

Gold Filings



55th Anniversary
AAUW
Amador Branch 1969-2024



December 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!

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving celebration. We're all about having fun, so next up is the Holiday Party on Sunday, December 8 at Kani Flansburg's home. More details are provided below. Be sure to RSVP to Kani if you're planning to attend. What a great way to spend the day meeting new members and sharing the holiday spirit with other members and guests. I hope to see you there with bells on your toes.

Giving Tuesday is on December 3 from 4:00 – 6:30p.m. and several of us will be there with many other local nonprofits. In this season of gratitude, I'm deeply thankful for the

remarkable community we share. Your belief in our mission allows us to offer scholarships to local Amador women and girls to support their educational efforts. I'm very proud to announce that the Leadership Committee recently authorized one

additional scholarship and one extra Tech Trek scholarship for next year. Giving Tuesday is your opportunity to ensure that our Branch continues to provide scholarships as one of our gifts to the Amador community.

Last, but not least, take a look at the list of Branch accomplishments over the past year. Thank you to Stephanie Young for showing us how successful we are as a Branch.

Here's wishing you all a beautiful holiday season!

Cheers,
Terrie Houseman
Leadership Chair

Holiday Party

Join us for an Open House

December 8, 2:00-5:00 pm at the home of Kani Flansburg.

What to bring?

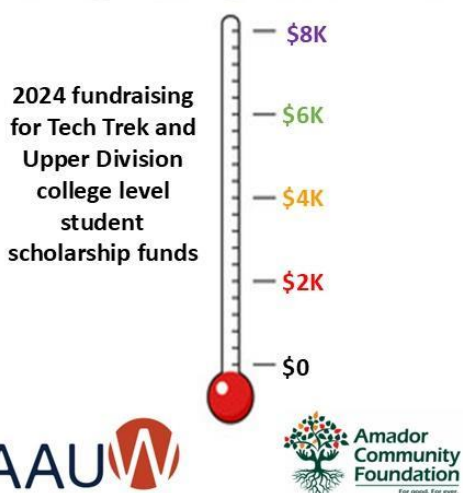
Last name A-J, bring a desert / Last name K-Z, bring an appetizer

Donations of items for the women's shelter, especially personal care items.

Does anyone play the piano? If so, it would be fun to sing carols around Kani's piano. Or just listen to someone play.

Giving Tuesday, December 3: A Scholarship Fundraiser

AMADOR GIVING TUESDAY



Giving Tuesday Details:

To donate in person **on Tuesday, December 3**, stop by the Foundation office, 571 S. Hwy 49, Jackson, from 8 to 4 p.m. or from 4 to 6:30 p.m. at the Charity Showcase at Katharine Drexel Church in Martell. Light bites will be provided. Sixty-five plus non-profits will be represented making it easy to connect with them. Members will be at the branch table; we'd love to see you. Checks, cash and credit cards accepted.

If you cannot attend the event, mail a check **dated December 3** made out to AAUW with "Scholarships" on the memo line, no later than November 30th, to AAUW Amador, P.O. Box 611, Sutter Creek, 95685. Or, give your check to a branch officer at a Cork & Fork; Walking Group; Libations &

Conversations; Book Club or Great Decisions gathering. Checks **MUST be dated December 3** to receive partial matching.

To donate online, go to giveamador.org on **December 3**.

Share a post from the [Amador Community Foundation's Facebook](#) page. Encourage others to join you in supporting branch fundraising efforts.

Share the branch Facebook page, [AAUW Amador Branch](#) to your page and caption it with what you like about being a member of AAUW.

Donation details are also in the November Gold Filings and on the website

December Calendar

Page Turners & Book Lovers

Monday, December 2

2025 Book Suggestions due to Sandee

Tuesday, December 3, 4:00-6:30pm

Giving Tuesday

Katharine Drexel Hall, Martell

Wednesday, December 4, 5:30pm

Working Girls Book Group

This month we are reading "*All the Colors of the Dark*" by Chris Whitaker.

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

Thursday, December 5, 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](#).

Sunday, December 8, 2:00-5:00pm

Branch Holiday Party at Kani Flanburg's house

Monday, December 9, 2:00-4:00pm

Afternoon Book Group

We are meeting at Mona Brown's house to discuss *The Exceptions* by Kate Zemike

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

Monday, December 16, 11:00-2:00

Page Turners & Book Lovers group meets at Bonnie Krupp's house in Lone to make final 2025 book selections

There will not be a Libations & Conversations event this month.

We encourage all members to attend the Holiday Party on 12/8.

Save the Date!

Saturday, January 11, 2:00pm

PROGRAM: *The State of Journalism* with Scott Anderson

Location: Senior Center

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2024 Year in Review

Let's Celebrate Our Successes!

Celebrated the Branch's 55th Anniversary

Revisited activities from the first five decades
Re-designed the Branch Logo, Membership Directory and Brochure
Received a commendation from the AAUW-CA Board of Directors
Posted regularly on Social Media sites: Facebook and Instagram
Awarded \$6000 scholarships to three upper division students
Sponsored three middle school girls for Tech Trek
Raised \$8000 for scholarships and Tech Trek
Increased our membership to 80, earning three free Shape the Future memberships

Regular Activities:

3 Monthly book group meetings
Monthly Great Decisions meetings
5 Cork & Fork gatherings every other month
Monthly Libation & Conversations events
Monthly Leadership Committee meetings

Press Coverage--The Ledger Dispatch featured:

Branch College Scholarship Awards
A summary of the October Women in Elected Office program
September Membership Appreciation Meeting
Candidate Forum
Authors & Chocolate
Annual Meeting
GOTV (Get Out the Vote) events

State-wide Participation:

GovTrek (Amador Branch member coached)—Jan/Feb via Zoom
Peer Group Meetings: DEI, Leadership, Technology, Public Policy, Membership
State Conference in April
Lobby Days via Zoom

Noteworthy Branch Activities Month by Month

January	Program: Candidate Forum at the American Legion Hall
February	Program: Authors & Chocolate at the Jackson Civic Center
March	Program: Field Trip to the Sojourner Truth Museum The branch earned its first star in the National 5 Star Recognition Program based on FY 2023 Activities
April	Lobby Days--via Zoom

May	Get Out the Vote (GOTV) events at the high schools Initiated Strategic Planning Process Revised Branch Bylaws
June	Program: Annual Meeting—Elected Officers and Adopted Budget Awarded 3 Upper Division Scholarships Announced Adopt-a-Fund campaign to help fund Operating Expenses
July	Completed Strategic Plan Awarded Student Memberships to Miss Amador contestants.
August	Confirmed 2025 Home Tour
September	Program: Branch Member Celebration New State President, Charmen Goehring, addressed members Announced \$2825 raised for Operating Costs through Adopt a Fund Celebrated TT Girls and GOTV Initiative Branch DEI Strategic Plan approved by membership
October	Program: Women in Public Office -- Moderated Panel Discussion Received settlement from Brown Paper Tickets
November	Launched redesigned Branch website
December	Giving Tuesday Event Branch Holiday Party

Membership

Be as Active as You Can, but Stay a Member

December Birthdays

12/5 -- JoAnn Chevrette
12/16 -- Michelle Pechette
12/17 -- Bryan Ellis
12/19 -- Diane Christensen
12/19 -- Rachel Stahl
12/24 -- Michele Powell
12/30 -- Loretta Porteous

Know Someone Who'd Like to Join AAUW?

Word of mouth is the best way to recruit new members!

By joining at a program event, new members can take advantage of a 50% discount on national dues for the first year, making membership only \$79.

Contact **Zeffy Ruvalcaba** for membership information.

A Report from Mel Welsh:

While in Milwaukee for the summer, I reached out to the AAUW- Milwaukee Branch about Bob and I attending an upcoming meeting in November. The presentation held at their meeting site at the Urban Ecology Center was Big Money in Politics- A Continued Threat to Women's Economic Equity, and Much More with George Penn; a member of "Wisconsin United to Amend," a non-partisan organization focused on overturning the Citizens United Supreme Court decision by passing a constitutional amendment to get big money out of politics. 176 Wisconsin communities have passed resolutions in support.

We were warmly greeted by Lyn Hildenbrand the Branch president. She gave us a book highlighting their founding in 1894! Great history of activism and work done by women in Milwaukee. The meeting was shortly before the election and there was a lot of optimistic buzz about electing our first Black woman president.

There were about 25 attendees, comprised mainly of women but a few men. Below are pictures with the speaker and Branch president.

We will attend more meetings when back in Milwaukee!



Mel Welsh, Milwaukee Branch President Lyn Hildenbrand, and Bob Hartmann



Program Speaker George Penn with Amador members Mel Welsh and Bob Hartmann

2024 December Holidays and Observances

A mix of religious observances, plus some serious and some whimsical dates to remember.

Monthly observances in December 2024

- National Fruitcake Month
- National Giving Month
- Universal Human Rights Month
- World AIDS/HIV Awareness Month

Daily December holidays and observances in 2024

December 1

- National Women Support Women Day
- Rosa Parks Day

December 2

- Cyber Monday
- International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

December 3

- Giving Tuesday

December 4

- National Sock Day
- World Wildlife Conservation Day

December 7

- National Pearl Harbor Day of Remembrance

December 8

- Bodhi Day
- Constitution Day
- National Brownie Day

December 10

- Human Rights Day
- Nobel Prize Day

December 11

- UNICEF Day for Change

December 15

- Bill of Rights Day
- National Wear Your Pearls Day

December 16

- Day of Reconciliation
- Las Posadas

December 17

- Wright Brothers Day

December 20

- National Ugly Christmas Sweater Day
- Sacagawea Day

December 21

- Winter Solstice

December 25

- Christmas Day
- First Day of Hanukkah

December 26

- Boxing Day
- First day of Kwanzaa

December 28

- Pledge of Allegiance Day

December 31

- New Year’s Eve

From National and State

2024 Grant Recipients Online

The CAAUW Fund announced that 31 inspiring California fellow and grant recipients are studying in California this year and share nuggets of their fascinating studies in short video introductions. See what, and who, your AAUW Fund dollars support at [2024 fund fellows & grant recipients.](#)

Learn about Immigration, Reproductive Healthcare, Gender, Race & Ethnicity, Inequality and Social Policy, Incarcerated women, kinship, activism, and other topics. You can view short videos by each awardee and if you like the topic presentation, let Julie Taylor know and we can invite one of them to speak to the branch in the spring.

Supporting AAUW Priorities

With the conclusion of the election, many of you are undoubtedly experiencing a range of emotions – sorrow, disappointment, and anxiety to name a few. This is not the outcome many of us had hoped for, and one that does not bode well for the causes we members of AAUW fight for and hold dear. It is easy to feel powerless, but there are actually a number of ways we can exert the power we still have. I encourage all our members to stay in the fight and find one or more of these actions that fit with your time, interest, and energy right now:

- We need – now more than ever - to get the ERA archived by President Biden before he leaves office. The LWV has put together an excellent tool kit that explains everything you need to know about the current state of the Amendment, as well as a “take action” link to send an urgent message to President Biden and Vice President Harris. You can find it here: [https://www.lwv.org/ERAToolkit.](https://www.lwv.org/ERAToolkit)
- We need to stay attuned to the efforts of National to continue to support our priorities at the Federal level. You can start by attending a webinar presented by

our National Public Policy Chair, Meghan Kissell, on “AAUW Priorities in Light of the Election Results” on December 4th. You can register [HERE](#).

- We need to stay informed to stay prepared. If you missed it, please find an hour to watch an excellent webinar on Project 2025, the conservative blueprint that will shape the Trump Administration, that was presented by our AAUW California Public Policy Co-chairs Amy Hom and Melissa Maceyko on October 22nd. You can access the recording [HERE](#).

Arts and Education

Year in Review: Senator Laphonza Butler Reflecting on 1 Year as California's Senator

Joining an episode of the [Hysteria Podcast](#) to discuss my time in the Senate, the importance of public service, and our fight for reproductive freedom.

I had a great time with the host of the Hysteria Podcast, Erin Ryan, discussing my time in the Senate and the importance of public service. We talked about the fight to preserve and protect our reproductive freedoms. As state legislatures and federal judges make maternal care more difficult to access, it becomes increasingly important to stand up for our right to start or grow our families on our own terms. Listen to the [podcast](https://open.spotify.com/episode/4Q5G0lp20tSHrHT3OXYsYb): <https://open.spotify.com/episode/4Q5G0lp20tSHrHT3OXYsYb>

Speaking to my [Young Leaders Academy](#) about serving our communities.
<https://x.com/Senlaphonza/status/1849096439970066489>

Hosting a Panel on Leveraging AI to Empower Black Communities

I hosted a conversation about AI technology, access to capital, and economic empowerment in Black communities. It brought together Black thought leaders and innovators from the technology and financial spaces. It was an honor to hear from experts who are working to pave the way to a more inclusive and equitable future!

At CBCF, I also joined [Representative Lisa Blunt Rochester's \(D-Del.\) panel](#) on the importance of Black women having a seat at the table in the Senate. I believe the stories and experiences we bring to the halls of Congress will only make our country stronger and more equitable for all.

Joining a Maternal Health Panel at CBCF

I joined Rep. Lauren Underwood (D-Ill.) on her Congressional Black Caucus Foundation panel to talk about the maternal health crisis Black mothers face in our country. We discussed this crisis' impact on families, how we can fight the issue, and my NIH IMPROVE Act. This bill, [which I introduced in April](#), continues funding research into the root causes of America's maternal mortality crisis.

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