

Gold Filings



April 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?

- Message from the Leadership Chair
- April Programs
- Home Tour Update
- April Calendar
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Membership
- Announcements from National and State
- Advocacy: Finding Your Voice
- Tech Trek Update
- Public Policy
- Arts & Education

Message from the Leadership Chair



Greetings!

It's raining as I write this after a few days of higher-than-normal temperatures. Just as rain is necessary for our lives on this planet, good leadership is necessary for the continued viability of the Amador branch.

I know it's a cliché, but it does take a village to do the work that is meaningful and impactful to all of us as well as to our community. We need YOU and your creative ideas. It's a great way to meet other members and to make a difference in our branch. I hope you'll consider this rewarding opportunity to make a difference. Please contact Sandee Bowman, our Nominations Chair, at sbowman56@gmail.com if you're interested.

The Home Tour is back! Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 3rd in Lone. In the meantime, Rita Bohl is looking for donations of creative raffle baskets. The raffle is always one of the most popular parts of the Home Tour, so think about what you can put together to create a fun basket.

Jen Ellis is also looking for members and non-members alike who want to be docents at the four homes and historic sites that are a part of the tour. If you're interested in having some fun, contact Jen at sewjellis@gmail.com.

Last but not least, we're having an AAUW Member Social Event on Sunday, April 6th at 2:00pm (details below). Join us for an easy afternoon of just having fun and hanging out. Haven't seen a fellow member for a while? This is your chance to catch up and enjoy yourself. There will also be a "Most Delicious Dessert" contest. I just found my entry on the front of an old cookbook, so the challenge is on! Bring a friend!

Cheers,
Terrie Houseman

April Program



"Connect!"

Coming This Week -- Sunday, April 6, at 2 pm

**Bring your best chocolate or berry dessert to participate in our
'Most Delicious Dessert' contest.**

Attendees will vote on their favorite in each category and the winners will
receive a small gift.

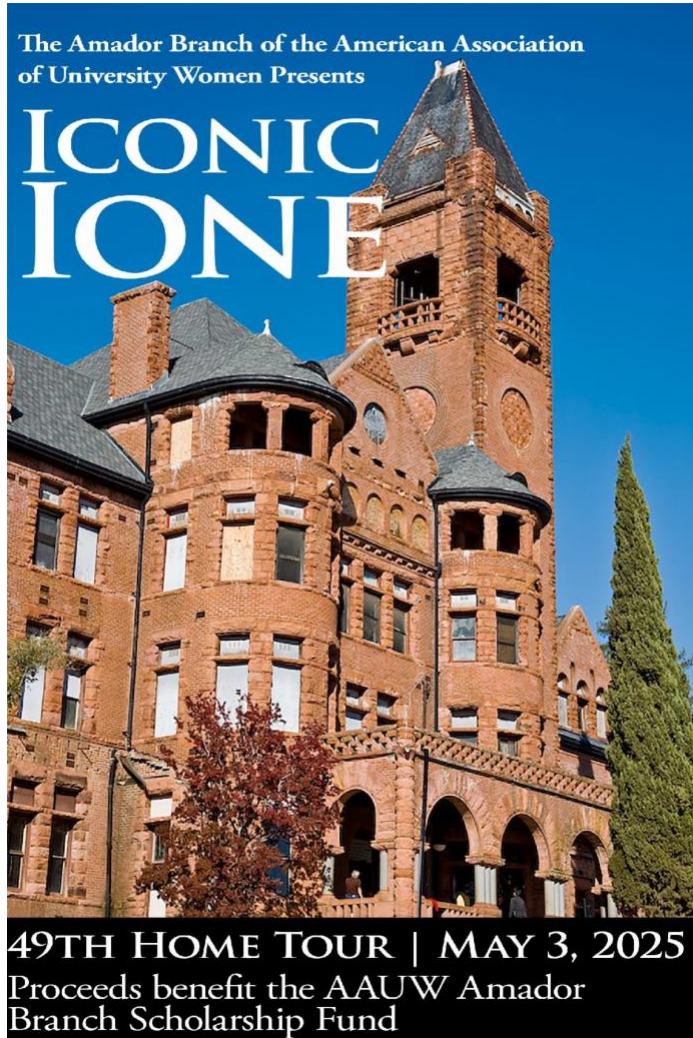
Coffee, tea and water will be available, but if you would like wine,

you are welcome to bring a bottle.

RSVP to Sue Harrington at aauwamador@gmail.com by April 3
so we can set up enough tables & chairs.

And bring a friend!

2025 Home Tour Update



The Home Tour -- Ione

Saturday, May 3, 2025

The 49th Home Tour, "**Iconic Ione**," will feature four homes and three historic sites.

** The Tea and Raffle will be held at Preston Castle

** The Ione Community Methodist Church will be open

** The third historic site is the Bonham Kiln #2 at the Domenico Winery.

Get your tickets now! There are three convenient ways to purchase tickets – online at Eventbrite (\$40.00 + processing fee) as well as the Ione Pharmacy and The Feed Barn in Jackson (\$40 checks or cash). In addition, tickets are available the day of the Home Tour at Preston Castle for \$45.00.

We are well on our way to securing the 50 docents needed to support the Home Tour, but we need more. If you and your friends are interested in being docents,

please contact Jen Ellis at sewjellis@gmail.com or at (650) 537-6253.

As a member, what can I do?

- **Buy a ticket.** This is our primary fundraiser for the year--proceeds fund both our scholarships and our operations. 60% of the ticket price is tax deductible. Even if you are working the Home Tour as a docent, we hope you will buy a ticket too. (Non-member docents don't have to buy a ticket).

- **Donate** a raffle basket or items that can be included in a basket. All basket proceeds go toward the scholarship fund. Contact [Rita Bohl](#) with questions.
- **Plan** to bake cookies for the Tea. More info coming in the next GF.

In addition, we need five members to step up and volunteer to **distribute posters** to the following cities:

- Sutter Creek (2 people)
- Sutter Hill / Martell
- Drytown / Amador City
- Moke Hill, etc. in Calaveras County.

Please contact [Stephanie Young](#) if you can help.

Thanks

Rachel & Greta

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

Our Mid-April Gold Filings will be Home Tour Special Edition. with descriptions of the homes and the historic sites!

April Calendar

Thursday, April 3, 11:00am

Free Road Scholar Lecture--Doris Kearns Goodwin on "Leadership in Turbulent Times"

Join the Lecture! When prompted, enter the passcode: Goodwin50!

Thursday, April 3, 4:00pm

Leadership Committee Meeting via Zoom

All members are invited to attend. If you wish to be included, please contact [Terrie Houseman](#)..

Tuesday, April 9, CA Lobby Days

Time TBA

We have four members who will be talking with our legislators that day.

Monday, April 14, 2:00-4:00pm

Afternoon Book Group

We will meet at Kathy Guletz' house to discuss *The Grey Wolf* by Louise Penney

Contact [Debra Brown](#) if you would like to join the group.

Wednesday, April 23, 5:30pm

Working Girls Book Group

We will meet at the Vallarta Grill in Martell to discuss *Rosarita* by Anita Desai.

Contact [Jacque Fletcher](#) if you would like to join or have questions.

Thursday, April 24, 6:00pm

Great Decisions (Evening Group) will meet at Stephanie Young's house to discuss the chapter on India.

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

Saturday, April 26, 10:00am - 2:00pm

CA Annual Event

Held virtually on Zoom--you will receive an email with the invitation and the link soon.
Hear the latest news and listen to the Speech Trek finalists.

Monday, April 28, noon

Great Decisions (Afternoon Group) will meet at Stephanie Young's house to discuss the chapter on India.

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

Monday, April 28, 2:00-4:00pm

Page Turners & Book Lovers

We are meeting at Sandee Bowman's house to discuss *The Message* by Ta-Nehisi-Coates

Contact [Sandee Bowman](#) if you would like to join the group.

Libations and Conversations will not meet in April

This will give everyone the opportunity to prepare for our 2025 AAUW Home Tour and Tea on May 3rd

DEI--Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

DIVERSITY DATELINE

Holiday or Observance	Religious Group	Date
Rama Navami	Hindu	April 6, 2025
Passover	Jewish	April 12-April 20, 2025
Theravada New Year	Buddhist	April 13, 2025
Good Friday	Christian	April 18, 2025
Orthodox Good Friday	Christian	April 18, 2025
Easter	Christian	April 20, 2025
Orthodox Easter	Christian	April 20, 2025

Membership

**Living in a democracy is about recognizing that our point of view won't always win out,
but continuing to fight for the change we believe in.**

Barack Obama



Renee Day
Mara Feeney
Jacque Fletcher
Kelli Garcia
Jim Powell
Andrea Sexton

Membership Dues Update for 2025-26

The AAUW Board approved a modest dues adjustment —
\$2 per year over the next two years.

National Dues will be \$74, all of which is tax deductible.

Branch Dues will be \$25, (increase of \$2)

CA is asking for a \$10 dues increase, which would then be \$30.

Potential total = \$129.

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

Upcoming State Elections

Members just received an email about the upcoming AAUW-CA elections and will receive their state ballot on April 25. The voting period will begin on April 26, 2025, and will close on May 16, 2025.

Please read the email because it details information on the adoption of the Public Policy Priorities for 2025-27, the Board candidates and the proposed state dues increase. The state board is requesting that state dues be raised \$10 (for a total of \$30 per year). It's important to note that branches get a lot of support from AAUW-CA, and state dues have not been raised for 15 years

Upcoming National Elections

Voting opens on April 14 at 9:00am PDT. Members will receive an electronic ballot with their unique voting credentials from vote@simplyvoting.com, our third-party voting service. Add this email address to your safe sender list to ensure your ballot reaches you. Members without an email address on file will receive a paper ballot. Eligible voters are those who were members as of March 14, 2025. Voting closes on May 13, 2:00pm, PDT.

AAUW Webinars

Defending Equity: Strengthening Our Collective Impact Series

Amid growing attacks on diversity, equity, and inclusion, AAUW is taking action. This series equips members with key policy updates, advocacy strategies, and tools to strengthen our impact. Join one or all sessions to stay informed and take action! The sessions are recorded so if you miss one you can watch it later.

AAUW: Standing Strong Against Attacks on Equity in Education

March 26 | 3:00 p.m. PT

Recent executive actions threaten diversity, equity, and inclusion nationwide. Join us to learn about these policy changes, how they impact women and marginalized communities, and how AAUW is taking action to defend equity. Stay informed and discover ways to support our mission in this critical moment. [Register Here](#)

Building A Stronger AAUW -- April 1 | 4:00 p.m PT

Strong fundraising fuels AAUW's impact. This session, led by AAUW National's Advancement Committee, will provide strategies for successful branch fundraising. Learn about AAUW's budget, the Greatest Needs Fund, and hear directly from branches with proven fundraising success. Walk away with tools and resources to help your branch grow its financial support. [Register here](#)

AAUW Advocacy Strategies for In-District Meetings -- April 8 | 4:00 p.m. PT

Face-to-face advocacy can drive real change. This session will guide members on how to set up in-district meetings with members of Congress, maximize town hall participation, and effectively use key talking points during the upcoming April congressional recess. Learn how to make your voice heard. [Register Here](#)

Understanding Changes to Sex and Gender-Based Scholarship Programs --

April 15 | 4:00 p.m. PT

Navigating legal changes to sex-based scholarships can be complex. This interactive session will provide information to AAUW branches on funding scholarships amid evolving regulations while staying true to our mission of advancing education for women and girls. Space is limited. [Register Here](#)

Why AAUW is Relevant

Have you stopped to review all AAUW accomplishes even in present-day circumstances?

Here are some highlights from first national, then state.

- 6.3 million dollars went to 285 AAUW Fellows and Community Organizations.
- 6157 women received Work Smart, Money Smart, and Start Smart training.
- 500 college women went to NCCWSL.
- 47,000 messages were sent to our elected officials via the 2-minute activist.

Learn more from the 2024 Annual Report.

- Speech Trek – working with high school students to deliver a speech on a selected timely topic.
- Tech Trek has sent more than 15,000 girls entering 8th grade to STEM camps throughout California since 1998. Virtual camps were added during the pandemic, and now both options are offered! Be inspired at their website: Tech Trek.
- Branches provide thousands of local scholarships for women pursuing their degrees
- A focus on DEI makes the world a better, more welcoming place.

So, keep strong and carry on!

Michelle Baer & Donna Holmes,

Directors, Communication Committee Co-Chairs, communications@aauw-ca.org

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. Details at www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/

ACTION: Postcard Protest and Acts of Gratitude

In 2016 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 meets once a month on the third Thursday of the month at 2:00pm 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.

Tech Trek Update

The three Amador County girls who will be attending TT this summer are in the process of registering for camp. Any AAUW member who would like to visit UC Davis TT may do so on Thursday, July 17. Let me know if you'd like to do so.

NOTE: Two years ago several of us attended this Open Day and it was interesting and fun. For any of you who are interested in this program, we highly recommend you plan to attend this summer.

Would you like to get involved with Tech Trek, but you aren't sure what you'd like to do? Perhaps being a Tech Trek Alum Group Branch Advisor is the answer!! Many branches across the state are helping form such groups, which are typically run by former campers. The local branch advisor would help to get the group up and running. There is even an online toolkit to help you.

For more information, go to the California AAUW website and locate the Tech Trek section. Toward the bottom of the page, you will find 'Life After Tech Trek', where TTAG is discussed. I will be your liaison with past TTers. Let me know if you are interested!!

*Submitted by Gretchen Carlson,
Tech Trek Coordinator*



Public Policy

Prepare for Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April

by Claire Noonan, AAUW CA Public Policy Committee

Sexual assault violence prevention calls for the creation of safer communities. Addressing the root causes of this kind of violence is difficult as it involves a multipronged approach, including improving street and housing conditions, providing education, and offering support services. We should work to advance policies at workplaces and schools, discuss sexual assault and its consequences with friends and family, and prioritize prevention in our communities.

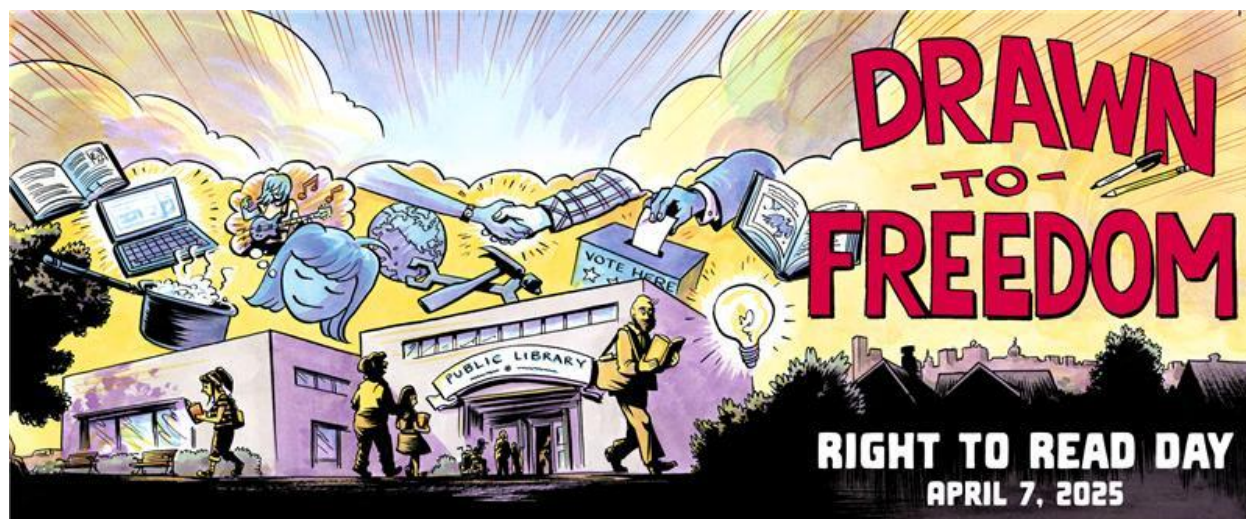
Official channels for raising awareness about sexual assault violence and creating and implementing the policies needed for prevention has a long history in the United States; however, given the current administration's attack on "DEI," much of this work is now under threat of being dismantled.

In addition, the current Administration has attacked the Office of Family Violence Prevention and Services and the Office on Violence Against Women, who must now disclose information that may further eliminate funding and resources, such as whether grants are being used to support "removable or illegal aliens or immigrants;" to "promote gender ideology;" or to advance "illegal DEI" programs.

As individuals and non-profit organizations, we can contact our Congressmembers and state officials to back efforts to get the money flowing to relevant organizations and programs that raise awareness of and prevent sexual assault violence. We can also act in our local communities to reduce sexual assault violence. We can ask to improve lighting to make streets and other public spaces safer. We can make sure our city, county, and public health officials promote policies for families and children, address economic security, and provide access to safe, stable housing. We can collaborate with community-led organizations that coordinate resources and services that help with trauma, mental health and substance use, all of which lead to sexual abuse. (from [CDC-Violence Prevention](#))

Overall, we can all work to [support the organizations country-wide](#) that are on the front lines of dealing with sexual assault violence. [Click here](#) for downloadable free materials to share from the Domestic Violence Awareness Project.

Arts and Education



Have a Bit of Fun Today

If you love dogs or are looking for a fun, uplifting story, click [HERE](#). It's the story of a dog-sitting business in Alaska using a bus to take dogs on field trips.

Revolutionary Women

April marks 30 years since Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor became the first woman to preside over the court, temporarily sitting in for Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist. Fourteen years earlier, O'Connor had become the first woman to sit on the Supreme Court, ultimately paving the way for Elena Kagan, Sonia Sotomayor, Ruth Bader Ginsberg, Amy Coney Barrett, and Ketanji Brown Jackson.

From Sandra Day O'Connor to Sally Ride to Kamala Harris, our history holds countless moments when women broke through barriers and into arenas that had previously been exclusively occupied by men.

This month we spotlight a few trailblazing women from America's history...

1776: Margaret Corbin

The first woman to receive a war pension...

1866: Mary Edwards Walker

The first female civilian U.S. Army surgeon...

1867: Madam C. J. Walker

The first black female self-made millionaire in America...

1916: Jeanette Rankin

The first woman elected to the U.S. Congress...

1932: Hattie Caraway

The first woman to be elected to the U.S. Senate...

1995: Sandra Day O'Connor

The first woman appointed to the Supreme Court...

From the National Archives Foundation

Social Media: Like, Comment, Share

Do you know the effectiveness of **Like**, **Comment** and **Share**? Imagine you spent hours and hours shopping for THE perfect holiday gift for that special someone. Wouldn't it be super sad and lonely to never hear back from your gift receiver that they did in fact **LIKE** what you gave them? Or didn't **COMMENT** on what specifically they enjoyed about the gift? Or never thought to **SHARE** their enthusiasm with someone else who could also benefit from such a gift? This is the reasoning behind the importance of social media use.

April Holidays, Celebrations and Observances 2025

- April --- Sexual Assault Awareness Month
- April 1 --- April Fool's Day
- April 2 --- World Autism Awareness Day (Global)
- April 3 --- National Rainbow Day (US)
- April 7 --- Right to Read Day (US)
- April 7 --- No Housework Day

- April 11 — [National Pet Day](#) (US)
- April 14 — [National Gardening Day](#) (US)
- April 15 — [World Art Day](#) (International)
- April 22 — [Earth Day](#) (International)
- April 25 — [National Arbor Day](#) (US)
- April 30 — [International Jazz Day](#)

Contact Us / Social Media

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Facebook.com/AAUW-Amador

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