

Gold Filings



Mid-October 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 Co-Chairs

We need you! We need more voices and new ideas as we plan and produce programs, plan for the future of the branch, and support the goals and priorities of the organization. When you have an idea, share it!

We have been notified by AAUW California President, Charlene Goehring-Fox and Public Policy Co-Chairs Amy Hom and Missy Maceyko that "AAUW is an Official Partner of No Kings Day on October 18th." Specifically, as stated in the recent email, "On October 18th, AAUW members are joining communities nationwide to show the power of people working together for education, economic opportunity, civil rights, and a healthy democracy. This is not a day of quiet reflection — it's a day of courage and nonpartisan, nonviolent action grounded in AAUW's mission. We'll lift up students and families, stand with educators, and affirm that every person deserves the freedom to learn, to earn, and to live with dignity."

In Amador County, the "No Kings" rally will be held from noon - 2pm at the corner of Industry Way and Hwy 49 (the corner at the entrance to the Safeway parking lot and MacDonalds.) We will be exercising our First Amendment Rights of free speech and

assembly. If you haven't attended any of the recent rallies, you will be surprised at how many supportive honks and thumbs up we get.

BUT a line from the last stanza of "The Star Spangled Banner," the United States' national anthem, written in 1814, says that America is "the land of the free and home of the brave." If we want to keep America free, then we have to be brave.

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, Chief Assistant District Attorney**
Amador District Attorney's Office

FREE ADMISSION -- EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

A Community Event Sponsored By



Amador (CA) Branch

For more information: aauwamador@gmail.com

Holiday Party

SAVE THE DATE! Sunday, December 7 at the Laughton Ranch

October Calendar

Saturday, October 18, noon - 2pm

No Kings Protest Rally

Industry Blvd & Hwy 49

Steve Christenson will have No Kings signs available for \$10 (cost of printing), or you can make your own (so many issues to choose from!)

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 Stephanie Young'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

"If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality." *Desmond Tutu, clergyman (1931-2021)*



Welcome New Member Mia Huss

Like many in this community, I was born and raised right here in Amador County. I'm 21 years old and have a bachelor's degree in political science and journalism from Sacramento State University. Stingers up! You may recognize my name from my bylines on the Ledger Dispatch where I have been freelancing for two years. I'm also an outreach and enrollment technician at Amador College Connect, a local nonprofit seeking to eliminate the higher education desert in our rural regions. In my free time I love journaling, hiking, playing guitar and singing. Currently, I'm on a quest to return to school to obtain a master's in public policy and administration with the goal of bringing adequate

change in our region and giving rural communities like ours a seat at the decision-making table

DEI-- Diversity, Equity Inclusion

Marie Louise Bottineau Baldwin

Anishinaabe Attorney &
Native Rights Advocate
1865 – 1947

Marie Louise Bottineau Baldwin was one of the first Native American women to earn a law degree in the United States. A member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, she used her legal expertise to advocate for the rights of Native peoples while working for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Baldwin challenged stereotypes by asserting her Native identity proudly in both appearance and advocacy, and she was a vocal supporter of women's suffrage.

Her life's work broke barriers for both Indigenous and female legal professionals.

Zitkála-Šá

Yankton Dakota Writer,
Educator & Political Activist
1876 – 1938

Zitkála-Šá, also known as Gertrude Simmons Bonnin, was a trailblazing Yankton Dakota woman who used her voice to advocate for Indigenous sovereignty and cultural preservation. A gifted writer and musician, she published autobiographical essays that shed light on the traumatic experience of Native children in boarding schools. Through her work with the Society of American Indians and as a co-founder of the National Council of American Indians, she pushed for policy changes and greater political representation.

Her legacy lives on as a powerful fusion of art, activism, and cultural resistance.

Jovita Idár

Mexican-American Journalist, Educator
& Civil Rights Advocate
1885 – 1946

Jovita Idár was a fearless advocate for Mexican-American rights at a time of intense discrimination along the Texas-Mexico border. As a journalist, she used the power of the press to confront injustice, writing boldly about racism, education inequality, and women's suffrage. She helped organize the First Mexican Congress in 1911 and was active in the League of Mexican Women, promoting education for girls.

Idár's commitment to civil rights, combined with her refusal to be silenced, continues to inspire generations of journalists and activists.

Dolores Huerta

Latina Labor Leader &
Civil Rights Icon

1930 –

Dolores Huerta is one of the most influential labor organizers in American history. Co-founding the United Farm Workers (UFW) with César Chávez, she played a pivotal role in securing rights and protections for farm workers, many of whom were Latina/o. Beyond the fields, Huerta has been a fierce advocate for women's rights, education, and voter engagement. Her rallying cry, "¡Sí, se puede!" ("Yes, we can!"), has echoed through decades of social justice movements.

Huerta remains an unstoppable force for equity and empowerment.

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

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](#).

California Online's October Program

"Days for Girls-- Turning Periods into Pathways"

October 20th at 7 pm via Zoom

Presented by Sandy Axel

The group increases access to menstrual care and education by developing global partnerships, cultivating Social Enterprises, mobilizing volunteers and innovating sustainable solutions that shatter stigma and limitations for women and girls. Sandy Axel, head of the Portland program, will present a short video about the countries that are recipients of the menstrual kits. It is quite moving. You won't want to miss this.

Click [HERE](#) to Join the Zoom Meeting

Upcoming Webinars

- AAUW California Webinar - *Harnessing the Power of AI*. Saturday, November 1, 2025, 10-11:30 am. Register [HERE](#)
- AAUW Silicon Valley Branch Program on *Higher Education at Risk - And How You Can Help Protect It* - featuring Meghan Kissell, AAUW Senior Director of Policy.

Wednesday, December 3, 2025, 4-5 pm. SAVE THE DATE - registration link coming soon.

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

CA Online Branch Newsletter Public Policy Article

by Cathy Harper

There is so much going on in our (AAUW's) world of social justice and equity right now – every day we're bombarded with a whole slew of new directives to respond to. However, none is as important as saving our democracy, without which none of the rest of it matters.

With that recognition, we cannot ignore the current developments in Congress. Yes, we are non-partisan, but the simple truth is that the current majority is simply failing to do their constitutionally mandated job of providing checks and balances on the executive branch – and worse, ceding their ordained powers to that coequal branch. It goes without saying that the results have proven disastrous for the values AAUW California holds dear.

Now, steps are being taken across the nation to increase the stranglehold the majority has, through off-census gerrymandering, which will result in the suppression of votes by those who champion democratic values. AAUW California has determined that, to be true to our values of a democratic nation that is inclusive of all its people, we must take a stand when alternative opportunities present themselves. To that end, **“AAUW is an Official Partner of No Kings Day on October 18th.”**

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. All information about these meetings (Zoom link, slides, recordings, agendas) can be found [HERE](#).

Finding Your Voice

*If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.
If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that
you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality.
-Desmond Tutu, clergyman (7 Oct 1931-2021)*

Please keep up the good work, doing what you can when you can to preserve our democracy. EVERY little bit helps. Don't think you can't make a difference--
YOU CAN!

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)

This group was formed after the 2016 election and has continued to meet 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)

Leadership Committee Notes

Meeting summary: LC 10-7-25

Key takeaways

- Amador College Connect collaboration is moving forward with plans to revise scholarship criteria
- The branch will not pursue a Home Tour fundraiser in 2026 but is considering one for 2027
- A forensic science presentation for local students is being organized for November 10th
- The branch is exploring potential collaboration with Quest Science Center for future science events
- Giving Tuesday will be an important fundraiser for the branch's scholarship funds
- The branch needs to update its brochure and avoid year-specific date to avoid annual reprinting costs

Challenges

- Recruiting sufficient volunteers for the Home Tour and other events
- Balancing publicity needs with budget constraints
- Accessing Google Docs - several members having technical difficulties
- Determining how to maintain scholarship funding without a 2026 Home Tour
- Ensuring student participation in the forensic science presentation

Action items

- Terrie
 - Work with Kathy and Bonnie to review and revise scholarship criteria
 - Respond to Mia Huss about the Calaveras County student question
 - Extract relevant information from public policy newsletter to share
- Stephanie
 - Send Lucy's invoices with detailed breakdowns to the leadership team
 - Share last year's final budget with newer members
 - Check with PNC bank about debit cards for Rachel and Jen
 - Forward forensic science presentation email details to Rachel
 - Continue conversations with Quest representative about collaboration
- Rachel and Stephanie

- Plan a meeting to discuss breaking down Home Tour jobs into smaller tasks
- Jen
 - Meet Stephanie at storage unit to collect membership materials
 - Distribute brochures and applications at strategic locations
 - Get name tags made for new members once all are confirmed
- Candace
 - Try to resolve Google Docs access issues
- All Leadership Team
 - Consider fundraising ideas for discussion in January
 - Review budget to understand current financial position

Arts and Education

One Female, Steve, was a 1960s Tech Pioneer

Stephanie Shirley began and ran an amazing technological company run by women in the early 1960s. No one knows about her? She used the name Steve to gain a foothold in the male-dominated world,

She was born in Germany in 1933, and in 1938 her father hiked over the mountains with his two daughters, putting them on a train in Switzerland, the Kindertransport to London. They were among nearly 10,000 children rescued by the British from Nazi-occupied territories. As a refugee at age 5, she lived with a foster family in mid-western England, near the Wales border. She had found “a life worth living” but career opportunities for girls and women were limited and stultifying. When she started her software company in 1962, British women could not work on the stock exchange floor, nor even drive a bus.

Her initial financing for her new company was about \$220 in today’s terms (\$17 then). She needed her husband’s signature to open the company’s bank account and deposit her own money. Letters to other companies, asking for interviews, were usually ignored. Husband Derek Shirley, a physicist, suggested that she introduce herself in correspondence as Steve. She once later said that “You can always tell ambitious women by the shape of our heads –they’re flat on top by being patted patronizingly.”

The company's worth has been estimated at \$33 billion. Stephanie was a prodigious philanthropist and was named Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire. She passed recently at age 91.

Silicon Valley tech companies have remained predominantly male.

Jean Guthrie Sources – New York Times and SF Chronicle

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