

Gold Filings



55th Anniversary
AAUW
Amador Branch 1969-2024

Mid-September 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!

It was wonderful to see new and old friends at last week's Membership Appreciation meeting. Many members joined us to talk about the programs and goals we've planned for the upcoming year. As usual, the food was delicious.

For those who weren't able to attend, know that we missed you. As I always say, it takes a village to do all that we do and you're all a vital part of this village.

Here's a recap of what we talked about:

- 1) Michele Powell, Bonnie Krupp, Brenda Walker and Janet Kendig were recognized for all their years of service to AAUW.
- 2) We awarded three free one-year memberships to Ariel Halbach, Katherine Evatt and Amanda Avila under the Shape the Future Program.
- 3) We thanked all those who donated to the Adopt-a-Fund fundraiser. We raised \$2,875, enough to get us through the fiscal year.
- 4) We're back! We're going to have a Home Tour in 2025 in Lone on Saturday, May 3rd. Save that date!
- 5) We approved the 2024-26 Strategic Plan and the DEI Strategic Plan by a unanimous vote.
- 6) We welcomed Charmen Goehring, the AAUW State President. She gave an inspiring speech that was enjoyed by all.
- 7) The Special Interest Group chairs talked about the book clubs, hiking club, Cork & Fork, and Get Out the Vote groups we offer. If you'd like to sign up for one of these groups, please let me know.
- 8) We closed with a presentation of the programs we're offering over the next few months. Mark your calendar for the Holiday Party on Sunday, December 8.

As you can see, we're ready to rock 'n roll, so please join us for some fun throughout the year! We'd love to see you!

Terrie Houseman
Leadership Chair



Membership Appreciation Meeting



Outgoing Leadership Committee members Brenda Walker (Historian), Michele Powell (Membership) and Bonnie Krupp (DEI). Not pictured: Janet Kendig (Facebook).



Charmen Goehring, CA State AAUW President speaks to us of her journey to leadership while encouraging us to embrace opportunities as they arise.



2024 Tech Trekkers Samantha, Scarlett and Jenna with Gretchen Carlson



Former member Nancy Street and current member Cheri Peterson talking about their experiences as Tech Trek Volunteers.

Late September Calendar

Monday, September 16, 2:00-4:00pm

Afternoon Book Group

We are meeting at Hope Nelson's house to discuss *Armor of Light* by Ken Follett.
Contact Debra Brown if you would like to join our group debrown6@gmail.com

Wednesday, September 18th, 7:00 pm

DEI Peer Group Meeting on Zoom

For more info see details in the DEI section below.

Thursday, September 19, 2:00-4:00pm

Postcard Protest event

Yorba Tasting Room in Sutter Creek

Monday, September 23, 12:00-1:30pm

Great Decisions

We will meet at the Jackson View Clubhouse to discuss *Understanding Indonesia*.

Monday, September 23, 2:00-4:00pm

Page Turners & Book Lovers

We will meet at Sandee Bowman's house to discuss *Lady Tan's Circle of Women* by Lisa See.

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

Sept. 22-28 Banned Books Week

<https://bannedbooksweek.org>

From Unite Against Book Bans

Monday, September 23rd, at 7:00 pm

Webinar: "Getting Out the Vote (GOTV) in a Polarized World"

The webinar will address Voter Registration, GOTV Logistics, Voter Education / Suppression, and Community Collaboration / Having Difficult Conversations.

You can register for the webinar [HERE](#)

DEI--Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

D-E-I IS FOR ALL OF US

AAUW's survival as an organization depends on every member's commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). Join us for our first monthly DEI Peer Group meeting on Wednesday, September 18th, at 7 pm (PDT). Any AAUW member committed to DEI with a willingness to listen and embrace cultural humility is welcome, although monthly DEI Peer Group meetings are primarily intended for branch DEI Coordinators. During this kickoff meeting, we will discuss [AAUW California's DEI Strategic Plan](#); Fall 2024 branch DEI surveys; branch DEI news; and resources and support to assist branches experiencing DEI challenges.

Click [HERE](#) to register for the kickoff 2024-2025 DEI Peer Group meeting.

Video recommendation from the AAUW DEI Toolkit: [Finding Myself in the Story of Race](#), Debby Irving, TEDx Fenway, (15:18)

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Programs: **Save the Dates! /Plan to Volunteer!**

**October 26, 1:00pm -- *Women in Elected Office*,
featuring Amador County Mayors**

December 3, 4:00pm -- Giving Tuesday

December 8, 2pm -- Holiday Party

January 11, 2:00pm -- *The State of Journalism* with Scott Anderson

February 8, 2:00pm -- *Authors and Chocolate*

March -- *Financial Literacy*

April 6, 2:00pm -- Branch Social

April 26, 9am -- State Conference via Zoom

May 3 -- Home Tour in Ione

June 21 -- Annual Meeting

We need 4-6 members to volunteer to support each program!
Please contact [Sue Harrington](#) to volunteer.

We need at least a dozen members to volunteer for the
Home Tour Organizing Committee.
Please contact [Rachel Stahl](#) to volunteer for that committee.

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Membership

Be as Active as You Can, but Stay a Member

   **September Birthdays**   

9/16 - Mary O'Neal

9/18 - Rita Bohl

9/20 - Terrie Houseman

9/20 - Brenda Walker

9/23 - MaryAnn Tierney Kelley

9/25 - Charleen Arnberg

9/25 - Bob Hartmann

CONGRATULATIONS to Betty Olsen Jones, who won first prize in
TWO categories in the recent Master Gardener tomato tasting contest!
AND her two dogs Shaft and Captain are featured in the
Ledger Pet Calendar (check out September 2025).

Holiday Party Coming on December 8!
Kani Flansburg will be our host, so SAVE THE DATE!

We encourage all members to contribute to Gold Filings

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

Public Policy

Local Get Out the Vote Initiative

Mel Welsh

We will be conducting "Get Out the Vote" events at all three local High Schools in September. If you are interested in participating, please contact Mel Welsh at melnbob@volcano.net We still need two people to help on September 23 at Amador HS.

Our GOTV dates are:

Tuesday, September 17, 11:30am - 1:00pm at Independence HS

Wednesday, September 18, 11:30am - 1:00pm at Argonaut HS

Monday, September 23, 11:30 - 1:00 at Amador HS

AMADOR COUNTY STARTS VOTING OCTOBER 7TH

Legislative Update

Though the 2024 legislative session won't end until this fall, the governor has already started to sign bills. We are excited to let you know that **three bills on our agenda have already been signed, AB 1955, AB1790, and AB2608. Hooray!**

AB 1955 will prohibit school districts from requiring staff to notify parents if a student uses a different name or pronouns or identifies as a different gender than what is on their birth certificate.

AB 1790 will strengthen protections against sexual assault and harassment at California State University (CSU) campuses by requiring two reports from CSU on the status of their implementation of the State Auditor recommendations.

AB 2608 will require the California Community Colleges and the CSUs, and request the University of California, to provide educational and preventive information on sexual violence and harassment, including how to recognize if someone is at risk of drug-facilitated sexual assault.

Quick Tips for Things to Try

Learn how to reduce polarization through talk. Check out [THIS GUIDE](#) to learn more about how you might approach difficult conversations during election season.

<https://www.willingobservers.com/writing-and-publications/reducing-polarization-through-language>

2024 Elections: Let Your Voice Be Heard

2024 Ballot Propositions - Support AAUW California Public Policy Priorities

By Amy Hom and Missy Maceyko, Co-Chairs, AAUW California Public Policy Committee

This November, California voters will decide the fate of 10 statewide ballot propositions. While we encourage members to support additional propositions that may capture the spirit of AAUW California's Public Policy Priorities (PPPs), we suggest that four of the propositions on the ballot in 2024 deserve a YES vote from our members for their explicit alignment with AAUW California's PPPs.

Proposition 2, Public Education Facilities Bond Measure (2024), proposes issuing \$10 billion in bonds to fund construction and modernization of California's public education facilities. \$8.5 billion would be allocated to K-12 schools and \$1.5 billion would support improvements at community colleges. [Many school facilities](#) are over 50 years old and require significant upgrades to meet current technological and education needs. [Research](#) shows that modernized school facilities correlate with better test scores, higher attendance, and improved teacher retention rates. The last time districts received state funding for infrastructure improvements was in 2016. That money has now run out, and Prop 2 would help fund school projects totaling \$3.5 billion that have already been approved and are awaiting funding.

AAUW California supports "Adequate and equitable funding at all educational levels, including pre-school and post-secondary", and we support a YES vote on Proposition 2.

Proposition 3, Constitutional Right to Marriage, would amend the California Constitution to recognize the fundamental right to marry, and would remove the language banning same-sex marriage, passed by voters in 2008, from the state constitution. In practice, the ban has been nullified since a [Supreme Court ruling](#) in 2013 which allowed same-sex marriages to resume in California. Proposition 3 will enshrine the fundamental right to marry and protect against any potential future changes to federal marriage protections.

AAUW California supports "Guarantee of civil and constitutional rights for all, including all forms of gender identity and expression, and all family structures", and we support a YES vote on Proposition 3.

Proposition 4, Parks, Environment, Energy, and Water Bond Measure, would allocate the state to issue \$10 billion in bonds to fund various environmental, energy, and water projects. While there are a range of projects that ballot measure would fund, Proposition 4 would also require that 40% of the bond revenue be used to fund activities that benefit communities with lower incomes or that are affected by environmental changes or disasters. Also, as AAUW California's Public Policy Committee has pointed out in the past, [addressing climate issues and advancing gender equity is directly related to environmental sustainability, and vice versa](#).

AAUW California supports “Social and racial justice for all members of society, including equal access to quality affordable healthcare, housing and a healthy environment,” and we support a YES vote on Proposition 4.

Proposition 32, Raises Minimum Wage, Employers with 26 or more employees would pay \$18 per hour beginning in 2025. Employers with 25 or fewer employees would pay \$17 per hour in 2025 and \$18 per hour in 2026. California has a high cost of living and our current \$16 minimum wage is well below the estimated living wage needed to support a household’s basic needs. Women and communities of color bear the burden of low-wage jobs. The California Civil Rights Department (CRD) [released data](#) showing that in 2021, roughly half of all Latino, Black, and Native American workers earned \$32,329 or less - \$10,000 less than the state’s per capita income. 54 percent of all workers in California earning \$32,239 or less were women.

A minimum wage of \$18 will reduce income inequality and improve the standard of living for millions of California workers, especially women and people of color.

AAUW California supports “Economic Security for All Women”, and we support a YES vote on Proposition 32.

For guidance on additional ballot measures that are adjacent to, but not directly within, the scope of AAUW California’s PPPs, please see this excellent guide provided by [The League of Women Voters of California](#).

From National

Be sure and read your [Membership Matters](#) email from National. It has a wealth of information in it, including some guidance around scholarships and gender concerns.

From Cap Radio

A proposed California law could end book bans in public libraries

- A coming-of-age novel about a high school freshman dealing with teen problems and the loss of his best friend, who died by suicide.
- A series of personal essays exploring the life of a journalist and LGBTQIA+ activist.
- An autobiography charting a person’s journey of self-identity that grapples with the difficulty of coming out to family and society.

These three books share one thing in common: They are all on the American Library Association’s [top 10 most challenged books](#) of 2023. The American Library Association saw a 65% surge in book challenges between 2022 and 2023, with 4,240 unique book titles targeted for censorship and 1,247 demands to censor library books, materials and resources.

The California Freedom to Read Act aims to address the growing attempts to censor books by “banning book bans.” The bill would prohibit library materials from being excluded or limited solely based on subject matter, author or sources, among other things.

Why It Matters

Californians often feel protected from the book ban movement, but there have been recent attempts in conservative cities to censor books. Peter Coyl, director and CEO of the Sacramento Public Library, said the book ban movement is virtually nonexistent in Sacramento. However, Coyl highlighted Huntington Beach and Fresno as examples of this issue in California.

In Huntington Beach, the city council tried privatizing the library in what library supporters argued was an ideological effort to censor books and remove librarians. Meanwhile, in 2023, a Fresno County supervisor created one of the state’s first citizen review committees for library books, which could soon decide whether to move material with “sexual references” and “gender-identity content” to a restricted area that could only be accessed with a parent’s permission.

“Those two jurisdictions have implemented, among some others, processes and practices which in essence remove books from the availability of their users,” Coyl stressed. “The purpose of a library is to have information available for people of all walks of life from all viewpoints. I think this bill will allow that to continue to happen, to make the library still freely available so people can have lines of inquiry and discussion about many topics, some of which are offensive but necessary.”

What’s Next

The California Freedom to Read Act is still in the state Assembly and is awaiting approval of Senate amendments before being enacted. If approved, it will add to [existing California legislation](#) that prohibits school boards across the state from banning books, instructional materials or curricula categorized as inclusive or diverse. And while the book ban movement may continue elsewhere, California is poised to become an example for other states on how to deal with it, both in public libraries and schools.

For more on the California Freedom to Read Act, I spoke with local librarians and booksellers to [put together this story](#).

Gerardo Zavala/CapRadio

Excerpts from Leadership Meeting Minutes

Leadership Committee Meeting Notes in Brief

Thursday, September 5, 2024 at 4:00pm

Attendees: *Terrie Houseman, Stephanie Young, Sandee Bowman, Sue Harrington, Cyndie Zikmund, Zeffy Ruvalcaba, Julie Taylor, Greta McElroy-White, Gretchen Carlson, and Brenda Walker*

New Business

2025 Home Tour Update Greta stated the tour date will be Saturday, May 3 in Lone.

Shape the Future Candidates The branch has three free one-year memberships to offer under the national Shape the Future Program. The names of four candidates were proposed and the committee agreed on the top three candidates.

Membership Celebration and Meeting is on *Thursday, September 12 from 5:30-7:30 pm*. Charmen Goehring, the AAUW CA President, will attend and deliver a message focused on volunteerism. Member Cheri Peterson, who volunteered as a nurse for the UC Santa Cruz Tech Trek, will share her experience as will this year's Tech Trekkers.

Get Out the Vote (GOTV) AAUW volunteers will staff tables to register and pre-register high school students on the 17th (Independence), 18th (Argonaut), and 23rd (Amador).

New Business

Giving Tuesday: It was determined that the fundraising goal would remain at \$6K.

Committee Reports

Finance Sandee reviewed expenses and revenues to-date and account balances.
ACTION: Sandee to ask Aileen to send thank you notes to all Adopt-a-Fund donors.
ACTION: Sandee to contact Kathy about the unclaimed scholarship funds and send her the Mountain Oaks Charter School scholarship request letter.

Brown Paper Tickets update: payments are trickling out to non-profits. According to an email received from BPT, the final date for all payments to be made is now 10/31.

Membership (Zeffy):

Membership renewal status: Zeffy shared an update on renewals.

Membership Directory: Zeffy updated the directory and it will be sent to the membership for review before the September meeting. Update frequency: quarterly (Sept/Dec/Mar/Jun)

Programs and Events s Sue provided an update on the year's planned events. There will be sign-ups at the September meeting for special interests and programs. Stephanie provided an overview of the NCWSSL program as a Zoom meeting is

scheduled. ACTION: Stephanie to report back on what is discussed at the NCWSSL meeting.

Communication--Website, e-docs and Social Media:

Julie and Cyndie provided updates on website and social media activity. Cyndie uploaded the "Who Are We" booklet and observed that it would make a great video project by adding a voiceover and music. Julie asked if a high school video class could take it on as a project since the text is already in the document. She also asked if headshots alongside Leadership Committee names could be added online in the same way they are in Gold Filings. Cyndie believes this can be accomplished.

Julie provided an update on access to the branch You Tube channel but needs to connect with Barb in order to take the next steps. To be continued...

ACTION: Stephanie: follow up on the February event video made and whether a high school class or student could make a video out of the "Who Are We" booklet.

ACTION: Stephanie to review which LC member headshots are needed for Gold Filings and forward to Cyndie for the website.

Next meeting: Thursday, October 4th at 4:00pm

Note: Complete meeting minutes will be posted on the website in the members-only section following the monthly meeting.

amador-ca.aauw.net/amador-members-only/

Arts and Education

September in Women's History--Did You Know?

September 12, 1910:

Alice Stebbins Wells was appointed as the first female police officer with arrest powers in Los Angeles, California, marking a significant milestone in women's roles in law enforcement.

September 25, 1981:

Sandra Day O'Connor was sworn in as the first female Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, breaking the gender barrier in the nation's highest court.

September 28, 1988:

Stacy Allison became the first American woman to reach the summit of Mount Everest, symbolizing the breaking of barriers and the pursuit of challenging goals by women.

The National Women’s History Alliance (NWHHA)'s theme:

“Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations.”

This theme celebrates the collective strength and influence of women who have dedicated their lives to education, mentorship, and leadership. Through their efforts, they have served as an inspiration for all generations — both past and present. Our 2025 theme spotlights the contributions women have made to the American educational system, the free marketplace of ideas, and the very fabric of our democracy.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

- Honor: Recognize the achievements and contributions of women educators, mentors, and leaders.
- Inspire: Motivate all generations to pursue education and leadership roles.
- Educate: Raise awareness about the unheralded legacies of women from every walk of life, highlighting their unique contributions and diverse backgrounds, including socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, culture, abilities, and personal experiences.
- Unite: Bring together communities to explore, share, and celebrate women’s history and achievements.
- Envision: Create a blueprint for the future that honors our foremothers and builds bridges for the next generation of women.

Profile: Maggie Lena Walker played an important role in making Richmond, VA the cradle of Black capitalism in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Walker is best known as the first Black woman bank president in the United States. She organized and led the St. Luke Penny Savings Bank from its founding in 1903 to her death in 1934. The bank was part of her vision for the Independent Order of St. Luke, a secret society founded in the 1850s by a free woman of color.

The IOSL and St. Luke Bank formed the foundation of a financial powerhouse that, at its height in the 1920s, provided financial services to 100,000 members and others in more than 20 states. Before the Great Depression, the IOSL was arguably the largest employer of professional, white-collar Black women in the country. Walker battled public misfortune and private pain in a life lived in the public eye.

In 2017, the city of Richmond dedicated a memorial statue of Walker on Broad Street. Walker’s memory endures as a staunch crusader for Black economic and political rights, especially for Black women.

by Shennette M. Garrett-Scott, Associate Professor of History and African American Studies at the University of Mississippi

Ted Talks of Interest . . .

[What It Takes to Make Change](#)

TED2020 • July 2020

Jacqueline Novogratz works to enable human flourishing. Her organization, Acumen, invests in people, companies and ideas that see capital and networks as means, not ends, to solving the toughest issues of poverty. An excerpt:

Several years ago I sat with a group of women weavers outside in a rural village in Pakistan. The day was hot ...over 120 degrees in the shade. I wanted to tell the women about a company my organization had invested in that was bringing solar light to millions of people across India and East Africa. "We have this light, costs about seven dollars. People say it's amazing. If we could convince the company to bring those products to Pakistan, would you all be interested?"

The women stared, and then a big woman whose hands knew hard work looked at me, wiped the sweat off her face and said, "We don't want a light. We're hot. Bring us a fan." Fan, I said. We don't have a fan. We have a light. But if you had this light, your kids can study at night, you can work more --She cut me off. "We work enough. We're hot. Bring us a fan."

That straight-talking conversation deepened my moral imagination. And I remember lying - - sweltering in my bed in my tiny guest house that night, so grateful for the clickety-clack of the fan overhead. And I thought, "Of course....Electricity.... A fan....Dignity."

And when I now visit our companies who've reached over 100 million people with light and electricity and it's a really hot place, if there's a rooftop system, there is also a fan.

To read more, click [HERE](#).

Overlooked

How we're honoring people overlooked by history

Amy Padnani | TED Salon: • June 2019

My name is Amy Padnani, and I'm an editor on the obituaries desk at the "New York Times." People will ask me, "Isn't it depressing, working on obituaries and thinking about death all the time?" But you know what I tell them? Obits aren't about death, they're about life, they're interesting, they're relatable. Often about something you never knew. Obits are a signature form of journalism. It's an opportunity for a writer to weave the tale of a person's life into a beautiful narrative.

Since 1851, the "New York Times" has published thousands of obituaries. For heads of state, famous celebrities, even the person who came up with the name on the Slinky. There's just one problem. Only a small percentage of them chronicle the lives of women and people of color. That's the impetus behind a project I created called "Overlooked," which tells the stories of marginalized groups of people who never got an obit. It's a chance for the newspaper to revisit its 168-year existence and fill in the gaps for

people who were, for whatever reason, left out. It's a chance to right the wrongs of the past, and to refocus society's lens on who is considered important.

To read more, click [HERE](#).

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