

Gold Filings



September 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 Co-Chairs



Public Policy & Advocacy



Programming



**Communications & External
Relations**

Congratulations to the Amador Branch members!

Our branch has earned three stars in the categories noted above as a part of the national Five Star Program for FY25! That is one more star than last year!

"This achievement reflects your branch's commitment to advancing gender equity and aligning your programs, advocacy, and sustainability efforts with AAUW's strategic priorities." *from Tremayne Parquet, AAUW Deputy Director of Advancement*

Branch leaders and members have been working hard to meet National's goals for the branches and we are proud to have achieved this recognition. Special Thanks need to go to Julie Taylor, who has shepherded our efforts for the past three years.

As we move into the 2025-26 year, we plan to continue to host meaningful programs and to work on issues of importance to our members and to women and girls throughout the country.

To that end, please look for opportunities to make your voice heard on issues that are important to you. See "Finding Your Voice" below to take advantage of two established programs in place.

Rachel Stahl, Stephanie Young
Leadership Co-Chairs

Programs

Libations & Conversations



September 18, 2025

5:30 to 6:30 PM

Water Street Garden

10787 Water St

Amador City

(adjacent to The Imperial Hotel)

The Power of the Horse and Human Connection

This month's speaker is Barbara Thompson who lives in Amador City and is the owner of Sky Ridge Ranch and Heart Rhythm Yoga. She is currently President of the Rotary Club of Passport to Amador and will speak about the power of using the teachings of Equine Assisted Learning to develop growth and leadership in humans.

Members, guests and the public are welcome to attend this no fee presentation.

No need to RSVP, just come and join the discussion.

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



Barbara Sayre Thompson has a lifetime of experience with horses and uses her understanding of them to create unique learning opportunities for individuals, groups and businesses. She was certified by the Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association in 2006 and has devoted herself to creating environments where humans and horses can feel safe, seen and heard. Leveraging horse-human interactions fosters clear communication, confidence, problem-solving skills and healthy boundary setting. Overcoming challenges with a large, powerful animal consistently contributes to a deep sense of empowerment which translates into real-life problem-solving skills and emotional intelligence.

A'Laina Lyons will host this event at Water Street Garden, formerly the Bellflower Garden, in downtown Amador City, adjacent to The Imperial Hotel. This is a great chance to introduce neighbors and friends to AAUW.

September Celebration Program



Amador (CA) Branch

September Celebration

**Saturday, September 20, 2025
10 am – Noon
Creekside United Methodist Church
14 Main Street, Sutter Creek**

**Please RSVP by Monday, Sept. 15
to aauwamadore@gmail.com**

- Meet the Tech Trek students
- Hear plans for the upcoming year
- Learn about the recent branch survey
- Sign up for special interest groups
- Refreshments

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Those interested in joining AAUW and learning more about the organization are welcome to attend.

For more information: aauwamadore@gmail.com

**Please Join Us for the September Celebration program.
EVERYONE IS INVITED!**

The young women who attended Tech Trek (STEM camp) will share their experiences ...

Plans for the upcoming year will be discussed as well as the results of the recent Home Tour/Fundraising survey ...
Bring your calendar so you are ready to sign up for special interest groups and to support our programs and events.

Saturday, September 20, 2025, 10 am – Noon
Creekside United Methodist Church, 14 Main Street, Sutter Creek.

Coffee, tea, water and a snack will be available.

To RSVP (by Monday, September 15) and for more information, email: aauwamador@gmail.com

**We'd love to see everyone in person!
And bring a friend.**

Holiday Party

We are looking for someone to host our 2025 Holiday Party.

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

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

September Calendar

Tuesday, September 2, 6:30pm
Leadership Committee Meeting

via Zoom

All members are welcome to attend. Contact [Stephanie Young](#) if you want the Zoom link.

Monday, September 8, 2:00-4:00pm
Afternoon Book Group

We will meet at Marilou's house to discuss *A Starry Night* by Neil DeGrasse Tyson.

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

Wednesday, September 17, 5:30-7:00pm
AAUW WA Online Branch Program on Title IX

To register click [HERE](#). This will take you to a Google Form. Complete it and then 48 hours before the presentation you will receive the Zoom link. Remember you must pre-register to receive the Zoom link to attend.

Thursday, September 18, 5:30-6:30pm
Libations & Conversations

Water Street Garden in Amador City, adjacent to the Imperial Hotel.

Our speaker is Barbara Thompson who lives in Amador City and is the owner of Sky Ridge Ranch and Heart Rhythm Yoga. She will speak about the power of using the teachings of Equine Assisted Learning to develop growth and leadership in humans.

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

Saturday, September 20, 10:00am - noon

Program: September Celebration

Creekside United Methodist Church

See details in the article above.

Monday, September 22, noon-1:30pm

Great Decisions Daytime Discussion Group

We will meet at Stephanie Young's house to discuss *AI and National Security*.

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

Monday, September 22, 2:00-4:00pm

Page Turners & Book Lovers

We are meeting at Kate Kramer's house to discuss *Slaughterhouse 5* by Kurt Vonnegut.

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

Wednesday, September 24, 5:30pm

Working Girls Book Club

We will be meeting on Wednesday, September 24, 5:30 at Element Restaurant in Sutter Creek. We are reading *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon.

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

Thursday, September 25, 6:00-7:30pm

Great Decisions Evening Discussion Group

We will meet at Stephanie Young's house to discuss *AI and National Security*.

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

Tech Trek

Davis Tech Trek Camp 2025



Front: Campers Meris Schauer, Avery Metz and Meadow Fisk
Rear: Members Greta McElroy and Julie Taylor



Cardboard Boat Race -- Who says science is dry?

At this year's camps, the girls explored Climate Science, Botany, Engineering, Robotics and more. They took a field trip to explore water purification and wastewater treatment up close. Campers had the chance to combine Morse Code and 3D art in "creative and expressive ways".

News from Tech Trek Alums

Jenna Critchfield, a recent graduate of Argonaut High School, received a \$1000 scholarship from the Sac-Joaquin Section, recognizing her as one of the top female student-athletes within the section. She played soccer and participated in track and field all four years of high school, and she played volleyball two years. In soccer she was twice named team MVP and earned all – Motherlode League honors as a junior. She was also a divisional qualifier in the triple jump this past track and field season. Jenna graduated with a 4.38 gpa and is an AP scholar with distinction and won an award from the National Rural Small Town Recognition Program. She will be attending Brigham Young University, where she will major in mechanical engineering with the goal of becoming an aerospace engineer at NASA.

Aja Fuller is another Tech Trek alum and recent high school graduate who is a recognized student-athlete. At the Amador High School Scholarship Awards Night, she was awarded with 11 academic scholarships. At the Sierra Valley Conference Swim Championship, she capped a perfect high school career for her event, the 100-yard backstroke, by winning a gold medal in the event for the fourth consecutive year. Aja will be attending Sierra Community College.

Membership

To blame the poor for subsisting on welfare has no justice unless we are also willing to judge every rich member of society by how productive he or she is. Taken individual by individual, it is likely that there's more idleness and abuse of government favors among the economically privileged than among the ranks of the disadvantaged.

-Norman Mailer, author



September Birthdays

Charleen Arnberg
Rita Bohl
Katherine Evatt
Bob Hartmann
Terrie Houseman
MaryAnn Tierney Kelley
Mary O'Neal
Terri Scott
Claire Wait
Brenda Walker

DEI--Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

How is AAUW National reacting to the current administration's direct attack on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)?

In reading the "[AAUW National 2025 and Beyond Strategic Priorities](#)," it is my observation that there is a subtle shift from addressing DEI directly to a more nuanced position. The three Strategic Priorities presented are designed to "advance equity through higher education," ([AAUW-Strategic-Priorities OP1.pdf](#)) specifically to "empower pathways to higher education, advocate for inclusive policy change, and strengthen AAUW's grassroots and operational power."

This does not mean however that AAUW National has stepped away from DEI. As stated in the introduction to the 2025 Strategic Plan, "for over 140 years AAUW has championed equity in education for women and girls. Grants and fellowships to women in underserved communities and underrepresented fields are part of this commitment."

In AAUW's Public Policy agenda there are numerous examples of their support for DEI. On the National website Public Policy section ([AAUW Weighs In: Policy Updates – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](#)), there are letters and documents covering a broad range of diversity, equity and inclusion issues. The letters originate from both AAUW National and a coalition of like-minded organizations including NAACP, National Urban League, National Partnership for Women and Families, and the National Women's Law Center. For example, a letter to Congress (July 16, 2025) opens with "affirming the ongoing need for diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility policies and programs," and the principles and benefits of DEI are repeated throughout the letter. Hopefully, National will be able to weather the DEI storm and continue their strong vocal support for DEI.

So, what does this mean at the State and local level? With the current AAUW California leadership I doubt if there will be any change in their strong support for DEI (see [AAUW CA DEI Statement-for](#)

[website](#)). Our branch will continue to follow the adopted branch DEI Strategic Plan with an emphasis on providing resources that expand our knowledge of DEI issues, creating an inclusive environment in the branch, collaborating with community groups to broaden our presence in the community, and presenting programs that support DEI principles.

**Bonnie Krupp,
DEI Coordinator**

From AAUW National

A message from Gloria Blackwell, AAUW CEO

As summer winds down and a new academic year approaches, we're filled with anticipation and hope! Soon, our 2025–26 Fellows and Grantees will begin their studies — stepping into classrooms, research labs, and leadership roles with courage — ready to break barriers and chart bold new futures. These extraordinary women are not only pursuing their dreams; they're shaping a future where equity, opportunity, and innovation thrive, and their journeys inspire us all. Each new class of AAUW awardees is a powerful reminder of what we can achieve together

This year, higher education has faced profound challenges — from attacks on academic freedom to widening gaps in access and opportunity. But AAUW remains steadfast. For more than a century, we've championed women's education — especially for those from underrepresented communities. Today, our mission is more vital than ever. We're proud to be the largest non-institutional funder of women's graduate-level education in the U.S.

Your continued support fuels our work. Together, we're defending education, empowering women, and creating conditions for equity to flourish. The promise of these scholars and community leaders is a promise for all of us: that education can still be a force for progress, inclusion, and justice.

A Fall Member Gathering

Thursday, September 18, 2025, 5 – 6 pm on Zoom

At this special event, we will:

- Recognize outstanding supporters and branches,
- Update you on our Strategic Plan's 3 key priorities,
- Share the results of AAUW's FY25 Branch Survey, and
- Provide you with the information you need to answer our 5 Calls to Action!

Register [HERE](#)

NOTE: This event overlaps with our Libations & Conversations event, but the recording will be available later at aauw.org

Virtual Economic Empowerment Online Live Training

AAUW's virtual webinar series offers expert-led training in salary negotiation, financial literacy, and career development to help women advance professionally and economically. [Explore our upcoming webinars today!](#)

AAUW Funds

Between FY20 and FY25, AAUW National awarded \$29.6M in fellowships and grants to 1,538 women and community projects. This was made possible due to members, other individuals, corporations, and foundations who contributed and raised money.

If you are considering contributing to National, there are three funds that provide educational opportunities and equity for women through advocacy and support for higher education. Annually, the Amador Branch makes an unrestricted contribution, derived from Home Tour and other fundraiser profits, to the Greatest Needs Fund. An unrestricted gift provides general support and can be used where it is most needed. Individuals can make an unrestricted contribution to this or one of the other two funds:

- The Greatest Needs Fund is a vital source of unrestricted support that allows AAUW to respond quickly and effectively to emerging challenges and opportunities. Your support of this fund enables AAUW to sustain core operations, advocacy efforts, and program expansion, plus support economic empowerment programs, voter engagement campaigns, and policy advocacy initiatives. Combined, these ensure AAUW can amplify its impact, adapt to evolving needs, and continue leading the fight for gender equity.
- The Defend Higher Education Fund aims to elevate 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 as a trusted and powerful voice for equity.
- The Public Policy Fund is focused on increasing the impact of the Action Network through growing the number of advocates across the country and providing timely, accurate, and actionable information about key issues. This fund helps equip branches across the country with timely, customized talking points on core policy issues e.g. Title IX, student debt, and pay equity.

For more information on donating to AAUW Funds, visit [AAUW National](#). Gifts to all funds are tax deductible.

From AAUW California

AAUW WA Online Branch Program on Title IX

September 17, 2025, 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm PST

Our panel presentation will explore the historical evolution, current landscape, and future implications of Title IX, with a focus on its impact on gender equity in education, athletics, and beyond. This panel will provide attendees with a deeper understanding of the legal, cultural, and political dimensions of Title IX—from its 1972 origins to the most recent developments in 2025.

Panelists will share insights on enforcement trends, lived experiences, and strategies for upholding gender equity in the face of evolving interpretations and challenges.

Panelists include:

- Dr. Dorothy McBride, professor emeritus of political science at Florida Atlantic University
- Dr. Julie McCleery, Co-Director, UW Center for Leadership in Athletics, College of Education

- Dr. Domanic Vanthom, WSU Vancouver, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and Deputy Title IX Coordinator

To register click [HERE](#). This will take you to a Google Form. Complete it and then 48 hours before the presentation you will receive the Zoom link. Remember you must pre-register to receive the Zoom link to attend.

Join us for this informative and timely VIRTUAL Program!

Our Local Partners



Amador College Connect invites you to...

TUSCANY UNDER THE STARS

Join us for an unforgettable night with exclusive auction items, fine wines, and Italian dinner served family style!

DATE: Saturday, October 25
TIME: 5:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
VENUE: Domenico Winery
 11655 Paine Rd, Ione, CA

Scan QR Code to pay via DonorBox or send a check to Amador College Connect with your name, email and phone number at 1 Prosperity Court, Sutter Creek, CA 95685

\$125 per ticket
\$900 for a table of eight

SCAN ME

Contact with questions: 209-217-8239

Amador College Connect is a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization located in Sutter Creek, CA

ACC Fundraiser Coming in October

Save the Date!
 Saturday, October 25
 5:30-9:30
 Domenico Winery

Let's support the fundraising efforts of one of our closest partners!

We have one table confirmed and are looking for 1 more person to make up a second table.

Contact [Stephanie Young](#) if you want to participate.

Finding Your Voice

The Two-Minute Activist

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

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, September 18 at 2:00pm.
at Yorba Wine Tasting, 51 Hanford St., in Sutter Creek
Here is a chance to make your voice heard!

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, email Nancy Nieland at nieland4@gmail.com.

Arts and Education

WOMEN IN HISTORY

Did you celebrate Women's Equality Day on August 26?

The National Women's History Alliance presented a virtual program that day, celebrating the women who came before us, the progress we've made, and the unfinished work that still lies ahead. If you missed the program or would like to share it with others, you can watch the full recording [HERE](#).

We shared three powerful videos that bridge past and present:

- Alice Paul (Suffrage & ERA)
- Fannie Lou Hamer (Civil Rights & Voting Rights)
- Hazel Johnson (Environmental Justice)

Each was paired with reflections from contemporary voices who are carrying this work forward today.

Resources from Our Presenters

- Wild West Women, filmmaker Martha Wheelock: all videos can be found on YouTube [HERE](#)
 - Votes for Women
 - California Women Win the Vote
 - Inez Milholland: Forward into Light.
- Kate Richards: *The Shoulders We Stand On*, you can purchase a copy [HERE](#)
 - A youth-friendly guide to 19 suffragists written for her Girl Scout Gold Award project.
- Emily Torem: NYC Environment & Health Data Portal: Explore over 200 datasets, stories, and neighborhood reports [HERE](#)

Bella Abzug, Champion of Equality, Founder of Women's Equality Day

1920 - 1998

Bella Abzug was a bold and brilliant force in American politics—a lawyer, Congresswoman, and lifelong advocate for women's rights, civil liberties, and social justice. Known for her signature wide-brimmed hats and unapologetic voice, she was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1970, where she served as one of the most outspoken feminist legislators of her time.

In 1971, she introduced a resolution to designate August 26th as Women's Equality Day, marking the anniversary of the 1920 ratification of the 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to vote. Abzug's intent was not only to commemorate the historic milestone but to draw attention to the ongoing work needed to achieve true gender equality. Her resolution was passed by Congress, and since then, Women's Equality Day has served as both a celebration and a call to action.

Abzug understood that laws alone do not secure equality - cultural, political, and economic change must follow. Her work laid the foundation for today's gender justice movements and remains a powerful reminder that democracy must include all voices to be truly representative.

Marie Louise Bottineau Baldwin, Suffragist & Federal Reformer 1863 - 1952

Marie Louise Bottineau Baldwin was a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa and one of the few Indigenous women publicly active in the suffrage movement. She worked as a lawyer and administrator in the federal Office of Indian Affairs and used her position to push back against assimilationist policies, instead promoting Indigenous self-determination.

In 1913, Baldwin marched in the Woman Suffrage Procession in Washington, D.C. - proudly wearing traditional dress to assert Native presence and sovereignty. Her participation challenged the exclusion of Native voices in mainstream suffrage work and emphasized that Native women had long-standing political roles in their communities well before colonial systems of government.

Her life reminds us that suffrage was never a one-size-fits-all issue - and that Native women were both leaders in their own nations and activists in broader national movements.

Adelina "Nina" Otero-Warren, Suffragist, Educator & Political Trailblazer 1881 - 1965

Adelina Otero-Warren was a Mexican American suffragist from New Mexico who played a pivotal role in securing the state's ratification of the 19th Amendment.

As chair of the New Mexico chapter of the Congressional Union (later the National Woman's Party), she uniquely advocated for bilingual outreach - insisting that suffrage literature be printed in both English and Spanish to engage the state's Hispanic population.

Otero-Warren broke barriers as one of the first Latina women to run for Congress in 1922. Though she didn't win, her campaign challenged assumptions about gender, ethnicity, and political leadership. She was also a strong advocate for education reform and preserving Hispanic cultural identity in public schools. Her legacy is one of intersectional advocacy - recognizing that democracy must be accessible across language, culture, and gender.

Mapping Suffrage in Washington, D.C.

About the Recording

We hit a bit of a technical bump: due to a glitch in Zoom, the recording of the presentation was unfortunately not usable. But fear not! Kaitlin Calogera from A Tour of Her Own generously shared a similar recorded presentation that you can watch at your convenience:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9AATtLEp8U4>

And here is the [LINK](#) to "Mapping Suffrage in DC" that Kaitlin shared during her presentation.

Here is a [LINK](#) to Kaitlin's book, "*111 Places In Women's History That You Must Not Miss in Washington, DC.*"

Holidays and Significant Dates in September

- September 1 — Labor Day (US)
- September 4 — National Wildlife Day (US).
- September 6 — Read a Book Day (US) and National Hummingbird Day (US).
- September 8 — Star Trek Day (Global) and International Literacy Day (Global). *Today's Prime Directive: Boldly celebrate the transformative power of being able to read.*
- September 11 — National Day of Service and Remembrance (US). *Turning a day of unspeakable tragedy into one dedicated to community service and bringing people together.*
- September 13 — Positive Thinking Day (Global). *Choose optimism: it's contagious in the best way.*
- Sept 15 – Oct 15 Hispanic Heritage Month "*Celebrating the cultures that make us stronger*"
- September 17 — Constitution Day/Citizenship Day (US). *Democracy in action deserves recognition.*
- September 22 – September 24 — Rosh Hashanah (Global). *The Jewish calendar's New Year begins at sundown on the 22nd and lasts until nightfall on the 24th.*
- September 27 — World Tourism Day (Global). *Whether local or international, travel helps us understand how much we have in common with others around the world.*

International Literacy Day (Sept. 8), kicking off a month-long campaign by the International Literacy Association to affirm literacy as a human right and a driver of equity and justice.

Contact Us / Social Media

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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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