

# Gold Filings



## December 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



#### **Happy Holidays!**

"As we enter this season of gratitude and giving, we want to extend our thanks for all that you do to advance AAUW's mission" in Amador County. Your creativity, and support, "especially at this busy time of year, are what keeps our work moving forward."

As mentioned below, Giving Tuesday is scheduled for December 2, 2025. In addition, our annual Holiday party is scheduled for Sunday, December

7th (see the details below). We look forward to seeing you all at both events. Happy Holidays to you and your families. Note: we plan on publishing just one Gold Filings per month during December and January.

***Rachel Stahl and Stephanie Young***  
***Leadership Co-Chairs***

## Membership

*"The future we choose for our public schools is the future we choose for our country."* Kyrstin Schuette

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### **December Birthdays**



JoAnn Chevrette  
Diane Christensen  
Bryan Ellis  
Loretta Porteus  
Michele Powell  
Rachel Stahl

## December Programs

**AMADOR**  
**GIVING**  
**TUESDAY**

**Tuesday, December 2**

AC-AAUW participates to raise funds for College and  
Tech Trek Scholarships

**This is our primary scholarship fundraiser this year.**

In order to share in the matching funds, all checks must be dated December 2 and  
all credit card orders must be placed on December 2.

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and

**Sunday December 7—  
Branch Holiday Party**



# Holiday Sparkle

**LAUGHTON RANCH**  
**SUNDAY - DECEMBER 7 2025**  
**2 TO 5 P.M.**

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## **NO-HOST BAR**

WINE, BEER & NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES  
(PLEASE NO OUTSIDE DRINKS)

## **APPETIZERS AND DESSERTS**

LAST NAMES A-J – BRING APPETIZER  
LAST NAMES K-Z - BRING DESSERT

## **PARKING:**

RALEY'S E-CART LOT  
DROP OFF & PARKING FOR THOSE WITH  
MOBILITY CHALLENGES ON-SITE

## **PLEASE BRING OPERATION CARE DONATIONS**

TRAVEL SIZE, PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEMS AND  
STOCKING STUFFERS FOR CHILDREN – NO TOYS!  
SEE THE OPERATION CARE STOCKING DONATION FLYER

90 CLINTON RD., JACKSON  
RSVP: AAUWAMADOR@GMAIL.COM BEFORE DEC 2

### **Operation Care Donation Wish List**

- Toothbrushes, Toothpaste
- Deodorant, Lotion
- Socks, Gloves
- Shampoo, Conditioner
- Chapstick
- Q-tips
- Hairbrushes, Combs
- Small Stocking Stuffers for Children (No Toys Please)

Please bring a selection of these items (unwrapped) to the party--we'll drop them off as a group donation the following week.

## December Calendar

**Monday, December 1, 12:00pm**

**Page Turners & Book Lovers**

We will meet at Stephanie's house for a potluck lunch to discuss *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon and to make plans for our 2026 reads.

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

**Tuesday, December 2-- Giving Tuesday!**

Make sure to participate this day in order to maximize your contributions to AAUW and other non-profits!

**Sunday, December 7, 2:00pm**

**Branch Holiday Party**

**Laughton Ranch.**

See flyer above for details--food to share and personal items to donate to Operation Care.

PLEASE RSVP by December 2 to [aauwamador@gmail.com](mailto:aauwamador@gmail.com)

**Monday, December 8, 2:00pm**

**Afternoon Book Club**

We will meet at Mona Brown's house to discuss *The Story Collector* by Evie Woods.

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

**Tuesday, December 9, 6:30pm**

**Leadership Committee Meeting**

via Zoom

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

**Monday, December 29, 5:30pm**

**Working Girls Book Club**

We will be meeting at Teresa's Restaurant in Jackson to discuss *Atmosphere* by Taylor Jenkins Reid.

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

## DEI-- Diversity, Equity Inclusion

### **Some Holiday Gift Ideas**

Are you looking for a special holiday gift for a child or grandchild? Books are always a great choice but what about a book that introduces that child to some themes highlighting diversity, equity and inclusion. These books are not just instructive but a colorful, fun way to start a discussion about acceptance and belonging. These titles plus many more are available on Amazon. Have a look and enjoy sharing a good book with a child.

***It's OK to be Different: A Children's Picture Book About Diversity and Kindness,***

Paperback – Picture Book

by [Sharon Purtill](#) (Author), [Sujata Saha](#) (Illustrator)

It's the perfect gift book for both boys and girls preschool through grade 3. It helps parents and educators start an age-appropriate conversation about race, special needs and other ways adults and children are diverse. Readers will come away with the message: "You should always be kind to those who are different from you. Because to them, YOU are different too." Reading age 2 to 6 years.

***All People Are Beautiful - Children's Diversity Book That Teaches Acceptance and Belonging, and How to Feel Comfortable In the Skin You Live In - A Child's First Conversation About Race*, Paperback**

by Vincent Kelly (Author), Cha Consul (Illustrator)

Introduce diversity and acceptance in a colorful way that highlights the beauty in our differences. Kids recognize differences from a very early age. Follow along as kids are introduced to many multicultural differences, highlighting why they make us unique. Through creative rhymes and colorful illustrations, children will delight in finding ways to honor how being human brings us together. Reading age 4 to 8 years.

***You Are Enough: A Book About Inclusion*, Hardcover – Picture Book**

by Margaret O'Hair (Author), Sofia Sanchez (Author), Sofia Cardoso (Illustrator)

A beautiful and inclusive picture book all about celebrating being yourself from Down syndrome advocate and viral sensation Sofia Sanchez! It can be hard to be different -- whether because of how you look, where you live, or what you can or can't do. But wouldn't it be boring if we were all the same? Being different is great! Being different is what makes you YOU. This inclusive and empowering picture book from Sofia Sanchez -- an 11-year-old model and actress with Down syndrome -- reminds readers how important it is to embrace your differences, be confident, and be proud of who you are. Imagine all of the wonderful things you can do if you don't let anyone stop you! You are enough just how you are. Reading age 3 to 7 years.

***Every So Often A Zebra Has Spots*, Paperback**

by Lauren Grabois Fischer (Author), Devin Hunt (Illustrator)

A zebra with spots. A cow that gives lemonade. A turtle who runs marathons. This book will have your child laughing while simultaneously learning about diversity and the beauty of being different. A Social Emotional Learning (SEL) picture book that empowers all children to be the good in the world. Includes BONUS PAGES at the back of the book with Inspiration/Discussion Pages and Activity Pages to reinforce positivity and personal growth. Reading age 2 to 6 years.

***Julián Is a Mermaid*, Hardcover – Picture Book**

by Jessica Love (Author, Illustrator)

While riding the subway home from the pool with his abuela one day, Julián notices three women spectacularly dressed up. Their hair billows in brilliant hues, their dresses end in fishtails, and their joy fills the train car. When Julián gets home, daydreaming of the magic he's seen, all he can think about is dressing up just like the ladies in his own fabulous mermaid costume: a butter-yellow curtain for his tail, the fronds of a potted fern for his headdress. But what will Abuela think about the mess he makes — and even more importantly, what will she think about how Julián sees himself? Mesmerizing and full of heart, Jessica Love's author-illustrator debut is a jubilant picture of self-love and a radiant celebration of individuality. Reading age 3 to 6 years.

***Last Stop on Market Street*, Hardcover – Picture Book**

by Matt de la Peña (Author), Christian Robinson (Illustrator)

This award-winning modern classic—a must-have for every child's home library—is an inclusive ode to kindness, empathy, gratitude, and finding joy in unexpected places, and celebrates the special bond between a curious young boy and his loving grandmother. Reading age 2 – 6 years.

***Bonnie Krupp*  
*DEI Coordinator***

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## Constitution in Crisis: The History of the 28th Amendment

Saturday, December 13, 2025, 10 - 11 am on Zoom

The Equal Rights Amendment presentation brought to you by the Alice Paul Center for Gender Justice is a 45-minute presentation with an additional 15 minutes for questions, comments, and guided discussion. The slide presentation features historical research, archival photographs, and action steps to add to your feminist toolbox.

Our presenter will be Molly Gonzales, Advocacy Manager for the Alice Paul Center for Gender Justice. The presentation is open to the public. Invite your friends and neighbors.

If you want to attend, please RSVP at [lindajslater2@gmail.com](mailto:lindajslater2@gmail.com).

The Zoom link will be sent closer to the date.

*Presented by the Alameda County Interbranch Council*

## Public Policy

### AAUW Opposes the Administration's Higher Education Compact:

In mid-October AAUW issued a statement opposing the administration's proposed Compact for Academic Excellence in Education. The draft compact originally offered preferential federal funding to 9 universities in exchange for sweeping policy changes to admissions, hiring, academic governance, grading, athletics, foreign students, and campus speech, all of which the institutions would be required to endorse and monitor. AAUW is also working with institutions of higher education directly on coalition building to oppose the compact. You can read AAUW's statement [HERE](#).

As of this writing, none of the original nine institutions that were sent the draft compact have agreed to sign it, mainly citing the challenge to academic freedom, free speech, and the incursion of politics into the operation of academic institutions.

At least 3 other institutions that subsequently received the draft also indicated they would not sign. Only one institution has indicated it would sign and actually wants to be "first in line," even though it might not even have actually received the draft compact. That institution, the New School in Sarasota Florida, has been undergoing a "conservative overhaul" since Governor Ron De Santis appointed six political conservatives to the institution's board. Changes at the New School have included the elimination of gender studies programs, removal of LGBTQ materials from the campus libraries and significant additional hiring of conservatively oriented academics.

So far, no California based institutions have signed the compact. Governor Newsom has indicated that he would withhold state funding from any California school that accepts the compact.

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### AAUW Fellows Hold Forth on the Impact of Trump's Agenda on Education.

Last Monday, AAUW conducted an excellent webinar with four former fellows who are currently professionally engaged in K-12 and university level education. If you missed it, you can see the recording [HERE](#). This webinar will give you important info and insights you might not be able to obtain elsewhere!



## From AAUW California

### **From Charmen Goehring, AAUW-CA President**

It's a hard truth—there is no gender equity without pay equity. The pay gap has had a detrimental impact on people and families for generations. Unfortunately, after many years of slowly narrowing, the gap has actually been widening over the past two years. When including all women earners, women are paid 75 cents for every dollar paid to men. What has AAUW been doing to reverse the situation? AAUW has been providing salary negotiation, financial literacy, and advocacy training to thousands of women. Our signature document, *The Not So Simple Truth*, a gender pay report, is being updated with the most current data to examine root causes of persistent inequities and to highlight policies and practices that can close the pay gap. The 2025 update can be found [HERE](#). Please share with others.

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### **From Sigrid Moranz and Rebecca Gomez, Branch Development Co-chairs**

Have you heard about *Volunteers First*? It is a way of connecting with each other that is founded on recent, credible worldwide research showing that volunteers are motivated to continue serving the cause they have chosen to join when they gain something intangible that is unique to each of them: their intrinsic motivators. Consider how an individually tailored approach to attracting members and volunteers could benefit you. Watch the *Volunteers First* videos for some ideas. Click [HERE](#) for more information. We hope you will find inspiration and discover your niche within AAUW.

## Leadership Committee Update

### **Leadership Committee Meeting Nov 4, 2025**

#### **Key Takeaways**

- The meeting experienced significant technical difficulties with Zoom access, with several members unable to join and participating via phone
- A barbecue fundraiser was proposed for April/May 2025 at Laughton Ranch as an alternative to the Home Tour
- The group decided not to extend scholarship opportunities to Calaveras County students due to limited resources
- The December Leadership Committee meeting will be moved to December 9th due to Giving Tuesday conflicts
- Sandee will set up the January meeting as Stephanie will be recovering from knee surgery

#### **Discussion Topics**

##### Google Docs access issues

Several members reported problems accessing the shared Google Docs. Terrie will give all Leadership Committee members access to everything in Google Docs

##### Programs Update

- Sandee provided updates on upcoming programs and events Giving Tuesday preparations, holiday party plans, and upcoming program
- Terrie praised the successful Scammer Jammer program that had 54 attendees
- Gretchen suggested Laughton Ranch for a barbecue fundraiser in April.
- Stephanie mentioned the upcoming program about forensics and DNA for 7th-12th grade students at the high school on November 10th.
- The November L&C will be at Raven's Reach with a holiday traditions theme.
- No L&C in December and no program in January due to holiday scheduling challenges

### Scholarships

The committee discussed scholarship criteria and eligibility. and decided not to extend scholarships to Calaveras County due to limited resources

### Membership Update

Jennifer provided a brief membership update and will arrange for new member ID badges now that she has the debit card. Sandee will give Toby's badge to Jennifer who will ensure it gets delivered

### Communications and Website

The group discussed the website, social media, and communications support.

- Terrie praised Lucy's work on the website and social media.
- Sandee noted that the \$1,000 budgeted for communications support might be exceeded. Lower activity during holiday periods and summer may balance out the budget
- The group will continue to monitor Lucy's hours and expenses to make the most effective use of her time and skills.

### Fundraising Alternatives

The committee discussed potential fundraising options.

- Terrie shared information about Wayport, an online focus group that San Clemente branch is using. Terrie will follow up with San Clemente branch about their experience with Wayport.
- The group will pursue Gretchen's barbecue fundraiser idea for April/May

### DEI Initiatives and Book Discussion

- Stephanie shared her experience with a DEI book discussion group and has suggested the idea to all book group leaders.
- Rachel attended the first session discussing "The Four Pivots" book open to all state members led by Charlene Goering
- Sandee discussed the branch's reputation and the importance of community outreach.
- Several LC members plan to attend future book discussion sessions

### Special Interest Group Proposal

Sandee presented Laura Nasatir's proposal for a new special interest group about health and wellness. Terrie expressed interest and mentioned reading health-related books and the LC supported the idea of the new group. Stephanie will ask Laura to write a blurb for Gold Filings to gauge interest.

### Future Meeting Scheduling

The group discussed scheduling changes for upcoming meetings.

- December LC meeting moved to December 9th to ease conflict with Giving Tuesday.
- Sandee will set up the January meeting as Stephanie will be recovering from surgery.
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## **Finding Your Voice**

**When Nonprofits are under attack,  
the people and causes we serve are under attack, too**

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### **Postcard Protest and Acts of Gratitude** (Local Initiative)

This group 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, December 18 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](mailto:nieland4@gmail.com).

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

## **Donation Opportunities**

### **Tech Trek**

We hope that you will contribute to the branch Scholarship Fund to support Amador County Tech Trek girls, but you may want to support a Tech Trek camp directly. Even if you can't volunteer to help select campers or volunteer at a camp, every dollar donated to Tech Trek California helps fund a 100% volunteer-operated, tax-deductible (through the Special Projects Fund) program of AAUW California.

Donate [HERE](#); donate often! Pick a camp or General Program from the dropdown list if you wish to specify your donation. Amador County girls go to the Davis camp.



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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.

## Arts and Education

### Honors from Ms. Magazine

Recently *Ms. Magazine* honored some of the leading feminists on the front lines of the resistance—the litigators, the journalists and the culture-makers—at the Feminist Majority Foundation’s annual Global Women’s Rights Awards. Our honorees: Skye Perryman of *Democracy Forward*; Jen Rubin and Norm Eisen of *The Contrarian*; and Bess Wohl of the smash-hit Broadway play *Liberation*.

At Ms., we know all too well that more often than not, women are the ones with the courage to call out the abuses that so often go unchecked in the halls of power.

As *The Contrarian*’s Jen Rubin observed on Tuesday, “Politicians follow the lead of movements. Litigation holds back authoritarians, culture keeps our humanity alive, and independent media ties it together. All of that is how we go forward. It is not politics that will save us, it is the people.”

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### Erasing the East Wing: When Women’s History Is at Risk in Plain Sight

The recent demolition of the East Wing of the White House - long home to the offices and initiatives of First Ladies - has reignited concern about how women’s leadership is preserved in our national memory. While the White House Executive Residence and the National Park Service confirmed that artifacts were archived and a digital record created, the loss of the physical space - without a clear plan for public interpretation - is still deeply symbolic. It raises vital questions: Whose contributions are preserved in public view? Whose history is protected, and whose is quietly sidelined?

Losing that physical anchor is a sobering reminder of how quickly women’s contributions can become invisible. And the erasure isn’t only physical. Recent changes to [WhiteHouse.gov](https://www.whitehouse.gov) have removed key First Lady biographies and significantly edited historical timelines. These shifts make it more difficult for students, educators, and the public to access a full and inclusive understanding of those who have helped shape the White House - and the country. This is not just a renovation. It’s a reckoning.

As both physical and digital spaces evolve, we are reminded of the fragility of public memory - especially when it comes to women’s stories. When women’s stories fade from view, a vital part of our democratic record is lost. Preserving and honoring that record is not the work of one agency. It is a shared responsibility - across classrooms, archives, cultural institutions, and communities.

Women helped build this country - in public view and behind closed doors. Their work is not rubble. Their legacy is not optional content. Preserving women’s history is not nostalgia. It is educational integrity. It is part of telling the full American story.

We believe remembering is an act of civic responsibility - and safeguarding women’s stories is not a partisan act, but a patriotic one.

We will continue to do our part. We invite others to stand with us. *Because our history is our strength.*  
*Excerpted from an article by the National Women’s History Alliance*

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### December Highlights in US Women’s History

- **December 1, 1955** – Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat on a bus to a white person; her arrest sparks the modern civil rights movement in the US.
- **December 7, 1941** – Capt. Annie Fox receives the first Purple Heart awarded to a woman for her service while under attack at Pearl Harbor.
- **December 10, 1869** – Wyoming is the first territory to give women the right to vote.

- **December 13, 1993** – Susan A. Maxman becomes first woman president of the American Institute of Architects in its 135-year history.
- **December 14, 1961** – President's Commission on the Status of Women is established to examine discrimination against women and ways to eliminate it.
- **December 14, 1985** – Wilma Mankiller is sworn in as principal chief of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma – the first woman in modern history to lead a major Native American tribe.
- **December 17, 1993** – Judith Rodin is named president of Univ. of Pennsylvania, the first woman to head an Ivy League institution.
- **December 28, 1967** – Muriel Siebert becomes the first woman to own a seat on the N.Y. Stock Exchange.

## Contact Us / Social Media

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

[AAUW National resubscribe link](#)

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