

Gold Filings



February 2025

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

Vision: Equality for all.

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

What's in This Issue? February is Black History Month

- Message from the Leadership Chair
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Message from the Leadership Chair



Greetings!

The seasons may have changed, but our mission to inspire, educate and empower women and girls in Amador County remains as strong as ever. In this month's edition of Gold Filings we're featuring interesting facts to celebrate Black History month, sharing exciting opportunities, and inviting you to play a vital role in shaping the future of the Branch. There's something for everyone – whether you're passionate about supporting student scholarships, fascinated by the various programs we offer to our members and the community, or you are ready to make a difference in the Branch.

If you know any deserving students who qualify for an upper division, graduate or re-entry scholarships, please email [Kathy Guletz](mailto:Kathy.Guletz@amador-ca.aauw.net), Scholarship Chair. The deadline to apply is March

15. Additional details, including the application, are available on the branch website at <https://amador-ca.aauw.net/scholarships/>.

If you attended the informative program on the state of journalism with Scott Thomas Anderson a few weeks ago, you heard a concise history of journalism in our area and what Scott is doing to keep journalism alive. Thank you all who planned and participated in this event to make it a success.

You'll definitely want to attend the Authors and Chocolate program on Saturday, February 8. Local authors Melene and Geoff Smith, and Cathy Patrenos will share their stories about the early days of Kirkwood, and a crime story based on the hippie trail. You'll be joining a fabulous tea party with a touch of chocolate, so you won't want to miss it.

Would you enjoy speaking with legislators to advocate for AAUW's priority bills in California? Then plan to attend Lobby Day on April 9. We'll be meeting virtually with local legislators on Zoom. This is our second year of advocacy, so join us in our advocacy efforts.

Did you make a resolution to make a difference in our Branch? Volunteering is a great way to contribute your skills to our future success and to future generations. We appreciate your continuing support which is essential for the branch to remain viable. Current openings include: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Chair, Website and Electronic Media Co-Chair, Historian, and Libations and Conversations Co-Chairs. If you're interested in one of these positions, please contact me at terrie.houseman@gmail.com. It takes a village, folks!

Thank you all for your generosity and dedication to the Branch. I'm excited by what we'll be able to accomplish together in 2025!

With heartfelt gratitude,
Terrie

February Program: Authors and Chocolate

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



Restore Amador LLC is providing the space, **Baker Street West** is providing the service, and **Kneading Dough Bakery** is providing the scones!

IMPORTANT NOTE:

The ticket/reservation deadline for Authors & Chocolate has been extended to Monday, February 3.

2025 Home Tour Update

The Home Tour is Alive and Well Under Way...

- We have 5 Homes for the tour!!
- The Tea and Raffle will be held at Preston Castle and The Methodist Church will be open as an historic site.
- The Committee is meeting every two weeks and now that we have homes lined up the other pieces can be developed.
- The following will be rolled out throughout the spring: requests for raffle baskets, poster distribution, call for sponsorship ideas, etc.

May 3, Here We Come!

Thanks
Rachel & Greta
[Rachel Stahl](#) / [Greta McElroy](#)

February Calendar

Thursday, February 6, 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](#).

Saturday, February 8, 2:00pm

PROGRAM: Authors & Chocolate

For Program and ticket details, see flyer above.

Monday, February 10, 2:00-4:00pm

Afternoon Book Group

We will meet at Mona Brown's house to discuss *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett

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

Wednesday, February 19, 5:30pm

Working Girls Book Group

We will meet at Luka's Restaurant in Jackson to discuss *Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books* by Kirsten Miller.

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

Monday, February 24, noon

Great Decisions (Afternoon Group) will meet at Stephanie Young's house (2059 Thomas Drive, Jackson) to discuss "The Evolution of U.S. Leadership in the Global Economy."

Contact Stephanie Young if you would like to join the group. stephanieyoung856@gmail.com

Monday, February 24, 2:00-4:00pm

Page Turners & Book Lovers

We are meeting at Bonnie Krupp's house to discuss *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict. Contact Sandee Bowman if you would like to join the group. sbowman56@gmail.com

Wednesday, February 26, 5:30-6:30pm

Libations and Conversations

Our speaker is AAUW member Helen Loffland. Helen has a B.S. in Wildlife Biology from U.C. Davis, and an M.S. in Biology from C.S.U. Sacramento. She has spent the last 25 years studying Willow Flycatchers and other birds in meadows of the Sierra Nevada. She also has experience working with a wide variety of Sierran raptors, carnivores, plants, invertebrates and fish. As a meadows specialist at the Institute for Bird Populations her most recent work has focused on riparian bird and bumble bee response to meadow and aspen restoration. The location is Le Mulet Rouge Wine Tasting Room 59 Main St. Sutter Creek

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

Thursday, February 27, 6:00pm

Great Decisions (Evening Group) will meet at Stephanie Young's house (2059 Thomas Drive, Jackson) to discuss "The Evolution of U.S. Leadership in the Global Economy."

Contact Stephanie Young if you would like to join the group. stephanieyoung856@gmail.com

DEI--Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

There's No Single Way to Tell the African American Story

BY BRIAN BROOME, THE WASHINGTON POST

Brian Broome's debut memoir, "Punch Me Up to the Gods," is an NYT Editor's Pick and the winner of the 2021 Kirkus Prize for Nonfiction.

I learned a few years back that writing a book is one thing – but selling it is quite another. To do that, you have to talk to book bloggers, appear on podcasts, attend literary fairs and conduct readings at bookstores. I started to enjoy talking about writing with people from different walks of life. I felt, at last, like an author. But what I had forgotten was that I was not just an author. I was a Black author.

And, during one Zoom with a group of graduate students, I was reminded of that when a young student asked me why I chose to write "Black trauma porn." If you're unfamiliar with the phrase, don't feel bad. So was I. Black trauma porn, my questioner told me, is when the pain and trauma of Black people are served up for the enjoyment and entertainment of White people. She basically told me that my book, "Punch Me Up to the Gods," was another in a long line of too-often-told stories that depict Black life in a negative light.

I was shocked. My book, after all, is a memoir. And yes, there's plenty of trauma in it. I know because I lived it. I'd like to think there's plenty of joy in it as well. I lived that, too. And, for a time, I wondered whether that questioner was right. But in the end, I decided the question wasn't whether I wrote Black trauma porn. The real question is: Why can't Black writers just write what we want to?

So, you can understand why I was perhaps a little defensive about seeing "American Fiction," the Oscar-nominated film based on the novel "Erasure" by Percival Everett. The film is about a Black English professor, named Thelonius "Monk" Ellison and played by Jeffrey Wright, whose books

aren't selling. As a joke, he writes an over-the-top, stereotype-ridden novel of Black life that he titles "My Pafology," under the pseudonym Stagg R. Leigh.

My family was on welfare for a time because we were poor. And I don't like the idea that we should sweep such stories under the rug simply because some people believe they aren't good for the African American brand. There are still Black Americans who live under the conditions that fuel so-called Black trauma porn.

I think these stories should be told even if there are White people who seem to need to make a meal out of them or use them to pathologize all Black Americans. There are still too many people who labor under the delusion that, when Black people are poor, it's a moral failing – but that when White people are poor, it's because they've simply fallen on hard times.

Black American stories are as diverse as any other community's. No one story is the African American story. Some involve the racism we face – and some don't. But there's room for all of them.

February Is Black History Month

Here are a few of the many Black women who have made significant contributions to history, thought, society, innovation, science, government, civil rights, women's rights, and much more.

Bessie Coleman became the first Black woman to become a pilot (1921) and went on to a career as a "barnstormer" or stunt pilot.

Alice Coachman was the first Black woman from any country to win an Olympic gold medal (1948) and the first Black female athlete to endorse an international consumer brand, Coca Cola.

Shirley Chisholm was the first Black woman elected to Congress in 1968, where she served for 14 years. She was the first Black candidate to run for President (1972), founded the Congressional Black Caucus in 1971 and the Congressional Women's Caucus in 1977.

Toni Morrison released her Pulitzer Prize winning novel *Beloved* in 1987; in 1993 she became the first Black woman to win a Nobel Prize in Literature.

Membership

"Freedom and justice cannot be parceled out in pieces to suit political convenience. I don't believe you can stand for freedom for one group of people and deny it to others."

Coretta Scott King



February Birthdays



Caitlin Casey
Marylou Lane
Cheryl Peterson
Francine Pogue

!!!! Don't miss this Semi-Formal Awards night !!!!!
Honoring one of our members, Deborah Mackey!

Amador County Chamber of Commerce presents
The Margaret Dalton Memorial Golden Acorn Awards Dinner

March 8th @ 5:00pm at the Italian Picnic Grounds

Honoring Ken & Debbie Mackey and Toni Linde

Plus recognizing Amador County Ambassadors

Giles Turner, Georgia Fox, and Cedric Clute

Get your Tickets [HERE](#)

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)

Questions:

209-223-0350 or amadorchamber.com

If 10 members buy tickets, the branch will contribute an additional \$50 to ensure members have a reserved table. Contact [Terrie Houseman](#) when you have purchased your ticket as she will make the table reservation.

The Branch Continues to Grow~

Here's a snapshot of branch membership in January 2025

- Total members: **82**
- Recent new members: **10**

These numbers are based on the renewals or new memberships listed on the national AAUW website. They will vary throughout the year, as not everyone renews at the same time. Each member's renewal date is on the anniversary of their enrollment.

Members are invited to purchase branded logo apparel at the [AAUW Amador Apparel Store](#) available through JB's Awards in Jackson.

From National and State

**2025 Spring Women's Economic Empowerment Initiative (WEEI) Webinar
schedule available now:**

[https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/womens-economic-empowerment-initiative/!](https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/womens-economic-empowerment-initiative/)

Finding Your Voice

ACTION: Be a Two Minute Activist

Yes, two minutes can make a difference!

Join AAUW advocates in urging Congress to expand and pass legislation protecting access to education, economic security and civil rights, and more. Sign up to get alerts on when and how to engage, including sending letters to legislators, publication editors and other timely calls to action. All the tools needed to contact members of Congress and state legislators about pressing issues are

provided. You will receive occasional email alerts about pending issues. Details at www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/

ACTION: Postcard Protest and Acts of Gratitude

After the 2016 election, a group was formed by Dixie Camardo and Melene Smith to write to elected officials - Federal, State and local about issues of concern. This group has continued and now meets once a month on the third Thursday of the month, at Yorba Wine Tasting, 51 Hanford St., in Sutter Creek. Issues are emailed to all who are interested and postcards are provided.

Why do we write? When we write a postcard it counts as one 'contact.' The message needs to be clear and concise so that it is counted correctly. If we were to send a petition signed by 100 people, it would only count as one contact. If 100 people write about that same issue, it counts as 100 contacts. So we keep writing....it all counts!

If you are interested in being included on the mailing list, contact Nancy Nieland at nieland4@gmail.com.

ACTION: Lobby Days--Wednesday, April 9

Get ready to advance legislation that makes a difference! This spring the AAUW California 2025 Lobby Days event will be held over two days in April. We encourage all AAUW California members to participate in this opportunity for advocacy that is essential to achieve our legislative priorities! 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.

The Amador Branch will 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.**

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

People's March in the Mother Lode

Three branch members joined in the rally and march on January 18 in Sonora. Approximately 100 women, men and children from three counties participated in a march to highlight the need to move forward on a diverse range of issues.



Calling for Photos of Amador County

Don't you agree that the updated Branch Website looks much crisper than it did? 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. the home page temporary photo of a fall vineyard.

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 be featured on the home page (currently 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 or commercial photos.

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

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

AAUW Scholarships

**Remind any Amador County woman you know about our scholarship opportunities.
Application Deadline is March 15.**



THE AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY WOMEN
WANTS TO HELP YOU
WITH COLLEGE
EXPENSES



Scholarships Available For Amador Students

UPPER DIVISION
UNDERGRADUATES

RE-ENTRY
STUDENTS

GRADUATE
STUDENTS

amador-ca.aauw.net/scholarships

**APPLY
ONLINE
TODAY!**

**Applications
Accepted Until
March 15**

QUESTIONS? aauwamador@gmail.com

Arts and Education

The **1954** Supreme Court *Brown v. Board of Education* decision altered public education in the United States. This landmark civil rights decision found that separating children in public schools based on race was unconstitutional.

Little-Known Black History Facts

These span various topics that will inspire you to take your research beyond Black History Month.

Literature

1. Phillis Wheatley was the first African American to publish a book of poetry, *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral*, in 1773. Born in Gambia and sold to the Wheatley family in Boston when she was 7 years old, Wheatley was emancipated shortly after her book was released.
2. "Bars Fight," written by poet and activist Lucy Terry in 1746, was the first known poem written by a Black American. Terry was enslaved in Rhode Island as a toddler but became free at age 26 after marrying a free Black man.
3. Clotel: The President's Daughter was the first novel published by an African American, in 1853. It was written by abolitionist and lecturer William Wells Brown.

Important Figures

1. The creator of Black History Month was historian Carter G. Woodson. He was notably the second African American to graduate from Harvard University with a doctorate degree, and is credited with being one of the first scholars to study and research the history of African Americans.
2. After years of remarkable work as an attorney, Thurgood Marshall became the first African American to serve in the U.S. Supreme Court. Officially nominated by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1967, he served as a justice until 1991.
3. Anthony Benezet, a white Quaker, abolitionist, and educator, is credited with creating the first public school for African American children in the early 1770s.
4. After graduating from Oberlin College in 1850 with a literary degree, Lucy Stanton became the first Black woman in America to earn a four-year college degree.
5. Martin Luther King, Jr. started as a freshman at Morehouse College at the young age of 15.
6. James McCune Smith was the first African American person to earn a medical degree. He also started the nation's first pharmacy under Black ownership, and was the first African American to have their work published in a peer-reviewed medical journal.
7. After attending Barnard College, Lila Fenwick graduated from Harvard Law School in 1956, becoming the first African American woman to graduate from the prestigious legal institution. She also later studied at the London School of Economics and worked at the United Nations.
8. Hiram Rhodes Revels was sworn in as the first Black U.S. senator in 1870.
9. Guion Bluford became the first Black person in space in 1983, and would spend 688 hours there over the course of his career as an astronaut.

More facts and categories will appear in the mid-February GF

February 2025 Celebrations and Important Dates—

Month-long occasions for raising awareness:

- Black History Month
- National Arts Month
- International Month of Black Women in the Arts
- Financial Aid Awareness Month

February holidays — 2025

- February 1st — Spunky Old Broads Day and Optimist Day
- February 1st-7th — Women's Heart Week
- February 2nd — Groundhog Day and Self Renewal Day.
- February 5th — National Chocolate Fondue Day
- February 6th — Optimist Day
- February 14th — Valentine's Day and League of Women Voter's Day.
- February 17th — President's Day
- February 26th — Carpe Diem Day-- *Do it now*

Month-long occasions for expressing care:

- Human Relations Month
- International Boost Self-Esteem Month
- Ethnic Equality Month

Contact Us / Social Media

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

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