30pm

Libations and Conversations

Our speaker is Sandy Schwing of Geek Travel Group . Sandy will be speaking about how she created and built her company, where they have traveled and how they choose the places and fun stories that occurred on the trips. Site still TBD.

Members, guests and the public are welcome to attend this no fee presentation.

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

Monday, May 27, 12:00-1:30pm
Great Decisions Discussion Group

Topic: *US/China Trade Rivalry*
Jackson View Clubhouse

Contact Stephanie Young stephanieyoung856@gmail.com if you would like to join or have any questions

Monday, May 27, 2:00-4:00pm
Page Turners & Book Lovers

We will meet at Sue Harrington's house to discuss *The Reading List* by Sara Nisha Adams

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

Thursday, May 30

Get Out the Vote Event--Amador High School

(several members will help students register to vote)

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 three 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**.

Pictured: The first event at Independence HS.

If you are interested in participating, now or in the fall, please contact Mel Welsh at melnbob@volcano.net

Who Can Tell Us What We Can

Read?

We are in the process of pulling together a program on Book Banning. Plans are to have it in late May. Details to follow.

Branch Annual Meeting

Our Annual Business Meeting Program will be held on **Saturday, June 22**. Details to follow.

Music / Art Fundraiser in the Works!

Being organized by Deborah Yates

"Looking for something fun to do with all the talent in AAUW? Look no further, we're gathering interest in a Music / Art Fundraiser. If you are interested and able, please respond to the survey no later than May 24th. Once we see potential participants, we'll have more details forthcoming. Save the Date for August 11, 2024."

Please click [HERE](#) to take the survey.

DEI- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

Act Now to Support Important State and National Legislation

On April 2 several Amador Branch members lobbied representatives of the California Assembly and Senate. The lobbyists presented arguments in favor of passing three bills supported by AAUW California. April is Sexual Awareness Month, and the three bills are focused on policies that combat the pervasive conditions allowing assault and harassment to continue.

The three bills are:

AB 2843, Health Coverage for Rape and Sexual Assault Survivors

AB 2326, Public Postsecondary Education: Sex Discrimination Policies

AB 2099, Protecting Reproductive Health Clinics

Contact your Senator and Assembly member (this can vary depending on where you live in the county) and urge them to pass these important bills.

AAUW Washington Update:

Combatting Gender-Based Harassment in Schools and Work

AAUW National is also supporting bills that protect the survivors of sexual discrimination. This month, Congress is expected to reintroduce a key piece of legislation addressing many facets of harassment in the workplace. The Department of Education is also expected to announce updated Title IX rules that would strengthen protections in educational institutions.

The Bringing an End to Harassment by Enhancing Accountability and Rejecting Discrimination (BE HEARD) in the Workplace Act would build on existing civil rights laws to provide new protections against harassment for workers and safeguard existing discrimination laws.

What you can do today: Reach out to your members of Congress today — it is critical for Congress to hear from you now to build support for the BE HEARD Act when it is introduced. When workers face harassment, it impacts their success in the workplace, and ultimately, their economic security. This is particularly true for women and people

of color, who are disproportionately impacted by harassment. By passing the BE HEARD Act, Congress can let survivors know “we hear you, we support you, and we will stand by you.”

Take action for all working people and urge your members of Congress to co-sponsor the BE HEARD Act now!

Bonnie Krupp, DEI Coordinator

More Women's History

How Did Mother's Day Begin?

A. In 1858, when Ann Jarvis, a young Appalachian homemaker, organized “Mother’s Work Days” to improve the sanitation and avert deaths from disease-bearing insects and seepage of polluted water.

B. In 1872, when Boston poet, pacifist and women’s suffragist Julia Ward Howe established a special day for mothers –and for peace– not long after the bloody Franco-Prussian War.

C. In 1905, when Ann Jarvis died. Her daughter, Anna, decided to memorialize her mother’s lifelong activism, and began a campaign that culminated in 1914 when Congress passed a Mother’s Day resolution.

The correct answer: **All of the above.**

Each woman and all of these events have contributed to the present occasion now celebrated on the second Sunday in May.

Aging But DANGEROUS

Until 1974 in the USA women were unable to open a bank account or acquire a line of credit without a man co-signing. The financial services industry was led by (usually white) men. So eight women came together to turn everything around by opening their own Women's Bank by each pitching in \$1,000.

On 14 July 1978 The Women's Bank opened for business. People stood in line down the street in downtown Denver to deposit their money. The first day's deposits exceeded \$1 million.

#WomensHistoryMonth

More info <https://history.denverlibrary.org/news/womens-bank>

Membership

Be as Active as You Can, but Stay a Member

Membership Renewal Period Now Open

If your membership renewal date is June 30, you should have received an email from the National Office already. For those who joined recently, your renewal date is one year from the date you joined.

Our Branch dues are increasing slightly this year, as part of our strategic plan. Therefore our 2024-25 dues are \$115.

Dues Breakdown:

AAUW National-\$72 (As of January 2024, all National dues are fully tax deductible)

AAUW CA- \$20 (not tax deductible)

Amador County Branch- \$23 (not tax deductible)

TOTAL: \$115

How much do YOU pay?

Regular Member (AAUW National + AAUW CA + Branch) **\$115**

Lifetime Member (AAUW CA + Branch) **\$43**

Student Member (Nat'l \$18.81 + 1/2 State + 1/2 Branch) **\$40.31**

Members who are comfortable with renewing online AND whose renewal fees are due July 1 will have an accurate fee charged and it takes about 5 minutes to complete the process. If you are not comfortable renewing online, you may send a check made out to AAUW Amador for \$115 and send it via mail: PO Box 611, Sutter Creek, CA 95685

IMPORTANT NOTE: The increase becomes effective for new members or renewals beginning FY 07/01/24 and does not apply to either renewal or new member fees that are due or that occur prior to 07/01/24. If you happen to be speaking with a prospective member, please note that it will cost \$112 to join before 7/1 and \$115 to join on or after July 1.

If you are renewing online, ignore the Personal Snapshot button and just renew. States are listed alphabetically, but branches are listed numerically. We are Branch # 0150 so are near the bottom of the list.

Welcome New Members!

This spring we welcome several new members:

Armen Kendig of Pine Grove and **Kathleen Gallagher Jones** of Rancho Murieta joined at our February "Authors and Chocolate" program. **MaryAnn Tierney Kelley** also joined recently, followed by **Toby Salk** and **Bob Hartmann** who joined at our April L&C. That's five new members in the past two months! Yea Team! Contact details will be forthcoming.



May Birthdays



May 5 -- Debra Brown

May 6 -- Julie Taylor

May 21 -- Macie Dentone

May 28 -- Hope Nelson

May 30 -- Aieleen Parker

May 31-- A'laina Lyons

Walking Group: Marching Into Spring

Saturday, May 11th -- 1:00 P.M. -- Amador City and Turner Rd -- will send directions and parking instructions

Tuesday, May 21st -- 9:00 A.M. -- Location to be determined -- somewhere new

Tuesday, May 28th - 9:00 A.M. Meet at Gretchen Carlson's 410 Sargent Ave., Jackson

tea and cookies after

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

We encourage all members to contribute to Gold Filings.

If you have a recommendation for a book, film or event you want to recommend or a special interest group update, please send the info to Stephanie by the 10th or the 25th of the month

From California AAUW

Report on the CA Annual Event

In case you missed the AAUW-CA Annual Event on Saturday morning, you can find the outline and slide deck online **HERE** . The recording will be available soon on the AAUW-CA website.

The highlights of the presentation include the Keynote Speaker, Meghan Kissel who spoke about Title IX at the beginning of the recording; the winning GovTrek presentation, the winning Speech Trek presentation, a great DEI presentation and a section on how to advocate for transgender students with school boards.

Stephanie Young

Arts & Education

Solar Eclipse on April 8

My husband, Bob, is an avid photographer, so it made sense to schedule a trip to the total solar eclipse. My brother lives in Carmel, Indiana (a suburb of Indianapolis) and he invited us to join him for the eclipse. It turned out that we couldn't fly because of all the camera gear, so we did a road trip.

Here's a link to some of the pictures Bob took of the eclipse after a year of rehearsing for it. I've seen enough eclipse YouTubes to last a lifetime. <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1CVTGXpTHpV-FSGVkfNR-nX7GudE3hjl?usp=sharing>

Along with 50,000 other people, we attended the event sponsored by the Indianapolis Speedway. They partnered with NASA and Purdue University to present a wonderful STEM program featuring several former astronauts, including several women. They shared their reasons for choosing to be an astronaut and all their answers were very inspiring. It was a presentation that would make AAUW members proud. I certainly was.

Did you know that Neil Armstrong wasn't a recluse as he is so often portrayed in the media? His two sons were part of the NASA/Purdue presentation and wanted to put that rumor to rest. Neil and his wife spent Friday nights with at least 20 friends for several years. As it happened, Neil selected to attend events that the media was not invited to, so the media made up this rumor.

Did you know that Purdue University is the cradle of the astronaut program? My niece is attending Purdue for electrical engineering, so she gave us a tour of the campus. Portraits of many astronauts line the sidewalks of the campus. There is also a sculpture of Neil Armstrong in front of the building housing the astronaut program.

Now for the eclipse itself. It's humbling when it's 3pm in the afternoon and the earth suddenly goes dark. Frogs started croaking as if it were evening. The crowd was very friendly and we all applauded totality. If you ever get a chance to experience a total eclipse, it's like nothing you've ever experienced before. Totally amazing!

Terrie Houseman

May Holidays — 2024

- May 1 -- May Day
- May 2 -- International Harry Potter Day
- May 12 — Mother's Day
- May 13 --- Frog Jumping Day
- May 16 — National Do Something Good for Your Neighbor Day
- May 17 — National Endangered Species Day
- May 19 — National Devil's Food Cake Day. (my favorite day)
- May 22 — Harvey Milk Day
- May 26 — National Paper Airplane Day
- May 27 --- Memorial Day
- May 27 --- National Cellophane Tape Day
- May 31 — National Smile Day

May is Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

This AA & NH/PI Heritage Month marks their 30th Anniversary—three decades of building the political pipeline for AA & NH/PI political leaders and striving towards a

more representative democracy. Activities this month include an Awards Gala, a Legislative Leadership Summit and a Military Leadership Appreciation Luncheon.

The Annual Awards Gala is a celebration of the culture, traditions, history, and contributions of AA & NH/PIs in the United States. At the 30th Anniversary Annual Awards Gala, this year's theme honors and celebrates **Our Community. Our Leaders. Our Legacy.**

The 2024 APAICS Legislative Leadership Summit brings together nonprofit and corporate leaders, subject matter experts, as well as local, state, and federal elected officials to discuss important issues that affect the Asian American & Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander community and the nation at large. This year's Summit will feature panels on issues such as immigration, artificial intelligence, corporate America, and mental health within the AA & NH/PI community, to name a few.

The Military Leadership Appreciation Luncheon is dedicated to promoting leadership diversity and AA & NH/PI representation in our troops. Active members and veterans of our Armed Forces have the opportunity to learn how to utilize skills and prior leadership experiences to contribute to personal and professional development in the future. Promoting diversity in the military encourages and strengthens the voice of AA & NH/PIs

Shereen Daniels

An influential advisor and HR strategist

Author of *The Anti-Racist Organization: Dismantling Systemic Racism in the Workplace*

"I was taught that keeping quiet kept the peace"

There are a lot of people who feel afraid to speak up, to advocate for themselves and others when they are experiencing or witnessing behaviors that are misaligned with their values or violate our basic human rights.

There are many reasons why we choose silence, and a lot of it is about fear and the negative consequences of using your voice, of saying the things that need to be said.

*Some of those consequences are monumental—

You can lose friends, acquaintances, opportunities, jobs, money.

You can be targeted, threatened, retaliated against, bullied and harassed.

*Feeling frustrated with yourself, guilt, shame even, for protecting the peace and comfort

of others because you're worried about the ramifications.

*Fear-based decision-making rarely leads to outcomes that are aligned for our highest good and I continue to learn that every day.

Therefore these two questions I continue to ask myself when I hesitate
or feel like retreating:

Who is my silence protecting and at what cost to me?

Therefore, whose peace am I actually keeping?
Because I know it's not mine.

Online Lecture: Da Vinci's Harmony of Art & Science

Thursday, May 9 at 11 a.m. (PT)

With Matthew Palczynski, Art history lecturer, curator and educator

Explore the fascinating work and legacy of Leonardo da Vinci in this one-hour lecture. A master of both artistry and science, Da Vinci connected nature, art, life and the cosmos in his work. Learn why he remains an icon more than 500 years after his death. This lecture is presented in collaboration with the special exhibit, "Leonardo da Vinci: Inventor. Artist. Dreamer." at the California Science Center in Los Angeles.

[Sign Up HERE](#)

Contact Us / Social Media

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