

Gold Filings



Mid-January 2025

AAUW Mission: Advancing gender equity through research, education, and advocacy

Vision: Equality for all.

Values: Nonpartisan. Fact-based. Integrity. Inclusion and Intersectionality

People's March in the Mother Lode

**Saturday, January 18, 2025 -- 10:00am – noon
60 N. Washington St., Sonora**

We all march for different reasons, but we march for the same cause: to defend our rights and our future. If you believe that decisions about your body should remain yours, that books belong in libraries, not on bonfires, that healthcare is a right, not a privilege for the wealthy; if you believe in the power of free speech and protest to sustain democracy; or if you want an economy that works for the people who power it—then this march is for you.

This is our moment to remind Washington elites — and Americans everywhere — where the power truly lives: with the people. Let's make it count.

Some of our members are planning to go. If you are interested in car-pooling to Sonora, use the link below to sign up for the march, and contact Stephanie Young [HERE](#) to get on the carpool list. We will be meeting in the Raley's parking lot at 8:00am and plan to leave by 8:15am.

<https://action.womensmarch.com/events/people-s-march-in-the-mother-lode>

Martin Luther King Day / March for the Dream

From the website: Welcome to the 43rd Annual **March for the Dream** where honoring Martin Luther King Jr. **means** putting his ideas and values into practice by inviting someone from another race, religion or cultural background to walk with you for the purpose of building authentic bridges of understanding and human values.

There are marches being held in Sacramento and Elk Grove. Info is at [MLK365](#)

February Program

AUTHORS & CHOCOLATE

MEET AMADOR AUTHORS

February 8, 2025–2 p.m.

42 Summit Street, Jackson

(next to the Old Courthouse)

**Melene
and
Geoff
Smith**
will
discuss
the book
they



co-authored with others, *Kirkwood: Stories from the First Fifty Years*, which includes first-hand accounts of Kirkwood founders and icons, the early days of Kirkwood, and crazy times at the Kirkwood Inn.

Cathy Patrenos has a background as a nurse and a medical malpractice defense attorney. In the 70's, she journeyed through Europe to Istanbul and across the Middle East to India, what was then known as the "hippie trail." Cathy will discuss her second novel, *The Silk Road Score*, a fictional adventure/ crime story based on her actual journey on the hippie trail, except for the crime, of course.



Please join us and enjoy tea, scones and a bit of chocolate

Tickets are \$20 for AAUW members, \$25 for non-members and are available at

www.eventbrite.com

<https://tinyurl.com/m7dchabx> or scan the QR code

Alternatively, checks can be mailed to:

AAUW Amador, P.O. Box 611, Sutter Creek, CA 95685.

If time is short, reserve a seat at: sbowman56@gmail.com and pay by check at the door.

Deadline for purchasing tickets or reserving a seat is Friday, January 31.

Art by Suthep Phunsawat / Vecteezy.com

Presented by AAUW Amador



2025 Home Tour Update

Houses: Rachel & Greta have secured three out of the five houses needed, with several additional options on the list. It is expected that we will have selected the other two houses before the end of January.

Tea Update: We will hold the Tea on the outside patio of Preston Castle. Attendees will be able to conduct a self-guided tour of the main floor. They will not charge us a fee, but we will make a donation.

Point of Interest / Historic Sites:

Preston Castle
Ione Community United Methodist Church
Ruins on Sutter/Ione Road (drive-by site)

Tickets: We will be using Eventbrite for ticket sales with one or two local outlets for in-person sales. There will also be day-of sales available in Ione, but we encourage as many people as possible to purchase tickets ahead of time. Ticket prices will remain the same as last year: \$40 pre-sale and \$45 on the day. Tickets will go on sale in mid-March. (*Note: There is a small service fee on top of the ticket price for those who use Eventbrite.*)

There are still some positions open on the committee--we need to expand the Publicity and the Sponsorship committees. Anyone interested should contact [Greta McElroy](#).

The theme is still to be determined. If anyone has a great idea, please contact [Rachel Stahl](#) with your suggestions.

Committee Meetings:

The committee will meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. Some meetings will be via Zoom only, and in-person meetings will have a Zoom component as well.
Feb 12 (in person), Feb 26 (Zoom only),
March 12 in person, March 26 (Zoom only?)
April 9 and April 23 (in person.)

Late January Calendar

Wednesday, January 15, 5:30pm

Working Girls Book Group

This month we will be meeting at Jacque Fletcher's house to discuss *I Hope This Finds You Well* by Natalie Sue.

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

Saturday, January 18, 10:00-noon

People's March in the Mother Lode

See article above for details.

Monday, January 20

Martin Luther King Day

There are marches in Sacramento and Elk Grove for about 6.2 miles. Info is at [MLK365](#)

Wednesday, January 22, 6:00-7:00pm (Note time change for this month)

Libations and Conversations

This month's speaker is Matthew Hooper, a local coach and leadership development professional who recently opened the Leadership Hub. The time for this meeting is 6:00 to 7:00 pm due to the speaker's availability. The location is 40 Hanford St., Sutter Creek at the Leadership Hub. (next to the post office, lower part of building). Wine and snacks will be available on site.
Members, guests and the public are welcome to attend this no fee presentation. No need to RSVP, just come and join the discussion.

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

We are meeting at Stephanie Young's house to discuss *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. Contact Sandee Bowman if you would like to join the group. sbowman56@gmail.com

January Program Recap

The State of Journalism in California

The 60 people who attended the program Saturday at the Senior Center were treated to a fascinating talk from our guest, Scott Thomas Anderson. Thanks to Norah Coryell for suggesting the program.

Scott touched on previous journalism models as well as what we are experiencing today and possibly what we face in the future. He ended the program by sharing links to the publications mentioned and his podcasts:

The Sacramento News & Review homepage: new stories every day, Monday through Friday. <https://sacramento.newsreview.com/>

Sign-up page for Sacramento News & Review's free weekly newsletter (which doubles as a sometimes controversial column that Scott writes each week).

<https://newsreview.us1.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=e1087de51d15f615e7e5f2fe7&id=a42b78156c>

Sacramento News & Review's top ten stories for 2024:

<https://sacramento.newsreview.com/2024/12/30/snrs-top-ten-stories-of-the-year/>

Scott's five-part audio-documentary podcast series on the serial killings in Calaveras County is called "Trace of the Devastation" and can be found on Apple podcasts and Spotify. If you don't have a podcast app on your phone, you can stream each episode for free on your computer with these links below:

Chapter 1: The Unicorn Man

<https://directory.libsyn.com/episode/index/show/cc3bcbc1-f8b8-44e4-a119-323d9a662cd9/id/28373588>

Chapter 2: What Only the Owls See

<https://directory.libsyn.com/episode/index/show/cc3bcbc1-f8b8-44e4-a119-323d9a662cd9/id/28373606>

Chapter 3: Hunter's Moon

<https://directory.libsyn.com/episode/index/show/cc3bcbc1-f8b8-44e4-a119-323d9a662cd9/id/28678503>

Chapter 4: The Gravity of Graves

<https://directory.libsyn.com/episode/index/show/cc3bcbc1-f8b8-44e4-a119-323d9a662cd9/id/28939993>

Chapter 5: Though Taken in Darkness

<https://directory.libsyn.com/episode/index/show/cc3bcbc1-f8b8-44e4-a119-323d9a662cd9/id/29813803>

Finding Your Voice

Lobby Days 2025 - Save the Date!

Get ready to advance legislation that makes a difference! This spring the AAUW California 2025 Lobby Days event will be held over two days: an in-person meeting day at the State Capitol on Tuesday, April 8, and a virtual meeting day over Zoom on Wednesday, April 9, 2025. We encourage all AAUW California members to participate in this opportunity for advocacy that is essential to achieve our legislative priorities!

The Amador Branch plans to participate virtually on Wednesday, April 9.

Click [HERE](#) and [HERE](#) by February 21st to sign up as a Lobby Days participant and register for the training webinar. You must sign up for both.

Starting in January, the Public Policy Committee will evaluate new bills introduced in the state legislature which are aligned with our [Public Policy Priorities](#). In mid-March, the committee will meet to select 30-35 bills to make up AAUW California's 2025 Legislative Agenda, including the top three bills that we will advance during Lobby Days. Training materials on these three bills will be posted on the state website by March 26, and a **mandatory training webinar will be held on March 31, 2025 at 7:00pm.**

Lobby Days is a wonderful opportunity to meet with legislative offices and advance bills to promote gender equity and improve the lives of women and girls. We hope that you will join us in this important activity to promote our values.

*Excerpted from an article by Rhonda Skipper,
Member AAUW California Public Policy Committee*

From National and State

Why AAUW Public Policy Priorities Matter

by Nancy Major, Member AAUW California Public Policy Committee

Why do AAUW's Public Policy Priorities matter? They shape the actions that we take as an organization, socially and legally.

AAUW's mission is to advance equity for women and girls. Our Public Policy Priorities guide how we encourage active citizenship toward the goal of advancing our mission. There are four branches to our Public Policy Priorities: Economic Security, Equal Access to Quality Public Education, Social and Racial Justice, and Increased representation of Women in Leadership roles. Each of these priorities is further broken down into several action-oriented subcategories, such as enforcement of Title IX and passage of the ERA. Our 2023-25 priorities can be found at <https://www.aauw-ca.org/public-policy-priorities-ppp-revised/>.

As active participants in society we can help shape the laws and society that govern us, such as healthcare, environmental policies, sex education, curriculum and book banning, housing, childcare, voting rights, immigrants' rights, sexual harassment, domestic violence, racial and LGBTQ discrimination, and Title IX enforcement. We "advocate" or promote our mission through research, education and lobbying for legislation on the international, national, state, and local levels.

History has shown that our advocacy has made a big impact on national, state and local laws. AAUW is also doing impactful work internationally, working to curtail human trafficking and promote civil and human rights for all immigrants, including through participation in the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Over the next four years, there will be a lot of opportunities to use this legislative advocacy to push back against attempts to overturn long standing human rights and civil rights protections.

Our Public Policy Priorities also shape our efforts to push forward programs that break through educational and economic barriers for women such as speaker programs, scholarships, oversight of local school boards, leadership and salary training, STEM opportunities for students, and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) programs.

Membership

If we can't imagine it we can't create it

Women's History Alliance

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.

We encourage all members to contribute to Gold Filings

If you have a recommendation for a book, film or event, a special interest group update,

or have an interesting story to share, please send the info to Stephanie by the 10th or the 25th of the month.

Branch Apparel Store

Did you know the AAUW logo is now red and white? Materials with the old blue and green logo, such as name badges and brochures, are being phased out and replaced. If you would like to proudly wear the branch logo at events (as recently worn by Julie Taylor), a custom apparel store is available online at JB Awards in Jackson [AAUW Amador Clothing Store](#). A variety of items for men and women are available in many sizes; they are all red with a white logo so members are easily recognizable. Most items are cotton or a cotton/polyester blend and the logo is embroidered. JB Awards has other options on its public website [JB Awards](#) so if you find something there that you prefer, contact Julie Taylor to have it added to the store. Wearing branded apparel makes members easily recognizable with a professional appearance for public events e.g. Get Out The Vote, Lobby Days, Home Tour, Amador County Fair, Giving Tuesday, etc.

The store price is per individual item, not with a group purchase discount. If there is interest in several members buying items at one time to get a volume discount, contact Julie for details.

Calling for Photos of Amador County

Don't you agree that the updated branch website looks much crisper than it did (amador-ca.aauw.net)?

The easy-to-read layout now needs a new photo in the home page header (yes, the daffodils have been retired). Rather than use a stock photo, we want photos that represent what makes Amador County so special e.g. see the temporary photo of a fall vineyard currently in use.

Are you a keen photographer of Amador views, community events, iconic locations, or beauty? Here is an opportunity to contribute to the website. Enjoy reviewing your favorite photos and selecting those you want to share!

Photos will be selected based on capturing the beauty of life in the county and full credit given to each photographer. If enough photos are submitted, a member spotlight photo will also be featured on the home page (view the example of a Spring dogwood tree).

Submit: Digital, original, **HORIZONTAL** jpg format photos (color or black and white) that represent Amador at its best. Give the photo a title and/or identify where it was taken. Max.10 photos. **DO NOT** submit photos containing full views of people's faces, copyrighted photos or commercial photos.

When: Submit original photos from January 15th to February 15th

How: Email original photos in the MB size range, not KB (a higher resolution makes a photo sharper) to aauwamador@gmail.com. Send questions to the same email address.

A Member Being Honored



Amador County Chamber of Commerce Presents
The Margaret Dalton Memorial
GOLDEN ACORN AWARDS DINNER
Please Join us for a Semi-Formal Awards Night Featuring This Year's Honorees
Ken & Debbie Mackey & Toni Linde
MARCH 8TH, 2025
ITALIAN PICNIC GROUNDS • SUTTER CREEK

NO HOST BAR AT 5PM • DINNER AT 6PM
FOLLOWED BY AWARD PRESENTATIONS
TICKETS \$75 PER PERSON
TABLE OF 10 - \$800
Includes Premium Table Placement, Wine And Table Signage

AMADOR COUNTY
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

Branch member Deborah Mackey is being honored (along with her husband Ken and organizer extraordinaire, Toni Linde) by the Amador County Chamber of Commerce at the Golden Acorn Awards Dinner on Saturday, March 8. The branch, as a chamber member, plans to have a table at the event. If you are interested in celebrating these worthy recipients, please contact **Terrie Houseman** no later than February 18.

Event details are available on the flyer above and the Chamber website:
Golden Acorn Award Dinner

Notes from the Leadership Committee

Notes from AAUW Amador Leadership Committee Meeting Thursday, December 5, 2024, at 4:00pm via Zoom

Old Business

2025 Home Tour Update

Giving Tuesday

Succession Plan

Branch Impact Survey for 2024 and DEI Survey submitted.

New Business

Banner update: The Leadership Committee is exploring new banner options: placement and size.

Committee Reports:

Finance (Sandee): We discussed scheduling the Financial Review and received the current financial status.

Membership (Zeffy)

A revised directory will be sent out to members in January and will include the password to access the members-only page of the branch's website.

Programs and Events (Sue)

January program: January 11 at the Senior Center, featuring Scott Anderson

February Authors & Chocolate program: plans are being finalized.

DEI Position still open

Funds (Julie) Annual \$750 donation will be sent to National by the end of the year.

Scholarships: Terrie spoke to Karen Dickerson, with Amador College Connect (ACC), regarding Title IX rules that may affect the branch. They are willing to partner with us moving forward.

Tech Trek (Gretchen): Update on 4th Tech Trek scholarship. Gretchen has put in a request for another scholarship for our branch and is waiting to hear back.

Communication

Website/E-Docs/Social Media Update (Julie for Cyndie): Websiet updates so far look good; still some tweaks needed. Cyndie attended the website training and incorporated some of the things they suggested. Will be doing cleanup work on the homepage.

Website redesign (Julie): Have an "Update the Banner Contest/Submission" from our membership for the Home Page. Possible Timeline: announce contest in mid-January Gold Filings. Look at submissions by February 1. Use this opportunity as a Branch Brag, announce in Board-to-Board meetings, or Activity of the Year.

Next meeting: Thursday, January 2nd at 4:00pm

Arts and Education



"Women of the Nation, This is the time to fight. This is the time to demonstrate our sisterhood, our spirit, our blithe courage, and our will. It is women for Women now, and shall be, until the fight is won."

Inez Milholland, 1917

Jacinda Ardern, the world's youngest female leader recently resigned as the 40th Prime Minister of New Zealand. "I'm leaving, because with such a privileged role comes responsibility. The responsibility to know when you are the right person to lead and also when you are not. I know what this job takes. And I know that I no longer have enough in the tank to do it justice. It's that simple."

Her charismatic optimism, strength, and down-to-earth charm quickly energized voters especially women and the young--and, in response, her party's preference polling numbers climbed. In terms of the issues, Ardern called for free university education, reductions in immigration, decriminalization of abortion, and the creation of new programs to alleviate poverty among children.

She became a feminist icon after her response to an interviewer's question about whether she planned to have children. Initially, Ardern said that she had no problem answering the question. The next day, however, when another interviewer implied that employers had a right to know whether prospective female employees planned on taking time off from work to have children, Ardern responded much more forcefully: "I decided to talk about it, it was my choice..., but for other women it is totally unacceptable in 2017 to say that women should have to answer that question in the workplace. It is the woman's decision about when they choose to have children. It should not predetermine whether they are given a job or have job opportunities."

In June 2018 Ardern gave birth to her 1st child, a girl. She thus became the 1st leader of a country in nearly 30 years to give birth while in office. In 2019 in the wake of what she called the "darkest days." after attacks on mosques during midday prayers, she stated, "We were not a target because we are a safe harbour for those who hate. We were not chosen for this act of violence because we condone racism, because we are an enclave for extremism. We were chosen for the very fact that we are none of these things because we represent diversity, kindness, compassion, a home for those who share our values, refuge for those who need it." She then called for changes to New Zealand's gun laws, a statement that appeared to meet with broad approval in a country where gun ownership was widespread.

When re-elected she said, "We are living in an increasingly polarized world. A place

where, more and more, people have lost the ability to see one another's point of view. I hope . . . that, as a nation, we can listen, and we can debate. After all, we are too small to lose sight of other people's perspective."

From the La Mesa/El Cajon Branch

Reading Stats

The US population reads more books per capita than any other country in the world. **What country is second on the list?**

- The United Kingdom?
- France?
- India?
- Singapore?

Answer: Indians read an average of 16 books per year versus the 17 read by Americans. Their weekly reading rate is just under 7 hours per week, only about 5 minutes per week behind that of US readers. The United Kingdom averages 15 books, while France and Italy also demonstrate strong reading habits, averaging 14 and 13 books per person annually, respectively.

Source: Average Books Read Per Year by Country 2024 - World Population Review

From The National Women's History Alliance (NWHHA)

As we welcome the new year, let's take a moment to celebrate the accomplishments of trailblazing women and gear up for Women's History Month in March. Together, we can continue to preserve and promote their legacies.

This year, under the theme 'Moving Forward Together! Women Who Educate & Inspire Generations,' we reflect on how far we've come, recognize the work still ahead, and honor the women who inspire us to push boundaries and create lasting change.

Contact Us / Social Media

aauwamador@gmail.com

amador-ca.aauw.net

P.O. Box 611, Sutter Creek, CA 95685-0611

Facebook.com/AAUW-Amador

instagram.com/aauwamador

YouTube.com/@aauwamador



AAUW Amador (CA) Branch | PO Box 611 | Sutter Creek, CA 95685 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)