

Gold Filings



May 2025

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

Vision: Equality for all.

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

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Message from the Leadership Chair



Greetings!

Spring is here and a new season brings new energy. Rest assured, there's always something happening at our busy Amador branch. Here are just a few examples.

The Home Tour is this Saturday, May 3rd, in Ione. Have you bought your tickets yet? You won't want to miss our main fundraiser of the year. A big Thank You to the Home Tour Committee for all their hard work to make this event fun and enjoyable.

It's time to save the date for the Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 21, starting at 10am. We'll be celebrating 56 years of our Amador branch with a jam-packed agenda, including meeting our three new scholarship recipients.

Want to make a difference in our branch? Good leadership is necessary for the continued viability of the Amador branch. We need YOU and your creative ideas. It's a great way to contribute your skills as well as meet other members. Please take a look at the open positions below and contact Sandee Bowman, Nominations Chair, at sbowman56@gmail.com if you're interested.

The UC Davis Tech Trek camp will be held soon and they are now accepting monetary donations for incidentals needed at camp. Things like a new printer. The Leadership Committee recently made a \$500 donation and members can also donate. See details below.

Speaking of donations, Emily Cannon-Brown is the daughter and granddaughter of members Debra Brown and Mona Evans Brown and is a former scholarship recipient. She is requesting funds to assist in making a movie about Amador County. Cool, right? If you'd like to donate to making this movie, see details below.

Both AAUW National and the State branch are currently holding elections. As a member, you've probably received an electronic ballot. National's election opened April 14 and will close on May 13. The State ballot was sent on April 26 and will close on May 16. Be sure to exercise your right to vote in both elections.

Can you see how energetic our branch is? I look forward to seeing you all at the Home Tour on Saturday!

Cheers,
Terrie Houseman

If you are interested in making a donation directly to the Davis Tech Trek camp, here are the instructions from Camp Treasurer, Roberta Schmaltz, regarding donation checks.

*"Checks must be payable to AAUW CA SPF.
Please mail the checks and deposit slip to me, see my contact info below. Please email me a copy of the deposit slip in advance so I can watch for your deposit. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me."*

Roberta Schmalz
4057 Albert Circle
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762
408 832-7150

[Tech Trek Deposit Instructions](#)

[Tech Trek Deposit Form](#) "
Password is aauwca

Upcoming Branch Leadership Elections

Greetings!

Please take a look at the leadership positions listed below. It takes 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. Most of these positions do not take a lot of time, but they are absolutely essential for our group's success. Do you see something that interests you? Do you know someone who might be a good fit? If you're interested in any of these positions, or otherwise want to get more involved, please contact **Sandee Bowman** at sbowman56@gmail.com.

Position descriptions are available on the website at amador-ca.aauw.net. The new fiscal year starts on July 1st and current chairs will be available to provide a detailed orientation and continued support for each position. We are here to support you!

I hope you'll consider this rewarding opportunity to make a difference. Thank you for considering these opportunities.

Terrie Houseman
Leadership Chair
Amador Branch AAUW

The following positions are available starting July 1, 2025:

Leadership Co-Chairs: Help guide the Branch to achieve its mission of improving lives while making a lasting community impact. This is a chance for YOU to ensure the Branch's long-term success!

Finance Chair: This role is key to managing the Branch's finances and ensuring its long-term stability. The Finance Chair works transparently. Our Branch is now financially stable thanks to the wise use of resources and the generous donations of our members. Sound interesting?

Membership: Do you enjoy meeting new members and helping them feel welcomed to the Branch? The Membership Chair oversees recruiting, engagement and retention of our members.

Secretary: The Secretary takes minutes during monthly Leadership Committee meetings and handles branch correspondence as needed.

Website/Social Media Chair: Would you like to use your computer skills to keep members and the community up to date about Branch activities and events? This person manages the Branch website and social media accounts, providing timely content for members and the public.

Libations and Conversations Co-Chairs: We need at least two members to help arrange monthly casual programs (5:30 – 6:30pm) at various local locations. This series is a great way to invite friends who might be interested in joining us.

Funds Chair: The Funds Chair keeps the Branch informed about grants and fellowships supported by member donations and helps choose a Funds-named honoree each year.

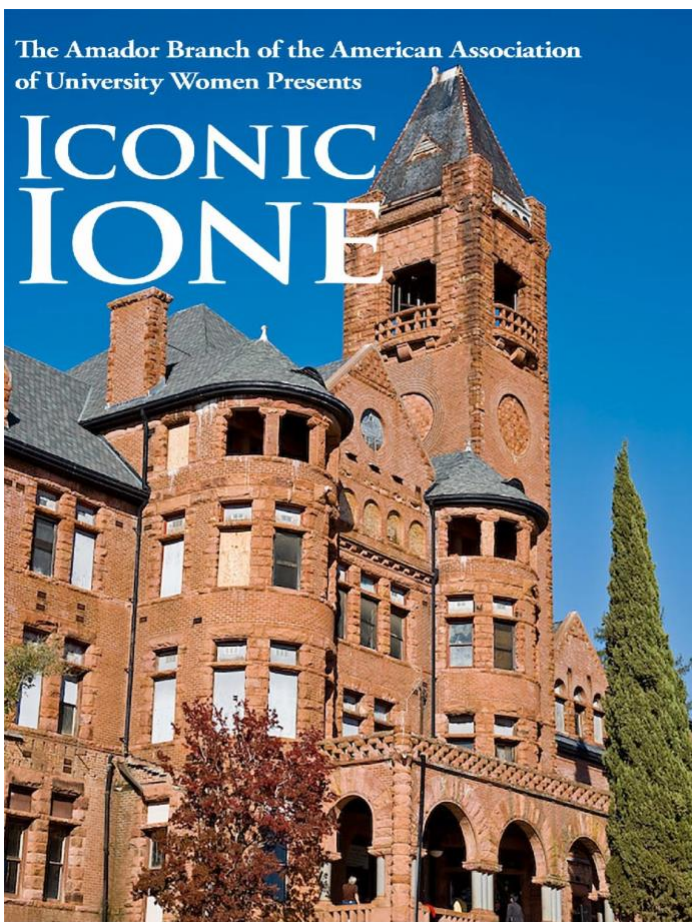
DEI Coordinator: Are you passionate about creating an inclusive environment for new and current members and increasing the diversity of our membership? If you enjoy thinking outside the box, we need YOU!

Historian: The Historian organizes and maintains the Branch's business, social and historical materials and records, including photographs.

Final 2025 Home Tour Update

The Amador Branch of the American Association
of University Women Presents

ICONIC IONE



49TH HOME TOUR | MAY 3, 2025
Proceeds benefit the AAUW Amador
Branch Scholarship Fund

**The Home Tour --
Ione
Saturday, May 3, 2025
11am - 4pm**

LAST CHANCE

To buy Tickets!

This is our primary fundraiser for the year--proceeds fund both our scholarships and our operations. 60% of the ticket price is tax deductible.

To Volunteer to be a Docent!

by contacting Jen Ellis
at sewjellis@gmail.com at (650) 537-6253.

To Donate a raffle basket!

All basket proceeds go toward the scholarship fund. Contact [Rita Bohl](#) with questions.

• To Bake 2 Dozen Small Cookies for the Tea!

Come Join the Fun!

Details on the branch website <https://amador-ca.aauw.net/home-tour/>
and on Facebook: AAUW Amador

A BIG THANK YOU to each of the sponsors and publicity partners of the Home Tour in Ione on May 3rd from 11 to 4pm. Their financial support makes the event possible so be sure to let these businesses know how much it is valued by stopping by their offices or liking them on social media.

- Kylie Windley & Mitzi Windley, Chase International Realty
- Kristi Roots Insurance Services
- Estate Planning Law Center
- Burke Family Restaurant
- Water Street Interiors
- Kendig Chiropractic
- Rotary Club of Ione
- Domenico Winery
- Jackson Glass

KVGC radio gave branch members not one, but two, opportunities to talk about the event during recent Friday Lunchtime Live segments, and the Ledger Dispatch ensured all the publicity was on schedule. Their help in getting the word out about the Home Tour is appreciated!

May Calendar

Saturday, May 3 HOME TOUR in Lone Woohoo!

Thursday, May 8, 5:30pm

Libations & Conversations

The group will be meeting Thursday, May 8 at 5:30-6:30 pm. The location is Bella Grace Tasting Room in Sutter Creek. Our speaker is Mia Huss, Outreach and Enrollment Technician with Amador College Connect . Mia will be speaking about Amador County College programs.

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

Monday, May 12, 2:00-4:00pm

Afternoon Book Group

We will meet at Hope's house to discuss *Mao's Last Dancer* by Li Cunxin

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

Thursday, May 15, 4:00pm

Leadership Committee Meeting via Zoom

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

Sunday, May 18, 5:30pm

Cork and Fork Groups

Take an appetizer to share, \$15pp and be prepared to enjoy wines curated for your enjoyment. Your May group organizers will provide details.

Wednesday, May 21 5:30pm

Working Girls Book Group

We will meet at the Pho Royal, 12240 Industry Blvd, Jackson. Reading "Orbital" by Samantha Harvey.

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

Thursday, May 22, 6:00pm

Great Decisions (Evening Group) will meet at Stephanie Young's house to discuss International Climate Cooperation.

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

Monday, May 26, noon

Great Decisions (Afternoon Group) will meet at Stephanie Young's house to discuss International Climate Cooperation.

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

Monday, May 26, 2:00-4:00pm

Page Turners & Book Lovers

We are meeting at Sue Harrington's house to discuss *True Biz* by Sara Novic.

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

Save the Date!

Branch Annual Meeting

Saturday, June 21

Time: 10am-1pm

DEI--Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

MAKING HISTORY RIGHT: WOMEN SHOULDN'T BE A MINORITY!

Women continue to be considered a minority group in social, political, and economic contexts, even though, according to the 2020 census, they make up 50.9% of the US population. This classification is not based on numerical representation but rather on power, access, and systemic disadvantages.

Women have historically faced discrimination in employment, wages, and leadership opportunities. For example, the gender pay gap persists globally, with women earning less than men on average for the same work. Furthermore, women remain under-represented in corporate leadership and higher government positions.

Since its founding more than 125 years ago, AAUW has advanced education and equity for women. It has been a leading advocate for gender equity in education, workplace rights and policy reforms. The organization has played a key role in supporting Title IX, equal pay legislation, and funding for women in STEM fields, among many other actions.

Against today's backdrop, where women's rights continue to decline, AAUW continues to lead the fight for gender equality by breaking down barriers in education, workplaces, and public policy. Through advocacy, research, and funding, it empowers women to achieve economic and social equity.

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



May Birthdays

Debra Brown
A'laina Lyons
Hope Nelson
Aileen Parker
Julie Taylor

Membership Dues Update for 2025-26

If you renew before July 1 your dues will total \$119.

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

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

CA dues will be \$20.

(If you wait to renew after July 1, your state dues may be increased to \$30, based on the current vote).

Archiving What We Do and Who We Are

We would like pictures from all Special Interest Groups' activities happening over the next two months. The pictures will be used in our annual compilation of activities and saved for posterity.

The heads of each group are asked to make sure a picture is taken at the next meeting, and the names of those attending included in an email to Brenda.

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

Tech Trek Update

From Hailey Kirkbride, Tech Trek 2016:

"Tech Trek opened my eyes to all the job opportunities for women in STEM. By making it an interest at a young age, I feel like it gave me confidence to go into a difficult science-based profession.

I am in my last semester of dental hygiene school, and we are focusing on the ethical responsibilities of dental hygienists, building our clinical skills on community patients, and doing community outreach programs. I am studying for my national board exams to become licensed. I plan to do a bachelors completion program after receiving licensure and graduating this program in May.



I am getting married this summer! It is amazing to me that I have had the support of AAUW since I was 13 years old and how far life has come since then. Thank you for reaching out every year because it is so fun to share with you all the changes in my life."

If you are interested in visiting camp at UCD on 7/17, please let me know.

Gretchen Carlson

Amador Branch Tech Trek Coordinator

From National and State

State Elections

Members should have received their state ballot on April 26. The voting period began on April 26, 2025, and will close on May 16, 2025. There will be a link to click that will take you to the ballot. No password or code needs to be entered. . Contact office@aauw-ca.org if you did not receive an email. (Check your spam folder first).

VOTING: on what issues?

- Approve the Public Policy Priorities
- Approve a dues increase.
- Elect the Board of Directors.

Please read the email carefully 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.

National Elections Underway

Voting opened on April 14 at 9:00am PDT. Members received an electronic ballot with their unique voting credentials from vote@simplyvoting.com, 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.

It's important that you vote in both elections--a quorum is needed to make the elections valid.

Report on the California Annual Event



The state-wide annual event took place on Saturday, April 26. The event was recorded and members will receive an email from AAUW-CA with a link so they can view the conference at their leisure.

The program opened with details of the proposed 2025-26 Goals--laid out as the 4 Pivots:

Pivot One: From Lens to Mirror—

Turning inwards and engaging in self-reflection and introspection.

Pivot Two: From Transactional to Transformative—

Making meaningful connections that lead to lasting change.

Pivot Three: From Problem to Possibility—

Articulating what you are for, not just what you are against.

Pivot Four: from Hustle to Flow—

Flexibility, pacing, taking time for oneself.

Keynote Speaker Deepa Iyer made a presentation on "Social Change Ecosystem Framework."

AAUW-CA accomplishments were celebrated by enumerating highlights from the various 2024-25 state committees.

The Program of the Year award went to the Berkeley Branch for their program: "Student Immigration Rights—Fundraiser for Community College Dreamers."

Public Policy Priorities

These are the proposed priorities for 2025-26: (on the ballot)

Economic Security for All Women

- Equity in the workplace
- Enforcement of workplace anti-discrimination statutes
- Security in retirement

- Access to job training for career development
- Work-life balance, including access to quality affordable childcare and paid sick and caregiving leave

Equal Access to Quality Public Education for All Students

- Vigorous enforcement of Title IX provisions which protect against discrimination on the basis of sex in any educational programs or activities
- Adequate and equitable funding at all educational levels, including pre-school and post-secondary
- Increased support for and protection of STEM programs for girls and women
- Civics instruction in all California high schools
- Access to diverse staff and to curriculum that represents historically accurate information
- Funding adequate to support a strong infrastructure, and equitable access to resources, including technology
- Opposition to diversion of public funds to nonpublic elementary and secondary schools and charter schools that do not meet public school civil rights and accountability standards

Social & Racial Justice for All Members of Society

- Self-determination in reproductive health
- Equal access to quality affordable housing, a healthy environment, and health care, including gender affirming care
- Freedom from violence in all its forms and wherever it occurs, including violence against historically marginalized groups, and support for policies that reduce or prevent gun violence
- Guarantee of civil and constitutional rights for all, including all forms of gender identity and expression, and all family structures; support for efforts to resist anti-immigrant policies which infringe on those rights, including protection of students from privacy violations and immigration raids on campus
- Protection and expansion of voting rights
- Support for United Nations sustainable development goals which address human rights and women's and girls' concern

Increased Representation of Women in Leadership Roles

- Proportional appointment to publicly held corporate boards
- Access to leadership skills training
- Access to programs that promote participation in public service careers

Our Local Partners

Amador College Connect

Amador College Connect is proud to announce the upcoming commencement of our K16 Pathway Programs! Both Early Childhood Education (ECE) and Computer Science students will be commencing, receiving their certificates and a \$500 award for completing these one year, free programs funded by the K16 Regional Educational Collaboratives Grant.

Please RSVP with the link provided to secure your spot at this amazing event! We are so proud of our students and can't wait to celebrate their successes with you all.

<https://forms.gle/AnhuPd8M2DpifxVN9>

Mark your calendars and RSVP. The event is on Monday, June 30 from 5-8 p.m. Dinner will be provided and the event is free. This event is located at Laughton Ranch in Jackson. See the RSVP for more details!

Arts and Education

The Power of Telling the Truth

"When we began our work 45 years ago, the greatest obstacle to women's history was lack of information. Today, the challenge is more dangerous - women's history is seen as powerful, and with that power comes fear, resistance, and distortion."

-Molly Murphy MacGregor

History without women is incomplete. That's why we continue to advocate, educate, and collaborate with communities across the country.

From The National Women's History Association

Women in Science blog:

This blog celebrates women in science, pioneer women in science, famous or almost famous, modern-day scientists, and ordinary women doing science everyday without any thoughts of future awards and accolades.

It will tell the story of women who worked side by side with famous men and who did not get any recognition for their works. It will feature women who were unfairly overlooked, largely unrecognized, cheated of an award while they were working as scientists. It will celebrate women of all races, ethnicity, wealth, status, religion, and sexual orientation from all over the world. This blog will tell their stories so that our daughters and granddaughters can learn from them, perhaps get them interested in science, and hopefully correct some of the slights/injustices experienced by these women.

To Learn More--<https://www.hersciencejourney.com>

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Unless otherwise noted, all those who sign up for an online lecture will receive a recording to watch within two weeks following the live event. Click the link below:

<https://www.roadscholar.org/collections/online-lectures/>

Excerpt from Ms. Magazine

Earlier this month, the House passed the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act. If it passes the Senate and is signed by Trump (who has already tried to unilaterally implement such a requirement), the bill would require anyone registering to vote to provide proof of citizenship—a valid U.S. passport, or a photo ID presented with a certified birth certificate.

As we've previously reported, this presents a pretty big problem for a large group of people: women, especially married women who have changed their name, a group that numbers over 69 million. If the SAVE Act becomes law, any time one of those millions of women goes to register to vote for the first time or change their voter registration—maybe they moved to a new address—they could be turned away if the names on their identification and birth certificate don't match.

The SAVE Act isn't about safeguarding anything. Its clear goal is disenfranchising large groups of citizens, and in particular, disenfranchising women who tend to vote more Democratic.

Young women. Older women. Poor women. Rural women. Immigrant women. Black and Brown women. Widows whose marriages were decades ago. Survivors who changed their names to protect themselves. People who've always voted without issue—until now.

The SAVE Act now moves on to the Senate, which resumes its session next week. I'm urging you to call on your U.S. Senators—Republican or Democrat—to oppose the SAVE Act. And urge every woman you know to call too.

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.

May Holidays, Celebrations and Observances 2025

- May 1st – May Day
- May 4th -10th — National Small Business Week.
- May 3rd — National Space Day.
- May 11th — Mother's Day
- May 16th — National Endangered Species Day.
- May 22nd — Harvey Milk Day.
- May 26th — Memorial Day
- May 31 – National Smile Day

Contact Us / Social Media

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[Facebook.com/AAUW-Amador](https://www.facebook.com/AAUW-Amador)

[instagram.com/aauwamador](https://www.instagram.com/aauwamador)

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