

Gold Filings



Mid-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

- Programs
- Home Tour Update
- Late February Calendar
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Membership, featuring two new members
- Announcements from National and State
- Advocacy: Finding Your Voice
- Tech Trek and Scholarship updates
- Arts & Education

Programs

Authors and Chocolate Recap

A sold-out crowd enjoyed the tea, scones and conversation with the guest authors as they talked about their books and their writing process.

Geoff and Melene Smith discussed *Kirkwood: Stories from the First Fifty Years*, their book about the history of Kirkwood. It is a compilation of stories collected over the many years they worked there.

Cathy Petrenos discussed her novel *The Silk Road Score*, a fictional adventure/crime story based on her actual journey on the hippie trail. Her source material included letters to her mother as well as her own journal from that time. Cathy donated the proceeds of her book sales to Baker Street West.

Thanks go to Debra Brown and the program committee for coordinating this popular event and to Mrs. Hudson and Irene Adler of Baker Street West for hosting the delightful tea.




Cathy Petrenos




Tea, Scones & Chocolate



Melene and Geoff Smith



February 26, 2025
5:30 to 6:30 PM





**Le Mulet Rouge
Tasting Room**
59 Main St., Sutter Creek

This month's speaker is AAUW member Helen Loffland who 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. Bring your questions on this interesting topic for Helen. Hope you can join us.

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

**PLEASE JOIN US
FOR THIS MONTH'S
Libations & Conversations**



March Programs

Financial Literacy Workshop

AAUW will present a financial literacy workshop on **Saturday, March 22 at 2pm** at the Amador Senior Center in Jackson. The workshop is a comprehensive introduction that can assist everyone with making smarter financial choices. For younger community members, it will provide a good place to

begin money management. For those who have been in the workforce for some time it will be a good refresher on smart money management.

The presenter is Cheryl Maderazo, who was Executive Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer of United Business Bank, currently headquartered in Walnut Creek, CA. She developed a multi-session training program for new employees at the bank, which will form the basis of this program.

The workshop will address:

- Learning to create a money plan, working to accomplish goals, controlling recurring expenses, following a budget and establishing an emergency fund (paying yourself).
- Working towards financial independence by understanding how to manage credit and debt and how to start a systematic investment plan.
- Introducing budgeting apps that might be useful.

Special Program: Women's Adventure Film Tour

The Women's Adventure Film Tour will present a thrilling selection of films that span extreme sports, personal journeys, and boundary-pushing storytelling from across the globe. This year's program highlights the resilience and creativity of individuals navigating the challenges of both the outer world and their own inner landscapes. The movie brings together incredible stories of courage, adventure, and self-discovery. This film compilation represents the spirit of perseverance and the power of women in the outdoors to inspire, entertain, and spark important conversations.

Several branch members attended last year's event and loved it. We are arranging another outing on **Thursday, March 6 at 6:45pm** at the Jackson Cinema in celebration of International Women's Day. We hope to see you there! More details will be in the March 1 Gold Filings.

In addition to the Thursday showing, there are two other dates are available:

Saturday, March 8 at 5:00pm (*International Women's Day*)

Sunday, March 9 at 3:00pm

2025 Home Tour Update

Request for Home Tour Raffle Baskets

Check your email for a message from Terrie and Rita encouraging everyone to contribute toward a raffle basket for the Home Tour. 2023's Home Tour raffle baskets were much sought after items and generated more than \$1,500 towards the event's proceeds. Individual members and special interest groups are requested to donate a basket or items that can be added to a basket. Rita Bohl is organizing this effort and is willing to receive baskets as soon as they are ready. The deadline to submit them is April 25th. Contact Rita with questions.

ritab@softcom.net

916-531-0843

Thanks, Rita Bohl

Late February Calendar

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](#) if you would like to join or have questions.

Monday, February 24, noon

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

Contact [Stephanie Young](#) if you would like to join the group.

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.

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 to discuss "The Evolution of U.S. Leadership in the Global Economy."

Contact [Stephanie Young](#) if you would like to join the group.

DEI--Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

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.

More Facts about African Americans of Note

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

Music and Television

- Dubbed "[Hip-Hop's First Godmother](#)" by [Billboard](#), singer and music producer Sylvia Robinson produced the first-ever commercially successful rap record: "[Rapper's Delight](#),"

by the Sugar Hill Gang. And along with her husband, she co-owned the first hip-hop label, Sugar Hill Records.

- Renowned singer and jazz pianist Nat King Cole was the first Black American to host a TV show: NBC's The Nat King Cole Show.
- In 1981, broadcast journalist Bryant Gumbel became the first Black person to host a network morning show when he joined NBC's Today show.
- In 1940, Hattie McDaniel became the first Black person to win an Oscar, for her supporting role in Gone With the Wind. Twenty-four years later, Sidney Poitier became the first Black man to win an Oscar, for his leading role in Lilies of the Field.

Inventors

- Madam C.J. Walker created a line of haircare products for African American women, leading her to later become the first female African American self-made millionaire. There is now a Netflix series based upon her journey, titled Self Made.
- Computer scientist Lisa Gelobter assisted with the 1995 creation of Shockwave, essential technology that led to the development of web animation. (So we have her to thank for GIFs.)
- Agricultural scientist George Carver was responsible for creating over 500 new products made from peanuts and sweet potatoes, including cooking oils, paint, and soap.

Sports

- In 1960, Wilma Rudolph, of Clarksville, TN, won with the new Olympic record time of 11.3 seconds in the women's 100-meter dash.
- In 1908, after winning the 4 x 400 meter relay, John Taylor became the first African American to win gold in the Olympics. And in 1948, Alice Coachman became the first Black woman in the world to win an Olympic gold medal while competing in the high jump.
- Founded in 1984, the Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo is the only touring African American rodeo in the world.
- In 1920, Fritz Pollard and Bobby Marshall became the first Black athletes to play in the NFL. Pollard was also the League's first Black coach.
- George Coleman Poage became the first Black person to earn a medal at the Olympic Games in 1904. He was a hurdler.
- In 1996, Sheryl Swoopes became the first player to sign with the WNBA, with the league debuting a year later.

Society and Life

- First published in 1936, The Negro Motorist Green Book was a comprehensive guide for Black travelers about locations across America—and eventually overseas—that were either Black-owned or didn't engage in segregationist practices. The guide was printed for 30 years. It stopped publication in 1966, two years after the Civil Rights Act was passed.
- The oldest Black female Greek-letter organization, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (AKA), was founded at Howard University in 1908. Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. (Alpha), the first Black male Greek-letter organization, was founded in 1906 at Cornell University.
- It's estimated that around 100,000 enslaved people escaped to the North via the Underground Railroad from 1810 to 1850.
- In July 1777, Vermont became the first colony to ban slavery.

To learn about more important figures, read Lift Every Voice: A Celebration of Black Lives, which has a foreword from Oprah. The collection presents interviews with the oldest generation of Black Americans about their lives, their experiences, and the wisdom that can carry all of us to a better future.

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

Welcome Two New Members!



Susy Flory

Susy Flory is the New York Times bestselling author or coauthor of 20 books, including *Thunder Dog*, the true story of a blind man and his guide dog who survived the September 11 World Trade Center attacks. An accomplished author and writer known for her inspiring and heartfelt books that often explore themes of faith, resilience, and personal transformation, Susy also loves writing animal stories and helps her daughter, Teddy, with her work at Tri County Animal Care.

A resident of upper Volcano since 2011, Susy is currently in a doctoral program studying women writers in the ancient world and directs a large regional writers conference called *West Coast Christian Writers*. New: A book she wrote in 2014, called *The Unbreakable Boy*, has been



Jim Powell

A fifth-generation Californian descended from a British ship's carpenter who settled in the mining town of Angels Camp in 1850, Jim Powell was born in Stockton. The family moved to San Andreas in 1954, where Jim attended San Andreas Elementary and Calaveras High School. Upon graduation, Jim was accepted to UC, Irvine. Jim divided his time between his studies as a history major and his job as an accredited animal technician at the new UCI College of Medicine.

After college, Jim landed a job at CSU Fullerton where he worked as a communications specialist for the Career Center. Jim was soon writing for the Division of Student Affairs and was later recruited to the Office of Public Affairs where he wrote feature articles for the alumni's tabloid newspaper while honing his skills in desktop publication design. During

made into a movie and opens across the country on Feb 21, 2025. You can learn more at www.susyflory.com

this time, Jim met and married his wife, Michele. He transferred to the Division of Information Technology to serve as the campus's first webmaster. He retired from Fullerton in 2009 after 32 years with the university.

After retiring, Jim and Michele moved to Amador County. Michele joined AAUW Amador where she has served in many leadership positions, and Jim has lent his support with his computer and design skills.

THE MARGARET DALTON MEMORIAL

GOLDEN ACORN AWARDS DINNER

What's on the menu?

MARCH 8, 2025

ITALIAN PICNIC GROUNDS, SUTTER CREEK

NO HOST BAR 5 PM | DINNER AT 6 PM

CATERED BY SILVER SAGE

Plated Dinner

BABY GREENS SPRING SALAD WITH RASPBERRY VINAIGRETTE,
GORGONZOLA CHEESE, SUNDRIED CRANBERRIES, SLICED ALMONDS,
WALNUTS, FRESH RASPBERRIES AND EDIBLE FLOWERS

ANGUS CHOICE NY STEAKS WITH A BRANDY PEPPERCORN SAUCE

HONEY MUSTARD HERB CHICKEN

SILVER SAGE FAMOUS GARLIC MASHED RED POTATOES WITH FRESH
CREAM AND BUTTER

GREEN BEANS WITH BACON, GARLIC AND SLICED ALMONDS

ROLLS WITH BUTTER

!! 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](#)

TICKETS \$75 PER PERSON
TABLE OF 10 - \$800
(Includes Reserved Table, 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.



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

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 many 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 particularly for public events e.g. Get Out The Vote, Lobby Days, Home Tour, Amador County Fair, Giving Tuesday, etc.

From National and State

State Elections and Peer Group update:

In order to manage the state AAUW organization, members have divided themselves into peer groups, which generally hold meetings once a month. All

peer groups are open to anyone interested in learning more about the way the state organization works. Click [HERE](#) for a list of peer groups.

This spring the state organization will be electing a president- elect, chief financial officer, and three board members. Click **here** for more information about the various positions to be filled. The application deadline for candidates is March 1st. Click [HERE](#) for the application.

To get info about how to help those affected by the LA fires, Click [HERE](#).

The AAUW branches [Pasadena, Alhambra-San Gabriel, San Fernando, and Glendale] affected by the LA fires [LAF] are actively determining which members have lost homes, had damage, been displaced, etc. By using the model set up by the Paradise Branch when the Paradise Fire displaced members, these branches are working with AAUW CA President Charmen Goehring, AAUW California Office Manager Julika Barrett, and AAUW Paradise Branch member and former state director Carol Holzgrafe to set up a concerted effort to assist affected branch members.

How to Contribute: Please send gift cards to:

AAUW CA
PO Box 160067
Sacramento, CA 95816-0067

The envelope should be marked: ATTN: SoCalFire

Here is a list of several reputable organizations that are supporting recovery efforts in the Los Angeles area at this time.

Organizations supporting victims:

Community Organized Relief Effort (CORE)-<https://www.corerresponse.org/donate-emergency-response-fund/>

American Red Cross- 1-800-RED-CROSS, text the word REDCROSS to 90999 or visit <http://redcross.org/>

United Way of Greater Los Angeles- <https://unitedwayla.org/>

Salvation Army- <https://socal.salvationarmy.org/southern-california/wildfires-in-los-angeles/>

Organizations supporting firefighters:

California Fire Foundation- <https://www.cafirefoundation.org/>

Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation- <https://supportlafd.org/>

Organizations helping animals:

Pasadena Humane- <https://pasadenahumane.org/eaton-canyon-fire-update/>

Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation- <https://lacountyanimals.org/>

Los Angeles Animal Services- <https://www.laanimalservices.com/>

Finding Your Voice

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*

Public Policy Update

Please click [HERE](#) for the February issue of Public Policy News. Included is information about Project 2025 becoming a reality, and what you can do to take action now.

An Apt Quote for Our Times:

"The tragedy in the lives of most of us is that we go through life walking down a high-walled lane with people of our own kind, the same economic situation, the same national background and education and religious outlook. And beyond those walls, all humanity lies, unknown and unseen, and untouched by our restricted and impoverished lives."

Florence Luscomb, architect and suffragist (1887-1985)

Tech Trek



From Gretchen Carlson, Branch Coordinator

Currently I am awaiting the nominations list from the junior high schools. By mid-February I should be receiving applications.

The 2025 interview team is Samantha Fischer, Helen Loffland, and Janie Brown.

Volunteers are being selected for camp. If interested, go to the Tech Trek site aauw-ca.org/tech-trek/. Positions needed include nurses, dorm monitors, and instructors.

AAUW Scholarships

Remind any Amador County woman you know about our scholarship opportunities. If interested go to amador-ca.aauw.net/scholarships.
Application Deadline is March 15.

Arts and Education



Exciting Opportunities at Amador College Connect!

In partnership with Columbia College, Volcano Communications Group, the Amador and Calaveras Childcare Council and other community sponsors,

Amador College Connect is offering **K16 Career Pathway Programs in Early Childhood Education (ECE) and Computer Science.**

This is providing Amador students with access to workforce training right here in the county. These year-long programs are **offered free of charge** to any student, recent graduate, or adult learner and students successfully completing all components of the K16 pathway programs receive a \$500 Completion Award at the end of the term.

The ECE program will help alleviate the need for childcare providers for Amador County. Upon successful completion of virtual evening classes and local work experience for on-the-job training, students will be eligible for the Assistant Teaching Permit (through the Commission on Teacher Credentialing) allowing them to enter the education workforce.

The K16 Computer Science Pathway includes a five-course Columbia College program (taught virtually), participation in a Computer Science Lab taught at the Amador College Connect Center and three-weeks of work experience with Volcano Communications Group. Upon successful completion of the coursework, students are eligible to earn the Computer Network Specialist industry certification.

In June Amador College Connect will hold its first K16 Pathways Program commencement. This program provides new and exciting opportunities for Amador County students. If you know anyone that might be interested in pursuing one of these career opportunities click the links for more information.

Link to ECE program and Computer Science program: <https://amadorcollegeconnect.com/a-k16-collaborative/>

Excerpted from an article by Andrew Gardner in the Ledger Dispatch

The Mail that Made America: 250 Years of the U.S. Postal Service

In 2025, we celebrate the anniversaries of the U.S. Army, Navy, and Marine Corps. But wait, there's more! We need to unbox the U.S. Postal Service in 2025!

Richard Fairbanks' Tavern in Boston is considered the first American post office, established in 1639. While a tavern may seem like an odd setting, informal sites like inns and such collected and distributed mail in pre-Revolution America. By 1775, the Second Continental Congress recognized the importance of postal services and established a formal post office, appointing Benjamin Franklin the first postmaster general. Having been a postmaster in Philadelphia, Franklin significantly improved the system by establishing a more structured network for deliveries, even creating the first system of rates based on weight and distance.

Major changes occurred in 1792, when the first significant piece of postal legislation, the Postal Service Act, was passed. This law not only created a formal, national postal network, but also established a uniform rate for postage.

Throughout the 19th century, the postal service expanded rapidly as the United States grew in population and scale. Until there was a widespread rail network, stagecoaches commonly delivered the mail. The Pony Express, which only operated for 18 months, was a fast mail delivery service that spanned the American West from April 1860 to October 1861. Horseback mail carriers covered nearly 2,000 miles in 10 days, playing a crucial role in connecting the Eastern and Western U.S., especially during the Civil War. While short-lived, the Pony Express set the stage for more efficient transportation

systems. The completion of the transcontinental railroad and, later the telegraph, eventually supplanted such services.

Until the Civil War, the majority of mail was delivered to P.O. boxes to save on costs. Then, the Post Office Department authorized free home delivery in certain cities (where it was cost-effective) beginning in 1863. This innovation was incredibly successful, making correspondence simpler than ever. For a few decades, home delivery was exclusively for city dwellers. In fact, the postal service since its inception mostly served urban centers. However, by 1890, 65% of Americans resided in rural areas and were in desperate need of better postal access. Therefore, Postmaster General John Wanamaker put forth a plan for free rural delivery, or "RFD," in 1891. The program first began as a pilot in West Virginia. After resounding success and popularity, it was made permanent nationwide in 1902. This initiative was run under the banner of RFD until full agency modernization in the 1970s.

The Post Office is not just significant for its long, storied history, but also for what it represents. From sharing the earliest pro-independence pamphlets to newspapers delivering wartime updates, the Post Office and what it delivers exemplify the indispensable nature of communication and the interconnectivity that defines our diverse democracy.

Excerpted from an article by archivesfoundation.org

24 Black History Month Recipes

You can tell a lot about a culture and its history by exploring its food. What is now typically called "soul food" had its roots in African staples merged with the inexpensive foods that were given to African-American slaves.

African Recipes

1. [Egusi with Spinach](#)
2. [Fufu](#)
3. [Ila \(Okra Sauce\)](#)
4. [OBE ATA \(Stewed Meat\)](#)

Caribbean Recipes

5. [Easy Jamaican Curried Chicken](#)
6. [Easy Peasy Jerk Chicken](#)
7. [Simple Guyanese Chicken Curry](#)

Southern Recipes

8. [Baked Macaroni and Cheese](#)
9. ["Best Apple Pie Ever" Recipe](#)
10. [Fresh Black-Eyed Peas](#)
11. [Quick and Easy Mashed Potatoes](#)
12. [Smashing Sweet Potato Casserole](#)
13. [Southern Collard Greens with Smoked Turkey Wings](#)
14. [Southern Green Beans](#)
15. [Melinda's Easy Southern Chicken Salad](#)
16. [Easy Southern Pan-Fried Chicken](#)
17. [BBQ Pork Ribs \(Slow Cooker\)](#)
18. ["Fall off the Bone" Slow-Baked Ribs](#)
19. [Southern Crispy Pan Fried Fish](#)
20. [Easy Barbecue Meatloaf](#)
21. [Red Velvet Cupcakes](#)
22. [Sweet Potato Pie](#)
23. [Peach Cobbler](#)
24. [Ms. Linda's Banana Pudding With Chessmen Cookies](#)

Contact Us / Social Media

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Facebook.com/AAUW-Amador

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