

Gold Filings



AAUW
Amador (CA) Branch

October 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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- October Calendar
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- Finding Your Voice
- Arts & Education

Message from the Leadership Co-Chairs

September Celebration Recap

We had a lively and informative meeting on September 21. There were 28 members attending plus the 3 Tech Trek campers and several family members. At their presentation it was clear the Tech Trek girls each had a wonderful educational experience this summer. (Scroll down to the bottom of the newsletter to see pix from the program.)

We also heard from Cheri Peterson and Cyndie Zikmund, each of whom volunteered at a camp this summer and encouraged other members to volunteer for a position next summer.

Volunteers are needed for one or more days or the entire week in a variety of roles. Members will receive an individual invitation in early spring from AAUW-CA to volunteer, and the information will also be included in Gold Filings during that recruitment period. We also hope that more members will go to the Visitors' Day, usually held on the Thursday morning of our campers' TT week.

We tried but were unable to successfully play the video sent to us by the Davis camp, so please click on this [LINK](#) to watch a fun 8-minute video about that week.

After various special interest group members described the activities of their groups, we had a good discussion about the results of the survey and potential fundraising opportunities. Several suggestions were made about how to approach the Home Tour.

Points and suggestions made by various members include:

- Parsing the duties of the various Home Tour Committee positions into smaller sections might encourage more members in committing to a smaller, specific job for the committee.
- The Home Tour is a unique fundraising event in the county. Switching to another type of event would be the same amount of work and would compete even more with other groups.
- If we want to continue to give scholarships at the level we currently are, we will need to have a one big fundraiser like the Home Tour or several smaller fundraisers.
- If we don't want to continue to do the Home Tour, then we will probably need to reduce the number of scholarships, both for college and for Tech Trek.
- Doing the math, if each member donated \$100, that money would mostly go toward operation of the branch. Typical donation totals from Giving Tuesday could fund either Tech Trek or two college scholarships.

The branch needs members to volunteer to share the work by supporting the programs and Libations & Conversations events. Please step up and support branch activities.



Rachel Stahl and Stephanie Young, Leadership Co-Chairs

October Programs

Libations & Conversations

TOPIC: Nutritional Strategies to Optimize Health and Longevity

SPEAKER: Dr. Laura Nasatir

Laura Nasatir is a branch member and a practicing Psychiatrist. She integrates nutrition and a holistic approach to health and well-being into her treatment of patients.

Since the brain is an organ in our body, all improvements to physical health have a positive effect on mental health. Her presentation will be on nutritional and life-style strategies for optimum health and longevity.

WHEN: Tuesday, October 21, 2025, 5:30-6:30pm

WHERE: Drytown Cellars, 16030 Highway 49 in Drytown.

No need to RSVP, just show up

How to Be a Scammer Jammer

**Protect Yourself!
Learn About
Current Scams
from Experts!**



How to Be a Scammer Jammer

Sunday, October 26, 2025 • 2 - 4 pm

Amador Senior Center

229 New York Ranch Road, Jackson, CA

PRESENTATION AND Q & A WITH ...

- **Kue Lee, Director of Targeted Outreach**
CA Dept. of Financial Protection & Innovation
- **Caitlin Casey, Attorney**
Amador District Attorney's Office

FREE ADMISSION -- EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

A Community Event Sponsored By



For more information: aauwamador@gmail.com

Holiday Party --December

We are still looking for a location for our 2025 Holiday Party.

We would welcome any suggestions or someone to host in their home.

It is usually held on a Sunday afternoon in early December.

If you are willing to host this year's party or have a site to recommend,
contact [Sue Harrington](#).

October Calendar

Tuesday, October 7 6:30pm Leadership Committee Meeting

via Zoom

Contact [Stephanie Young](#) if you want to join the meeting. All members welcome.

Monday, October 13 Afternoon Book Club

We will meet at Stephanie Young's house to discuss *Familia* by Lauren E. Rixo.

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

Tuesday, October 21, 5:30-6:30pm Libations & Conversations

Our speaker is member Dr. Laura Nasatir who will speak about *Nutritional Strategies to Optimize Health and Longevity*. The meeting will be held at the Drytown Cellars.

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

Wednesday, October 22, 5:30pm Working Girls Book Club

We will meet at Water Street Garden in Amador City. Please bring an appetizer or wine. We will discuss "How to Read a Book" by Monica Wood.

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

Thursday, October 23, 6:00-7:30pm Great Decisions Evening Discussion Group

We will meet at Stephanie Young's house to discuss *American Policy in the Middle East*.

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

Sunday, October 26, 2:00-4:00pm Program: "How to be a Scammer Jammer"

Amador Senior Center,

See details in the flyer above.

Monday, October 27, noon-1:30pm Great Decisions Daytime Discussion Group

We will meet at Stephanie Young's house to discuss *American Policy in the Middle East*.

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

Monday, October 27, 2:00-4:00pm Page Turners & Book Lovers

We will meet at Diane Christenson's house to discuss *Drive your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead* by Olga Tokarczuk

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

Membership

"Our glorious diversity, our diversity as the faiths and colors and creeds, that is not a threat to who we are — it makes us who we are. To the young people . . . do not ever let anyone make you feel like you don't matter, or like you don't have a place in our American story, because you do, and you have a right to be exactly who you are." ~ Michelle Obama



October Birthdays

Sandee Bowman
Celina Clark
Candace Diamond
Barb Gurnari
Lucy Hackett
Kate Kramer Ingvolstad
Peggy Jolley
Armen Kendig
Helen Loffland
Lynn Morgan
Marilyn Newton-Christian
Stephanie Young

Great Decisions 2026

Members are invited to join the Great Decisions discussion group. We meet on the 4th Monday at noon and the 4th Thursday at 6:00pm 8 times over the course of the year. Cost for materials will be \$36.50 each. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact [Stephanie Young](#) before October 20 so materials can be ordered at the 20% group discount rate. If you choose to join us later, the cost will be \$38 plus shipping. All 16 current members are planning to continue next year.

Topics

*America and the World: Trump 2.0 Foreign Policy
Trump Tariffs and the Future of the World Economy
U.S.-China Relations
Ruptured Alliances and the Risk of Nuclear Proliferation
Ukraine and the Future of European Security
Multilateral Institutions in a Changing World Order
U.S. Engagement of Africa
The Future of Human Rights and International Law*

DEI-- Diversity, Equity Inclusion



Banned Book Week 2025

Edited from a April 16, 2025 article by Betsy Gomez

The American Library Association and Banned Books Week Coalition are pleased to announce the theme for Banned Books Week 2025: **“Censorship Is So 1984. Read for Your Rights.”**

Banned Books Week will take place October 5 – 11, 2025.

Current efforts to ban books and information held in schools, libraries, archives, and bookstores are a truth close to fiction – namely, the depiction of extreme censorship by an oppressive regime in George Orwell’s cautionary and prescient tale *1984*. The Banned Books Week 2025 theme reminds us that the right to read belongs to all of us, that censorship has no place in contemporary society, and that we must defend our rights.

Banned Books Week was launched in 1982 in response to a sudden surge in the number of challenges to books in libraries, bookstores, and schools. The annual event highlights the value of free and open access to information and brings together

the entire book community — librarians, educators, authors, publishers, booksellers, and readers of all types — in shared support of the freedom to seek and to express ideas.

“Banned Books Week prompts us all to stand up and defend our First Amendment right to read freely,” said Barbara Stripling, Banned Books Week Coalition chair. “Censorship is never the path to truth. All our lives are enriched when our libraries and schools provide the books that allow us to see ourselves, understand others, and discover the world.”

ALA recently released the [Top 10 Most Challenged Books of 2024](#) list and the State of America’s Libraries Report. The majority of book censorship attempts that ALA tracked in 2024 come from organized movements. Pressure groups and government entities that include elected officials, board members, and administrators initiated 72% of demands to censor books in school and public libraries. The 120 titles most frequently targeted for censorship during 2024 are all identified on partisan book rating sites, which provide tools for activists to demand the censorship of library books.

So, do your part during Banned Books Week and read a banned book or two. And don’t forget to suggest the reading of a banned book to your book group.

*Remember, **“Censorship is so 1984. Read for Your Rights.”***

Bonnie Krupp
DEI Coordinator

From AAUW National

AAUW National Facebook link

If you want to follow AAUW on Facebook, click the link below:

<https://www.facebook.com/AAUW.National?emci=dc7f759-f54b-ee11-a3f1-00224832eb73&emdi=1bda0418-4a59-ee11-9937-00224832eb73&ceid=974701>

From AAUW California

From Charmen Goering, AAUW-CA President

Connection is important, so starting this month, we have a new all-member publication called the *California Compass*. This publication builds upon the *California Connection* and introduces several new features. Be on the lookout!

Also, I will be hosting a year-long book study with *The Four Pivots: Reimagining Justice, Reimagining Ourselves* by Shawn A. Ginwright. The first Pivot, "From Lens to Mirror" will be discussed on October 22nd at 7 pm. Reading the chapter ahead of time will provide you with more context, but all are welcome to participate in the discussion regardless. You can register [HERE](#).

As we head into another year of **Activism, Building, and Connection**, thank you for your participation. As always, your state team is here to support you!

Proposition 50

As an organization, we are not able to make a formal recommendation about Proposition 50. Instead, we will advance information-centered messages, including those that emphasize the potential benefits of Prop 50 for all Californians. As AAUW California members, we can focus on providing Californians with information that is currently absent from public discourse, namely that support of Proposition 50 is a non-partisan move to:

- Preserve wider democratic norms in California
- Oppose Project 2025 implementation in California
- Continue to advance AAUW California's mission & public policy priorities

We invite you to:

1. Check out the [Proposition 50 and Get Out the Vote \(GOTV\) 2025 Guide](#) - a set of resources to educate and support your GOTV efforts, including a Prop 50 Messaging Guide, Prop 50 Overview, FAQ, flier, voting timeline, and much more.
2. Join our webinar "Project 2025 Impacts on AAUW Values - One Year Later: How to Stop Ongoing Implementation" - Tue, October 7, 2025, 7pm PT. Register [HERE](#)

Please support GOTV 2025 to preserve and advance democracy and AAUW California's public policy priorities around gender-based equity and social justice. Every single action counts.

In solidarity,

Missy Maceyko and Amy Hom

Co-chairs, AAUW California Public Policy

AAUW California Facebook link

If you want to follow AAUW-CA on Facebook, click the link below:

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=AAUW California>

Public Policy

Public Policy Peer Group Meetings 2025-26

Originally created for Branch Public Policy Chairs, now anyone interested in public policy is welcome to join! All meetings are recorded so you can view them later.

The next meeting will be on Friday, October 10 at 1:30pm. All information about these meetings (Zoom link, slides, recordings, agendas) can be found [HERE](#).

Finding Your Voice

The Two-Minute Activist (National Initiative)

You joined AAUW because you believe it is important to help advance gender equity and create a more economically secure world for women and girls. Advocating for these beliefs can be performed in many ways; you don't have to march or protest, but that is your right. Alternatively, you can be a **Two-Minute Activist** by joining AAUW members in the fight for equal pay, equity in education, paid leave, protections against sexual harassment and more. Sign up to get alerts on when and how to engage, including sending letters to legislators, writing letters to the editor of a newspaper, and other timely calls to action.

We need this now more than ever.

AAUW's Public Policy issues are at [Two-Minute-Activist](#).

With your help, AAUW can let Congress know that members want to see improved and expanded legislation that protects access to education, economic security and civil rights.

Postcard Protest and Acts of Gratitude (Local Initiative)

After the 2016 election, a local group was formed by Dixie Camardo and Melene Smith to write to elected officials - Federal, State and Local about issues of concern. This group has continued and now meets once a month on the third Thursday of the month. Issues are emailed to all who are interested and postcards are provided.

The next session will be on Thursday, October 16 at 2:00pm.

at Yorba Wine Tasting, 51 Hanford St., in Sutter Creek

Here is a chance to make your voice heard!

If you are interested in being included on the mailing list,
email Nancy Nieland at nieland4@gmail.com.

And if you're looking for MORE action, **check out AAUW-CA Action Alerts**
via our [Resistbot](#) and [BlueSky](#) accounts.

(State Initiative)

Paper Clip Protest

I suggest we all start wearing the paper clip. Subtler than a red hat, more powerful as a CONNECTION. They were also worn during World War II as a sign of resistance against the Nazis-- Norwegian teachers and students wore paper clips to signal their opposition to Nazi occupation. They attached them to their lapels and wore them as jewelry, a symbol of solidarity binding them together as paper clips did with papers. It was a quiet act of defiance, expressing that Norwegians remained united against Nazi rule.

Our defiance can and must be loud and public at this point. But the quiet symbol of solidarity on someone's collar when you walk into a crowded room? Genius. And much better than a red hat. You probably have a paper clip in your desk or junk drawer that you can put on straight away. You can be a subtle signal of support for people who need that right now. You can be a conversation starter.

excerpted from "Civil Discourse with Joyce Vance"

Remembering is an act of resistance.
And our history is our strength.

Tech Trek & the September Celebration



2025 Tech Trekkers Avery Metz, Meris Schauer, Meadow Fisk
and Tech Trek Coordinator Gretchen Carlson.

For a great video of the Davis TT Camp, Click on the link below:
[Tech Trek Davis 2025 Camp Video!](#)



Cyndie Zikmund (above) shares her experience volunteering at the Santa Cruz TT camp.

Jen Ellis (right) talking about Membership & asking members for ideas to help grow the branch.



Program Support Team: Kathy Guletz, Sue Harrington, Debra Brown, Bonnie Krupp, Candace Diamond, Mel Welsh.



Rebecca Wilson talking about the Working Girls' Book Group

Arts and Education

Free Speech Victory: Court Bars NEA from Enforcing “Gender Ideology” Restrictions

TCG (Theater Communications Group) is proud to share an important victory in our fight to protect artistic freedom and ensure equitable access to federal funding. On September 19, 2025, a federal judge in Rhode Island struck down the National Endowment for the Arts’ (NEA) policy disfavoring grant applications deemed to “promote gender ideology.”

This ruling permanently sets aside the policy, affirming that viewpoint-based restrictions have no place in federal arts funding. It is a decisive win for TCG, our co-plaintiffs, our member theatres, and the broader arts community.

What the Court Decided:

- The NEA’s current policy implementing Executive Order 14168 has been, in effect, erased. The agency may no longer implement this policy disfavoring or denying grants on the basis that they “promote gender ideology.” This ruling applies broadly, protecting all applicants.
- The court ruled that the NEA’s plans to disfavor such projects in the grant review process violated the First Amendment as a viewpoint-based restriction on private speech. It also found the policy arbitrary and capricious under the Administrative Procedure Act, noting there was “zero explanation” of what the term even meant or how it related to artistic merit, excellence, or respect for diverse beliefs.
- The ruling prohibits the government from imposing similar restrictions against TCG, our members, or our co-plaintiffs in the future.

Why It Matters

This case sets and reinforces critical precedent: if the NEA makes any future attempts to impose viewpoint-based restrictions on its grants, this decision provides a clear legal roadmap to challenge them. Most importantly, it ensures that federal arts funding remains open to the full diversity of artistic expression.

This case was about striking down unlawful restrictions—not undermining the NEA itself. We continue to stand firmly behind the NEA’s mission, while ensuring its policies uphold constitutional protections.

To read the whole article, click [HERE](#).

October Holidays — 2025

- October 1 — International Coffee Day (Global), World Vegetarian Day (Global), and Yom Kippur begins at sundown (Global). Fuel up with your favorite brew, celebrate plant-powered living, and respect the holiest day in the Jewish calendar.
- October 4 — World Animal Day (Global). A reminder to the two-legged world to treat the non-human world with respect.
- October 10 — World Mental Health Day (Global). A crucial day for breaking remaining stigmas and promoting mental wellness globally.
- October 11 — International Day of the Girl Child (Global) and National Coming Out Day (US). Celebrating courage, authenticity, and power in many humans everywhere.
- October 13 — Thanksgiving (Canada), Columbus Day (US), and Indigenous Peoples’ Day (US).
- October 16 — World Food Day (Global) and Dictionary Day (US). Nourishing communities and better vocabularies.

- October 24 — United Nations Day (Global). Recognizing global cooperation and the pursuit of peace worldwide.
- October 31 — Halloween (Global). When creativity meets candy, and everyone gets permission to be someone else for a night.

October Awareness Themes

- Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- World Mental Health Month
- Cybersecurity Awareness Month

Contact Us / Social Media

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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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