

Gold Filings



AAUW
Amador (CA) Branch

Mid-May 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
- Final Home Tour Update
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Membership
- Announcements from National and State
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- Advocacy: Finding Your Voice
- Public Policy
- Arts & Education

[Message from the Leadership Chair](#)



Greetings, everyone!

I hope you enjoyed the 49th Home Tour in Ione on May 3rd. The weather cooperated to make it a very enjoyable day. The Home Tour is possible only because of the support, encouragement, and hard work of many, many people. A big Thank You to our members for their support, and to the Home Tour committee for its hard work to create such an amazing event. Great job! Next up is the Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 21st, 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 and several new

members.

The Nominations committee still has a few positions open for the new fiscal year starting on July 1st. We need YOU and your creative ideas. Please contact Sandee Bowman at sbowman56@gmail.com if you're interested.

Emily Cannon-Brown is the daughter of member Debra 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.* I look forward to seeing you all at the Annual Meeting in June!

Cheers, Terrie Houseman

*From Emily Cannon Brown:

We have set up a GoFundMe account: [AMADOR](#) and will gratefully accept any and all donations.

You can see the story and the plan for shooting on our website:
<https://www.amadormovie.com/>

2025 Home Tour Update



Enjoying Hope's music
at the Tea.

Terri Works, Mary O'Neal &
Mel Welsh Selling Tickets



"Backstage" at the Tea with
Kathy Guletz, a Tech Trek
alum, Brenda Walker and
Randy.

The 2025 Home Tour provided members and guests with a unique view of Lone. Four homes and three historic sites provided interesting details about the history and the future of Lone. Thanks to all those who supported the Home Tour: the HT planning committee, the members who bought tickets, who worked as docents, all those who donated raffle baskets and cookies, and Sandi Baracco who hosted the HT committee meetings. It takes a branch to make this important fundraiser a success! Our branch!

Facts & Figures from Sandee:

Gross Income: \$12,080

Expenses: \$3100

Net Income: \$8,980

Ticket Sales \$8,125.00

Sponsors: \$2,500.00

Baskets: \$1,455.00

Tickets sold: 199

Late May / Early June Calendar

Wednesday, May 14, noon
Home Tour Committee Wrapup Meeting
Hotel Sutter

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.

Wednesday, June 4, 5:30-6:30pm

Libations & Conversations

The 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.

The location is Raven's ReachTasting Room 83 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.

Save the Date!
Branch Annual Meeting
Saturday, June 21, 10am-1pm
Creekside United Methodist Church, Sutter Creek
Meeting details will be sent in the June 1 Gold Filings.

DEI--Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

Stand strong with us, in support of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion!

1. An AAUW California Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion statement for the AAUW California website is coming soon!
2. Our May AAUW California Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Peer Group Meeting is on Wednesday, May 21st, 7-8 pm, during which President Charlene Goehring will give the interactive presentation on Shawn Ginwright's Pivot #3: *From Problem to Possibility*. This is the presentation she was not able to give in Breakout #3 during the Annual Event due to technical difficulties. All are welcome!
3. If a member is interested in becoming the branch Diversity Officer in 2025-26, please contact Sandee Bowman ASAP. The job description is available on the branch website in the member's only section

BE A TRANS ALLY

Trans Allyship Guide - Learn how to have conversations and be an ally

The AAUW of California Public Policy Trans Allyship guide has finally launched! Check it out by clicking [HERE](#).

This guide is for anyone who wants to continue to ally with transgender and nonbinary people. It is meant to be a complement to existing guides, such as those produced by well-known gender equity and transgender and nonbinary support organizations such as The Trevor Project, PFLAG, GLAAD, HRC, and Amnesty International.

While some of the existing guides already contain important information about inclusive language and terminology, **our guide is unique in that it specifically focuses on how to have everyday conversations about transgender and nonbinary social and policy issues**, offering sample responses to common questions that YOU, our members have encountered while engaging in allyship and advocacy work. **Please keep those questions coming, as this is a living document! We will update content regularly.**

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

Rejoin for 2025-26 before July 1 and save \$10!

National Dues \$74

State Dues \$20

**Branch Dues \$25
Total \$119**

NOTE: Those joining or re-joining after July 1 may pay \$129 if the California State Dues increase of \$10 is approved. See details below under CA Elections.

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

National stays strong on our values

Despite the rhetoric and attacks on higher education, AAUW remains strong as a tireless advocate for women in higher education. We do not receive any federal funds so the bans on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion programs and language do not apply. In fact, we consider dismantling these programs to be a direct attack on women in STEM. You are invited to join AAUW on May 13, 2025 at 4 pm (PDT) for the Strategic Plan Launch on Zoom. You can register [HERE](#).

AAUW Fund News

Greatest Needs Fund's Impact on STEM

It can be hard to understand exactly what the Greatest Needs Fund does. In a nutshell, it is designed to pivot as opportunities arise to make an impact on policy and program priorities. Typically, funding is provided to initiate or support a program. An example is Tech Trek, a project of AAUW California, that was originally funded with a grant of seed money from AAUW National. This original investment has developed into a foundational program offered by many branches to local students.

Did you know only 35% of STEM workers are women? This isn't because women aren't interested in math or science. It's because of bias, something that starts young and holds them back throughout their lives. From classrooms to boardrooms, the gap is real. And while STEM jobs are some of the highest paying and fastest-growing, women are being left behind. To remove this barrier, members can change the story for students. Your support fuels the need to take on detrimental biases that hold women back and ensure they have equal access to the lifelong advantages that STEM careers provide. AAUW is breaking down barriers for women and girls in STEM through grants, advocacy, and encouraging lawmakers to act. You can help close the gap and give future women leaders the opportunities they deserve.

A donation to the Greatest Needs Fund makes an impact by funding efforts to:

- Push back against harmful stereotypes. From early childhood, girls receive signals that they aren't good at STEM.

- Uplift women in STEM, provide them with funding, and make it clear that women belong in STEM!
- Promote inclusive schools through webinars, resources, and direct action. We're resisting book bans and restrictions that harm inclusive education.
- Support women's economic success by making college affordable. Women are more often held back by a lack of financial resources so the provision of grants and scholarships can allow them to pursue their education. After graduation, AAUW continues to support them with financial literacy and salary negotiation courses so that they can aim high during their career.

Donate at aauw.org or send a check payable to AAUW, with Greatest Needs Fund on the memo line, to AAUW, PO Box 98045, Washington, DC 20090-8045. Thank you.

Take the Pledge for Gender Equity

Did you see the email from Gloria Blackwell asking you to "take the pledge" for gender equity in 2025? The pledge consists of simple but important steps:

- Speak up when you see attacks on equity
- Engage in events, like town halls, school board meetings, or public demonstrations to make your views known
- Contact elected officials when legislation threatens access and equity in education
- Support AAUW and other organizations working to protect our rights
- Seek facts, beyond the headlines, of how policy changes impact women and girls

State Elections

If you have not yet voted, you have until May 16th. Make sure to vote on Board Officers, Public Policy Priorities and a Dues Increase.

School Board Project Monitors & Observers Training

If you missed the April 24th training on how to be an effective school board monitor and observer, co-sponsored by AAUW California School Board Project and the Public School Defenders Hub, you can watch the recording [HERE](#).

A Legislative Agenda Victory

Our position on AB 579 is protective of the rights of transgender people, meeting the challenges of the current moment. A number of the offices expressed support for our position with empathy and personal stories about legislators' family members who are transgender. Shortly after our Lobby Days event, we learned that AB 579 is dead. The bill was held in the Assembly Rules Committee and was not referred to a policy committee, effectively killing the bill.

Our Community Partners

Amador College Connect

Hello, all students, community partners, and community members!

Amador College Connect is proud to announce the upcoming commencement of its 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>

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

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/

If you cannot actively participate in advocacy but want to contribute, you can! Contribute to the AAUW [Action Fund](#), which provides the resources that allow the Network to pursue its mission. So, please join us in one or all of the activities that support AAUW's mission to advance equity for women and girls. We can do this!

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.

Public Policy

"Take Action" Spreadsheet

With the help of our great interns, AAUW Public Policy co-chairs Amy Hom and Melissa Macyko have created a fantastic new interactive and living "Take Action" spreadsheet. This is the ideal tool for those of you who may be feeling frustrated and/or overwhelmed with all that is going on in the world of politics right now. You may feel like you want to do something, but don't even know where to start.

This spreadsheet aims to serve as a clearinghouse for ongoing resistance activities, allowing you to follow and join in based on your passions and preferences. We also highlight successful political and legal actions, to give us both hope and a blueprint for moving forward. Click on QUICK ACTIONABLE ITEMS if you are looking for general action resources, LITIGATION & LEGISLATION TRACKERS if you want to keep track of advancing legislation and/or legal challenges, and PODCASTS if you want to learn more and/or encounter even more "good trouble." You can access the spreadsheet [HERE](#).

Take Action Spreadsheet Webinar

Last month, AAUW California launched the [Take Action spreadsheet](#) to offer a list of resources for resistance to the implementation of Project 2025, which runs counter to our values and Public Policy Priorities.

The Oregon Online Branch will be hosting a meeting featuring Malena Clark, one of AAUW California's amazing Public Policy Interns and the key architect of the Take Action spreadsheet. Malena will provide instructions on how to use this resource to take action and fight back.

The meeting will be held on May 13th, at 7 pm Pacific. Click [HERE](#) to join the Zoom meeting.

AAUW California Public Policy is on Bluesky

The state plans to use this account to send out state-level legislative action alerts, promote Resistbot petitions, and provide real-time updates. You are encouraged to

create your own account, if you haven't already done so, and follow us by clicking this [link](#) or by following us on Bluesky.

Follow [AAUW California's Petitions Page on Resistbot](#)

Arts and Education

Join Road Scholar for 30 One-Hour Online Lectures from Around the World

A wide range of Topics: History, Arts, Health, Travel. Click [HERE](#) to check them out.

Looking for the online lecture recording library? [Find it HERE](#).

Kennedy High Baseball Player: What makes her a trailblazer

By Joe Davidson, Sacramento Bee

Kennedy HS Cougars team captain and pitcher Laney Fukuoka has heard it all. The out-loud wise cracks, the subtle digs, the snickers. The Kennedy High School senior pitcher has also caught the expressions of discord and doubt when taking the mound — the rolled eyes, the nodding of the head, the deep sighs. The heckling line most common? “She throws like a girl!” Well, shoot, man. News flash: She is a girl. And don’t forget to notice her smile, her wicked curveball, her efforts and attitude.

Fukuoka is a champion of perseverance and pride. She is a rarity, a girl starting on a varsity baseball team. Fukuoka also plays first base and helps the Cougars zip through drills with laser throws, so you can see she has an arm and feel for the game and is no novelty act. She is the most experienced player on the Kennedy roster, and as Cougars coach Dave Enos reminds, “She’s our best player.” Fukuoka taught herself the curveball that has become her money pitch.

Mostly, Fukuoka towers as a sparkling example of rising above the noise and criticism in a sport big on it. “It’s how one responds that counts,” Fukuoka said and it is a theme she shares with young girls who ask her about dealing with boys in a male-dominated sport. “It’s normal to receive some hate. But you should never take any criticism from anyone you wouldn’t take advice from.”

“The parents? They can be pretty bad. I’ve heard mothers scream at their sons, ‘Don’t you dare strike out against a girl!’ One team had a coach tell his players that if they struck out against her, they’d have to do 20 push-ups right there in the dugout.”

Fukuoka will pitch in college She will study communications at Emerson College in Boston. She has been signed to an academic scholarship to the school and will compete on the men’s baseball roster, to uncork that curveball and to add a bit more class to the group.

Betty Boop's Course of Careers Now Runs Nearly 100 Years

Born of a pencil, she had no gender or name, and was a hybrid partly-poodle animated lovable creature with long, droopy ears. Then, Betty with earrings appeared at the height of the jazz age in 1930. as a baby vamp, voiced by the "boop-oop-a-doop" scat style.

Animators and musicians now believe that "Jazz lives deep in the heart of Betty." Betty Boop's evolution is still moving forward in style and part-human activities. She began as sassy and single. Guidelines for movies in the mid-1930s made her skirts grow longer, her blouses covered her cleavage, and she had more sedate jobs or was a homemaker. A style historian says, "Gone were the short skirt, the decolletage that made her so unique., , Betty became a character stripped of her charm."

The Betty who arrived a decade after American women won the right to vote, was always working, and "did things that were until then unthinkable." She liked being a pilot, a racecar driver, owned a diner, ran for president, and was an early animal activist. Today Betty Boop merchandise is huge in both design and name protection by U.S. and international trademarks

She is now headed for the Broadway stage in *The Life and Times of Betty Boop* or *Boop The Musical*, which has been in development for the past two decades.

National Women's History Alliance-- Stand With Us: Celebrate, Advocate, Inspire

As we continue to move beyond the celebrations of March, **our commitment to elevating women's history remains as vital as ever.** We also join in celebrating **Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month** by recognizing the powerful legacies of women whose stories deserve to be remembered and shared. We believe that women's stories deserve to be seen, heard, and honored every day - and we will continue to be advocates and catalysts of **recognition, change, and lasting impact.**

This May, as we celebrate Mother's Day, we are especially reminded of the many women - mothers, mentors, change-makers - whose courage, leadership, and resilience have shaped our world. Honoring their contributions strengthens our shared history and empowers all of our generations.

Change is ongoing, and so is our work. Together, we can continue to ensure that women's history remains visible, valued, and celebrated for all. Thank you for standing with us.

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.

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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