

Gold Filings



July 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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NOTE: There will be only one issue of Gold Filings in July and in August.

Annual Meeting Recap



New Year, New Leaders

L to R: Terrie Houseman inducting new Leadership Committee members; Rachel Stahl, Co-Leadership Chair; Sandee Bowman, Program Chair; Marilyn Newton, Finance; Jen Ellis, Co-Membership Chair; Stephanie Young, Co-Leadership Chair, Candace Diamond, Secretary. *Not Pictured:* Lucy Hackett, Communication.



Kathy Guletz with Julia Votaw, Upper Division Scholarship Winner.



Kathy Guletz with Kaila Taylor's mother, accepting the award on her daughter's behalf. (Upper Division Scholarship Winner)



Terrie Houseman presenting Honorary Lifetime Member award to Gretchen Carlson.



"Getting to Know You"

(above and below)

Members participate in a questionnaire featuring specific life experiences--
 "Who in our branch.... Owns a horse? Rides a motorcycle? Has a PhD? Has travelled to the
 Galapagos? Has lived in 4 different states? etc., etc. Fun and enlightening!



In addition to awards presented, branch officers were elected and installed into office and the 2025-26 budget was approved.

2024-2025 Named Gift Honoree

This year's Named Gift Honoree is the outgoing **Leadership Chair, Terrie Houseman**. Terrie has worked tirelessly for the branch during her tenure as our rabble-rousing leader. Below is the tip of the iceberg as to why this recognition is so greatly deserved:

- Initiated the Adopt a Fund fundraiser for operating costs
- Acted with grace under pressure with the infamous phrase "We'll get it done"
- Enthusiastically represented the Branch as Leadership Chair since 2023
- Promoted the branch at events such as Giving Tuesday and welcomed more than 20 new members since 2023
- Initiated offering student memberships to the Miss Amador Scholarship competition contestants
- Found ways to insert a little fun or humor into meetings
- Used her tenacious problem-solving skills to resolve issues while seeking input from others
- Undertook the Public Policy Chair role for 2023-25
- Initiated the "Intentional Typo" contest in Gold Filings
- Organized the branch Google Drive and repeatedly offered training to members
- Worked with State and National staff to research and resolve various issues
- Attended more meetings than anyone knew were possible...



This list could go on and on and on but you get the picture... **Thank you Terrie!!**
If this recognition is unfamiliar to you, please read on...

What is a Named Gift Honoree?

Branches have an opportunity to make an annual Named Gift contribution to pay tribute to an individual, a group, or an organization giving extraordinary service to AAUW. An Honoree is named for each \$750 contributed by a branch or its members before December 31st. The honoree is selected by a committee and recognized at the annual meeting.

The Amador Branch (Branch) sends a contribution to AAUW in Washington, DC (known as National), to help fund research and analysis into issues of equity for women and girls. There are several Funds to contribute to, including: Defend Higher Education; Public Policy; and Greatest Needs. National encourages individuals to contribute to a Fund of their choice. The Branch assigns its contribution to the Greatest Need, to provide National with the flexibility to use it where it is needed most.

Since 1969, the Branch, on behalf of members, has donated more than \$47,000 to National. To-date in FY25, Branch members have contributed \$1,033.50 to AAUW Funds.

Previous Honorees are listed on the Branch website: Funds Named Honorees

Submitted by Julie Taylor, FY25 Funds Chair

Libations & Conversations

Join us for one of our most popular L&C events--our annual Summer Book Reads.
Share the titles of your favorite books you read this year.
And bring some paper to take notes!
Tuesday, July 22 at 5:30
Place TBD

July Calendar

Sunday, July 13

Cork and Fork

All groups will meet at Domenico Winery.

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

Afternoon Book Group

We will meet at Brenda Walker's house to discuss *An Indigenous People's History of the US* by Marta Molnar.

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

Thursday, July 17 from 9 to Noon

Tech Trek Camp Field Trip to UC Davis

Contact [Stephanie Young](#) if you plan to attend so carpooling can be arranged.

See article below for details.

Tuesday, July 22 5:30-6:30pm

Libations and Conversations

Place TBA. Join us to discuss books you've read that you recommend to others.

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

Page Turners & Book Lovers

We are meeting at Hope Nelson's house to discuss *James* by Percival Everett

Contact [Sue Harrington](#) if you would like to join the group.

Tuesday, July 29 5:30pm

Working Girls Book Club

We will meet at The Duke Restaurant at the National Hotel, Jackson to discuss *"Isola"* by Allegra Goodman.

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

Great Decisions will not be meeting again until September.

Membership

"Normal is nothing more than a cycle on a washing machine."

Whoopi Goldberg



July Birthdays



Beth GoodIn-Jones

Toby Salk

Cyndie Zikmund

Welcome New Member and New Communications Chair, Lucy Hackett

I'm a freelance graphic artist and communications professional; my husband John Haedrich is a mostly retired building contractor. We moved to Jackson in 1985. Our two children and now, two grandchildren were raised here. Our son, Tyler Haedrich, is a teacher; his wife Jazmin is a school administrator and currently, their family is living and working in South Korea. Our daughter Elyse, born with Down Syndrome, lives with us.

I've had family in the county since the 1960s. My grandmother, Margaret Sparks, was active in community groups and I suppose that influenced me to become involved in local organizations. John and I both volunteer with the Kennedy Gold Mine, and I serve as a Chamber of Commerce director and on the board of Baker Street West Sherlockian arts group. I'm a returning AAUW member--I was active with the Amador Branch in the late 80s/early 90s and I'm looking forward to reconnecting with the branch members and projects.



Tech Trek

Tech Trek Camp Field Trip

If you are curious about what Meris, Avery, and Meadow, our branch Tech Trek students, learn during their STEM camp week at UC Davis, here is your opportunity to see for yourself and show support for these young girls. On Thursday, July 17 from 9 to Noon, members can see firsthand the impact their fundraising efforts have not only on Amador students but on all the Trekkers. Led by Dorm Monitors and Residential Counselors, members will visit Core classes to experience the energy and enthusiasm generated by students. Tech Trek staff will then share their thoughts on the camp experience with a Q&A. Lunch with our Trekkers and a branch group photo will round out this fun and informative visit.

An RSVP to Meri McEneny who is organizing Visit Day is necessary for planning purposes: mmceneny@gmail.com. Bring a bag lunch or snacks (a refrigerator is available). Carpooling is highly encouraged. Contact Stephanie at stephanieyoung856@gmail.com to be connected to members to make carpooling arrangements.

Members who have previously attended Camp Visit Day highly recommend this inspiring chance to connect with students who may pursue and excel in future STEM careers.

From National and State

AAUW Unveils 2025 Strategic Plan: Empowering Equity Through Education

AAUW recently announced the launch of its [2025 Strategic Plan](#), a bold blueprint reaffirming our commitment to advancing equity for women and girls through higher education and inclusive policy advocacy.

Key Priorities Include:

- Expanding Access to Higher Education: Providing direct funding for women in underserved communities and underrepresented fields, such as STEM, to promote economic security and upward mobility.
- Advocating for Inclusive Policies: Championing legislation that supports women's success in higher education and the workplace, including pay equity, paid family and medical leave, and robust workplace harassment protections.
- Strengthening AAUW's Reach: Supporting local, state, and branch efforts and maximizing AAUW's financial and operational strength to build a movement of champions for gender equity.

Link to one-page summary of the 2025 Strategic Plan:

https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2025/05/AAUW-Strategic-Priorities_OP1.pdf

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

[AAUW National resubscribe link](#)

Arts and Education



Vera Florence Cooper Rubin (1928 – 2016) was an American astronomer who pioneered work on galaxy rotation rates. She uncovered the discrepancy between the predicted and observed angular motion of galaxies by studying galactic rotation curves. Her work on the galaxy rotation problem was cited by others as evidence for the existence of dark matter.

Honored throughout her lifetime for her work, she received the Bruce Medal, the Gold Medal of the Royal Astronomical Society, and the National Medal of Science, among others. The Vera C. Rubin Observatory in Chile is named in her honor. Her legacy is described by *The New York Times* as "ushering in a Copernican-scale change" in cosmological theory.

Rubin was one of several women in science who were neglected for the Nobel Prize on the basis of gender discrimination. She spent her life advocating for women in science, and mentored aspiring female astronomers.

[HERE](#) is the link to the *Washington Post* article about the Rubin telescope:

Honoring Male Allies

Did you know? Frederick Douglass, one of the most influential voices for abolition, was also one of the few men to attend and sign the Declaration of Sentiments at the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention - the first women's rights convention in the U.S.

From early suffragents like Douglass to modern-day advocates for gender equity, we recognize the importance of male allies who believe in the power of women's voices and work to uplift them.

Test your knowledge with our [Suffragents Quiz](#) to discover some of the unsung heroes of the movement.

Let's continue building a future where all people move forward together.

from National Women's History Alliance

Why Americans are less likely to publicly voice their opinions on political issues--The consequences for democratic deliberation

The tendency toward self-censorship means listeners are deprived of hearing the withheld views. The marketplace of ideas becomes skewed; the choices of buyers in that marketplace are circumscribed. The robust debate so necessary to deliberations in a democracy is squelched as the views of a minority come to be seen as the only "acceptable" political views.

No better example of this can be found than in the absence of debate in the contemporary U.S. about the treatment of the Palestinians by the Israelis, whatever outcome such vigorous discussion might produce. Fearful of consequences, many people are withholding their views on Israel – whether Israel has committed war crimes, for instance, or whether Israeli members of government should be sanctioned – because they fear being branded as antisemitic.

Many Americans are also biting their tongues when it comes to [DEI](#), affirmative action and even whether political tolerance is essential for democracy.

But the dominant views are also penalized by this spiral. By not having to face their competitors, they lose the opportunity to check their beliefs and, if confirmed, bolster and strengthen their arguments. Good ideas lose the chance to become better, while bad ideas – such as something as extreme as Holocaust denial – are given space to flourish.

The spiral of silence therefore becomes inimical to pluralistic debate, discussion and, ultimately, to democracy itself.

To read the complete article in "The Conversation", click [HERE](#).

July Holidays and Observances.

Celebrate Human Connection in July

World Population Day, International Day of Friendship, Cousins Day, Aunt and Uncle Day, and even Teddy Bear Picnic Day celebrate bonds of all types.

- **July 1** — Canada Day (Canada). Happy 158th birthday! Joyeuse Fête du Canada!
- **July 4** — Independence Day (US).
- **July 7** — World Chocolate Day (Global). Celebrate the world's #1 craving.
- **July 11** — World Population Day (Global). Recognize global community & diversity.
- **July 14** — Bastille Day (France/Global).
- **July 18** — World Listening Day (Global). Because listening and hearing are different.
- **July 18** — South Asian Heritage Month begins (UK). In 1947, the Indian Independence Act created modern-day India and Pakistan.
- **July 18** — Nelson Mandela International Day (Global). Honor the memory of the humanitarian and activist.
- **July 26** — Aunt and Uncle Day (US).

10 SYMPTOMS OF WOKE MIND VIRUS:

1. You read books, and don't burn them.
2. You embrace science.
3. You are willing to change your mind when new information becomes available.
4. You understand that most issues aren't black and white.
5. You believe in true equality for all people.
6. You like to share.
7. You embrace cooperation.
8. You respect others' rights.
9. You believe culture and the arts has value.
10. You care for the planet and all of its life.

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