

Gold Filings



June 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?

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Message from the Leadership Chair



Greetings, everyone!

As summer starts to cast its glow, let's make the most of it. Take in the sunshine and give yourself the time you need to tackle projects on your to-do list. Most of all, I hope you find time to kick back, take in some gorgeous views and simply play.

Speaking of playing, please join us at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 21, starting at 10am (details below). Yes, we have to conduct business, but we'll also be playing a bit. That part is secret for now, so you'll have to attend to find out. It will also be fun to meet our three new scholarship recipients and several new members.

The Nominations committee still has a few positions open for the new fiscal year starting on July 1. We need YOU

and your creative ideas. Please contact Sandee Bowman at sbowman56@gmail.com if you're interested.

It's also time to renew your membership. Here's the deal: If you renew before June 30th, you'll save \$10. The total will be \$119 instead of \$129. The Branch and National dues will increase by \$2 each, however, voters approved a \$10 increase in State dues effective July 1. So, if you renew before June 30th, you won't have to pay the State dues increase this year.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Annual Meeting in June!

Cheers,
Terrie Houseman

Annual Meeting June 21



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE ANNUAL BRANCH MEETING

**June 21, 2025 10:00 AM
United Methodist Church
14 Main St. Sutter Creek**

- Scholarship Presentation
- Officer Election/Installation
- 2025-26 Budget Approval
- A celebration of a great year with light bites, awards, and discussions about future events

**RSVP to aauwamador@gmail.com
by June 18th**

Featured at the Annual Meeting are the 2025 Scholarship Award Winners

Kaila Taylor
Julia Votaw

Jacqueline Garcia

The 2025 Scholarship Committee

Janie Brown
Candace Diamond
Janet Kendig
Kathy Guletz, Chair

Note the time, place and RSVP deadline noted in the flyer above. We'll see you there!

Libations & Conversations



Wednesday, June 4

5:30PM to 6:30PM



Raven's Reach Tasting Room
83 Main St, Sutter Creek

COME & LISTEN TO AN
IMPORTANT PRESENTATION
BY MICHELLE ERNSTER, A
HEALTH EDUCATOR FOR
THE GREATER SACRAMENTO
WOMEN'S BRAIN HEALTH
PROGRAM AT UC DAVIS
HEALTH.

MICHELLE WILL DISCUSS
GENERAL BRAIN HEALTH &
PROVIDE TIPS &
INFORMATION ON HOW TO
KEEP YOUR BRAIN SHARP &
VIBRANT THROUGHOUT
YOUR LIFE.

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

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



LISTEN
LEARN
ASK



June Calendar

Wednesday, June 4, 5:30-6:30
Libations & Conversations

We will meet at Raven's Reach Tasting Room in Sutter Creek. Our speaker is Michelle Ernster, a health educator for the Greater Sacramento Women's Brain Health Program (GROW) at UC Davis Health. Michelle's topic will be General Brain Health. She will provide information and tips to keep your brain sharp and vibrant throughout your life. Members, guests and the public are welcome to attend this no fee presentation. No need to RSVP, just come and join the discussion

Thursday, June 5, 4:00pm

Leadership Committee Meeting via Zoom

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

Monday, June 16 2:00-4:00pm

Afternoon Book Group

We will meet at Marilou Lane's house to discuss *The Secret Life of Sunflowers* by Marta Molnar. Contact [Debra Brown](#) if you would like to join the group.

Wednesday June 18, 5:30pm

Working Girls Book Group

We will be meeting at Element in Sutter Creek. Our book this month is *My Friend* by Fredrick Backman.

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

Saturday, June 21, 10am

Annual Meeting

Creekside Methodist Church in Sutter Creek

Don't miss the chance to socialize with other members, approve the budget and vote on exciting plans for next year!

Monday, June 23, noon

Great Decisions (Afternoon Group) will meet at Stephanie Young's house to discuss *The Future of NATO*

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

Monday, June 23, 2:00-4:00pm

Page Turners & Book Lovers

We are meeting at Michele Powell's house to discuss *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain.

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

Thursday, June 26, 6:00pm

Great Decisions (Evening Group) will meet at Stephanie Young's house to discuss *The Future of NATO*

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

Friday, June 30

Membership Renewals are DUE for many of our members. See details below.

DEI--Diversity, Equity, Inclusion



Statement on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

AAUW California stands firm in its commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), [in line with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Strategic Plan, 2024-2027](#), and despite current political efforts to eliminate its mention and practice.

As such, we continue to support AAUW California branches in their DEI efforts and to encourage them to take action in the following ways:

- Explore and discuss the resources available through the [AAUW Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Toolkit](#).
- Adopt an [Equity Lens](#).
- Follow the [JABEID Checklist](#) when planning programs.
- Take one or more of the AAUW California Public Policy Team's [Actions to Fight Project 2025!](#)
- Participate in AAUW DEI Peer Group Meetings. (See the calendar on the AAUW CA website.)
- Reflect on the following questions, inspired by Dr. Shawn A. Ginwright's [The Four Pivots](#), individually and as a branch:
 - What biases have I (or we) observed in AAUW or in other organizations to which I (or we) belong?
 - How have I (or we) contributed to these biases and perpetuated them?
 - How can I (or we) heal from these biases and their impact?
 - How can my (or our) healing help others in AAUW and in our communities not experience or perpetuate these same biases?



EQUAL PAY DAY CALENDAR 2025

#WomensEqualPayDay

MARCH 25

Equal Pay Day

APRIL 7

Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Women's Equal Pay Day

MAY 6

Mom's Equal Pay Day

JUNE 17

LGBTQIA+ Awareness Day

JULY 10

Black Women's Equal Pay Day

AUGUST 28

Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) Women's Equal Pay Day

OCT 8

Latina Equal Pay Day

OCT 23

Disabled Women's Equal Pay Day

NOV 18

Native Women's Equal Pay Day

Each year, Equal Pay Days are used to raise awareness about the persistent gender pay gap that is experienced uniquely by different communities of women. These dates are used to uplift research and amplify how the **pay gap impacts women's lives** and their livelihoods through social media campaigns, webinars, and other such events.



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[Membership](#)

*How to stop time: kiss.
How to travel in time: read.
How to escape time: music
How to feel time: write.
How to release time: breathe.
Matt Haig*

   **June Birthdays**   
Karen Dickerson
Janet Kendig
Devin Snyder

Membership Renewal Time for Many is NOW!

37 members have a June 30 membership expiration date.

This includes those who have belonged to the branch for more than three years.
If your renewal date is after July 1, you might consider renewing before June 30
to avoid the \$10 increase in state dues.

In the past, members received an email notice from National to renew, but I have not seen that yet,
so we are reminding everyone to **renew before June 30.**

You can do so two ways:

Mail a check for \$119 to PO Box 611, Sutter Creek, CA 95685 OR
Go online to the [AAUW Website](#) and renew electronically with a credit card.

Annual membership for undergraduate and graduate students is \$41.31
(\$18.81 National dues, \$10 State dues and \$12.50 Branch dues).

Annual membership for Lifetime members is \$45.00
(\$20 for State dues & \$25 for Branch dues.)



Welcome New Member Linda Burman

I am from Turlock, California where I lived until 1967, when I left to attend Stanford University, graduating with a BA in psychology in 1971. While in college, I attended Stanford in France for 6 months in 1969.

I worked for the Internal Revenue Service in administrative services and management for the next 26 years. When I retired in 1997 I moved to Pine Grove with my husband.

I took a job at Indian Grinding Rock State Historic Park as the museum gift shop manager and retired from there in 2010. I had a brief stint as a reporter for the Upcountry News and a Zumba instructor. Currently, I am fully retired and volunteer on the boards of the Chow's Association, the Pine Grove Civic Improvement Club. I am also a volunteer instructor for the Amador Senior Center's Fit after Fifty program

My hobbies include cooking and travelling. I have visited Italy, and I have returned to France twice. I belong to a social group who call themselves "Francophiles." We meet monthly to potluck and practice our French language.

Request from our Historian

If any members have pictures of our programs or interest groups, please send them to [Brenda Walker](#), who is finishing up this year's Branch History records.

From CA-AAUW

Many of you know that we were unsuccessful in finding a candidate to run for the AAUW California Chief Financial Officer (CFO) position. Not only is the position vital to the operation of state business, but we are also legally required to have this position filled.

I am not going to sugarcoat it- the position is challenging and there are many components to the job. However, it is not entirely necessary to have a background in accounting and finance to hold the position. It is also possible to job share-- the tasks could be assigned to the person most comfortable with them. Our current CFO, Kathy Ford, is willing to mentor the new CFO every step of the way. We use QuickBooks Online, which has streamlined the accounting piece of the pie, and we have an investment advisor to assist with the investment piece. The finance committee members are also helpful.

The following are the general tasks of the CFO:

1. Chair the Finance Committee
2. Manage income and the operating budget, including filing income tax reports as necessary and supervising the expenditure of state funds
3. Negotiate insurance programs, which include working with the office manager to collect premium payments from branches
4. Initiate annual financial review
5. Assist branches with financial questions as a consultant and through regular peer group meetings
6. Write a monthly Board 2 Board article and conduct webinars/workshops as requested
7. Attend quarterly leadership team meetings and monthly check-ins on Zoom

I hope someone, or two people, will step up and serve as our CFO. Working with our state leadership team is fun, and you will learn a lot about AAUW, our mission, and our branches. The board is ready to help, and Kathy Ford will also be standing by to assist the new CFO in learning the position.

Please contact me (statepresident@aauw-ca.org) or Kathy Ford (cfo@aauw-ca.org) if you have questions or need more information regarding the position.

Thank you for considering joining our team and helping us lead AAUW California into the next couple of years.

In Equity,
Charmen Goehring
AAUW California President

Social Media

Facebook & Instagram Update as of May 25, 2025

Summary: Since the last update on February 21, the branch Facebook (FB) page has increased by 25 followers and Instagram has increased by 3 for totals of 351 and 16 respectively. There was more content to post in part due to the Tech Trek scholarships announcement and Home Tour resulting in more reactions, comments and shares of posts.

Many members on Facebook follow, like or comment on the page; other members should do so as it portrays an active branch and creates an energy or buzz around a vibrant local community organization promoting its mission and values. Note that AAUW National and CA are followers so what is posted is viewed across the country.

Julie Taylor
Social Media Editor

Public Policy

2025-27 Public Policy Priorities were Approved and Adopted in May. Read them at this link:

[AAUW 2025-27 Public Policy Principles & Priorities](#)

Important takeaways from a recent AAUW Webinar:

1. Reminder: We are non-partisan, but we are not non-political. We have very strong principles, and part of our mission is to advocate for those principles to be put into action – this is a political act.
2. The new statement of Public Policy Priorities distinguishes between Principles – things we stand for – and Priorities – things we will spend our limited resources on. Our Principles have not changed. Their basis is opposition to all forms of discrimination and support of constitutional protection for civil rights for all. This is the guiding principle for our three pillars: Education, Economic Security, and Social Justice & Civil Rights.
3. Our priorities are devised with direction from the Board and the national Public Policy Committee, with input from our members, with recognition that we have a varied membership representing varied districts and communities. The most important consideration is finding a place where AAUW can have a unique impact that best utilizes our leadership capabilities and expertise. It is felt that currently our greatest impact is in the arena of Higher Education. This does not mean that we have abandoned our other Principles, but rather that we will focus on ways in which support for higher education enhances them.
4. The current state of affairs challenges our principles:
 - Executive orders (EOs) are hitting STEM programs and the Department of Education hard; it's important to remember that EOs are not law – however, they send a dangerous message that can shape Congressional response and produce a chilling

effect. 7 of 12 Civil Rights Divisions regional offices have been closed, leading to the prospect of increased dismissals of current cases, and many universities are shutting down their Diversity, Equity & Inclusion programs.

- Title IX is significantly weakened, as it has just been sent backwards 5 years.
- The Budget Reconciliation Bill, if passed, would significantly impact women by eliminating subsidized loans, forcing students into the private and often predatory private market.

All is not lost, and we are not helpless! Here are five Actions you can take to meet these challenges:

- Take a Pledge to “Do a Little Bit More This Year.”
- Send a letter and make a call to your Congressional Representatives to oppose the Reconciliation Bill. This is AAUW’s #1 priority between now and July 1st.
- Thank your representatives who oppose the bill and who have supported legislation important to AAUW.
- Title IX changes have weakened protections for pregnant and parenting students; develop branch projects that can help them.
- Be bold – don’t shy away from our support for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, and use their full names (spell it out as I have been doing here). Using the acronym (DEI) diminishes its importance and has become an object of derision by those who don’t understand what it truly means.

And REMEMBER: taking any of these actions meets the Online challenge of “1 thing you can do” for Public Policy, so be sure to [let me know](#) what you have accomplished!

National has announced the creation of two new funds: the **Defend Higher Education Fund and the **Public Policy Fund****

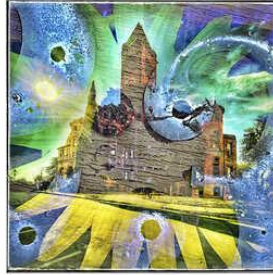
The Defend Higher Education Fund will enable AAUW to elevate the critical higher education issues impacting women, mobilize advocates across the country, provide strategic resources to students, staff and faculty on campus, and fuel investments in the infrastructure and technology necessary to move our mission forward. Your support ensures AAUW can effectively fight on behalf of women on campuses across the country and ensure that AAUW remains a trusted and powerful voice for equity.

The Public Policy Fund is focused on increasing the impact of our Action Network through growing the number of advocates across the country and providing timely, accurate, and actionable information about our key issues. This fund helps equip branches across the country with timely, customized talking points on core policy issues like Title IX, student debt, and pay equity. Support to this fund enables AAUW to reach and energize new advocates—strengthening our collective impact in the fight for gender equity in education and the workplace. [Donate here](#)

Arts and Education

Special Preston Castle Exhibit

In case you missed it during the Home Tour--Open through August 30.



Castle Dream 23 by Larry Angier

Reformation: Transforming the Reformatory *A Photography Exhibit of Preston Castle*

Together, 45 photographers have transformed Preston Castle - the first juvenile detention center for boys in California - into an art museum. With 162 images installed throughout the California State Historical Landmark, this unique exhibition explores themes of crime and punishment, liberty and inequality, longing and belonging, innocence and impermanence.

Photographers view the history of the reformatory through multiple lenses, with visual empathy for the boys who were wards there, including such well-known figures as musician Merle Haggard, beat poet Neal Cassady, and Black Panther leader Eldridge Cleaver. We shine a light on the moral morass of youth incarceration, noticing the shades of gray in the black-and-white stories we tell. We invite you to wander through the labyrinthine Castle for this extraordinary exhibit, which runs from **April 5th - August 30th, 2025**

Please join us in Ione for the opening reception on April 5th from
2 to 4 PM. Pre-registration is required: prestoncastle.org
Space is limited, book now!

\$15 admission; All proceeds benefit the Preston Castle Foundation

Participating Artists:

Harvey Abernathy
Kyle Adler
Susan Andrews
Larry Angier
Alan Ashenforb
Pennie Baxter
Laura Bernard
Kirsten Berg
John Bernard
Sumer Boling
Marcie Canale
Loretta Clarke

Debbie Collins
Sybil Griffith
Zanoni Harris
Dennis J. Herman
Pari Hoke
Kandis Horton
Becky Jaffe
Grant Kreinberg
Lisa Less
Marge Levy
Petra Liljestrand
Piece of Nostalgia
Jose Lopez
Rod Lucich
Ken Mark
Glenn Marlowe

Jay McKeeman
Wayne Nann
Abby O'Rourke
Janet Reinstra
Brian J. Reynolds
Stephanie Romanowski
James Sakaguchi
Dennis N. Scott
Helen Sweet
John Templeton
Carol Thomas
Teri Thomas
Gerrit van Ommering
Alex Valcohen
Jim Van Slyke
Dr. Stephen D. Weiss, M.D.
Alane Whitmore

Juried and Curated by Becky Jaffe and Marge Levy

Literacy in the United States

by M.B. Stephens

America ranks 36th in the world for literacy;

- 21% of Americans are illiterate (52 million adults)
- 54% of Americans cannot read beyond a 6th grade level (141 million adults)
- 57% adult Americans have no education past high school

White U.S. born adults constitute the largest group of illiterate adults in the United States.

Low levels of literacy costs the US up to 2.2 trillion per year.

Often, counties with the lowest literacy rates are the same areas that experience poor health, poverty, and low economic mobility.

There is a strong regional divide. The Midwest and Northeast have much higher and more regionally consistent literacy rates. In the South and West, literacy rates can vary widely from county to county.

18% of adults in Amador County have low literacy.
28% of adults in CA have low literacy.

Low US literacy rates are a complex issue influenced by factors like socioeconomic disparities, inadequate access to quality education, and limited parental involvement, particularly impacting marginalized communities.

June Holidays and Observances

- **World Environment Day (June 5th):** A global day to raise awareness about environmental issues.
- **World Oceans Day (June 8th):** A day to raise awareness about the importance of oceans.
- **Flag Day (June 14th)**
- **Father's Day (June 15th):** A day to celebrate fathers and father figures.
- **Juneteenth (June 19th):** A federal holiday commemorating the emancipation of enslaved people in Texas in 1865.
- **Summer Solstice (June 20th):** The first day of summer in the Northern Hemisphere.



Memorial Day Tribute: Women's Vietnam Memorial, Washington, DC

This Memorial Da, we remember and honor the courage of the more than 11,000 American military women who served during the Vietnam War - nearly all of them volunteers.

Most were nurses, often fresh out of school, who provided lifesaving care under unimaginable conditions. Working in field hospitals and evacuation units, they demonstrated skill, compassion, and bravery in the face of constant danger. Their impact extended far beyond the battlefield. These women

paved the way for future generations of military service members, challenging expectations and serving with honor and resilience.

In 1993, the Vietnam Women's Memorial was dedicated in Washington, D.C., to recognize their service and sacrifice. The memorial continues to ensure their stories are seen, heard, and remembered.

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

**In the event you are not receiving important AAUW National emails,
click the link below:**

[AAUW National resubscribe link](#)



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