

The Lodestone

APRIL 2023



Nevada County (CA) Branch

**SATURDAY
APRIL 29**

4-7 PM

**Peace Lutheran Church
828 West Main
Grass Valley**



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AAUW Mission

The mission of AAUW is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy. To that end, the organization encourages its members to actively participate in public discussion to ensure enlightened advocacy on the priorities of AAUW as established by members. Priorities were adopted in May 2019 and can be found on the AAUW website under AAUW Public Policy Priorities.

<https://www.aauw.org/resource>

Our Local Scholarships fundraiser takes the place of the Branch meeting for April. This event is our sole fundraiser for the year, and we anticipate it will be a great deal of fun and frivolity as we satisfy the very serious purpose of raising money for Local Scholarships.

Please purchase your ticket (\$35) now if you haven't already and look forward to an early evening that includes the following:

- Three Rounds of Trivia
- Exciting Live Auction
- Silent Auction Bidding Gallery
- Food and Drink

In addition, this is an invitation to gather friends/family and sign up as a **Trivia Team**. Each 4-member team will engage in 3 lively rounds of 15 trivia questions on categories including *science, literature, sports, and geography*.

We encourage you to have as much fun with this as you like: name your team, maybe wear representative clothing, e.g., shirts, hats, costumes. Invite friends to be in the audience to cheer you on. Guests can play along with the trivia questions at their tables. The winning trivia teams will receive 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes.

To register your team, click this [LINK](#) and complete the form online. Use the **Donate** button to pay the \$150 team tickets fee. You can also pay by check to AAUW-NCB, P.O. Box 326, Grass Valley, CA 95945 no later than April 15, 2023. Please include the printed team registration form. To purchase tickets online, go to [AAUW Nevada County \(CA\) Branch](#).

See you there!

(Please [see pages 7-8](#) for details on purchasing individual tickets, previewing a sampling of auction items, etc.)



Deborah York

As winter lingers on and spring continues to hide itself underneath the snow, we have much to celebrate and look forward to at AAUW-Nevada County. This has been a great year for engaging programs; our 7th one last weekend on Resilience encouraged us to focus on leveraging our strengths and avoid wasting time and energy worrying about weaknesses. Do what you love and spend your time with activities that bring you joy.

Our Local Scholarship and Tech Trek teams have been fully engaged in reading applications and making hard decisions regarding the women/girls we will support for scholarships and participation in the summer program at UC Davis. All three of these substantial efforts focus on our core mission to further the education of women and girls.

It's full speed ahead in preparation for the April 29th Tapas and Trivia fundraising event. Thank you to the many branch members who have responded to our 'all hands-on deck' plea for your time and talents. Bravo ladies! We have \$10,000.00 in matching funds for our "Fund a Need" auction, many wonderful member-donated items for the silent auction, and great

vacation packages and other amazing treasures from Pacific Auction Company. The trivia questions are ready to go, cooks will soon be donning aprons, and our decorated tables will be stunning. Get your tickets asap and gather friends to form a competitive trivia team.



President Deb York

We'll wrap our wonderful year at the May 18th luncheon & installation at Miners foundry with a delicious salad buffet from Emily's Catering accompanied by a piano performance by InConcert Sierra student composer Baraka Anderson. Get your tickets at our website, mail a check to our P.O. Box, or pick them up at your next interest group meeting.

This has been a fabulous year for getting together and I look forward to our final events, and the planning for next year.

—*Deborah York, President*

Covid Guidelines

1. We will assume all Branch members are vaccinated and boosted. If you are not, please wear a mask and let Deb York know, and we will accommodate.
2. If you are experiencing symptoms associated with Covid 19 (fever, headache, loss of taste/smell, sore throat, cough, muscle/joint aches, shortness of breath, etc.), please stay home from Branch activities.
3. If a close family member has symptoms or has tested positive, and you do not have symptoms, please mask when carpooling or attending indoor meetings.
4. If you have been traveling with increased exposure, please wear a mask for 5 days after returning if you are attending indoor meetings.
5. A meeting host (interest group leaders, committee chairs, etc.) may request participants to test negative prior to attending meeting or wear masks.
6. If you have been exposed to someone who has tested positive (with/without symptoms), please alert meeting host and wear a mask.
7. We will track Nevada County Covid rates and follow all local government and CDC guidelines. We will notify all Branch members of any changes to these guidelines.



Look for a Bodacious Blooms bouquet like this at the Tapas & Trivia Silent Auction.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| President | Deborah York |
| Past President | Katherine (Bup) Greenwood |
| Secretary | Francesca Erickson |
| Finance Officer | Jennifer Wilkerson |
| Program VP | Mari Weaver |
| Membership VP | Deb Cubberley |
| AAUW Fund VP | Carol McMillan |

APPOINTED OFFICERS

| | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Local Scholarship | Rhea Williamson |
| Public Policy, DEI | Melanie Heckel Lisa Turlo |
| Publicity | Martha Rees |
| Social Media | Open |
| Tech Trek | Martha Rees |
| Ways and Means | Chris Boykin |
| Communications | Katherine (Bup) Greenwood |

STANDING COMMITTEES (NON-BOARD FUNCTIONS)

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Lodestone Editor | Cece Royal |
| Distribution | Jan Williams |
| Directory/Database | Cece Royal |
| Hospitality | Gretchen Corbin |
| Interest Groups | Susie Monary-Wilson |
| Friendship | Pat Pedersen |
| Historian | Margaret Munson |
| Fundraiser | Nancy Jeffery |
| Financial Underwriters | Karen Hull |
| Development | |
| Photography | Martha Rees Bernadette Sylvester Sue Miller |
| AAUW Msg Line | Cece Royal |

Board Highlights

1. Board agreed that the Underwriter Developer should be added to the Budget Committee as funds raised by this position contribute to the Budget.
2. In line with AAUW National's \$5 dues increase, the
3. Deb York informed the Board the November 2022 DEI program will be submitted for a Best Program award from AAUW CA.

Board voted/approved a \$2 increase in Branch membership dues; final approval of the Local dues increase will be put to membership vote.

2023-24 Slate of Nominated Officers

We are indebted to those who served on this year's Nominating Committee: **Deb Cubberley, Jane Winter, Carolyn Woods, Carole Yettick, and Bup Greenwood.**

The committee put together a slate of Executive Officers we will vote on in April. As we have no Branch meeting in April due to Tapas & Trivia, the election will be by email vote the week of April 15. You will receive a ballot via email, and be asked to vote Yes or No to approve the following elected officers:

- President: Deb York
- President-Elect: open
- Secretary: **Ann Gould**
- Finance Co-Officers: Jennifer Wilkerson & **Peg Flanders**
- Program VPs: **Karen Hull & Diane Kellegrew**
- Membership VP: Deb Cubberley
- AAUW Fund VPs: Carol McMillan & **Mari Kobus**

Nominations for elected positions may be made 'from the floor' with the previous consent of the nominee. If you wish to do so, please obtain her consent, then send the name to Committee Chair **Bup Greenwood** by April 8th to ensure time to contact the nominee and place her name on the ballot.

Serving with the Executive Board are the following appointed officers and committee chairs: (Those new to their positions are bold.)

- Local Scholarship: Rhea Williamson
- Public Policy: Melanie Heckel
- DEI: Lisa Turlo
- Parliamentarian: **Carolyn Woods**
- Communications: Bup Greenwood
- Publicity & Tech Trek: Martha Rees
- Ways and Means: **Valarie Bush**
- Hospitality: Gretchen Corbin
- Interest Groups: Susie Monary-Wilson
- Lodestone Ed. & Website: Cece Royal
- Distribution: Jan Williams
- Directory/Database: **Bonnie White**
- Friendship: Pat Pedersen
- Historians: Margaret Munson
- Fin. Underwriters Dev.: Shirley Zeff
- Fundraiser Event Coord: open
- Photography: Martha Rees, Bernadette Sylvester, Sue Miller

The continued health of our Branch is due to the willingness of members to serve in leadership positions. We are grateful for the dedication of our current and upcoming officers for saying "yes" when asked. **Thank you all.—Bup Greenwood**



IT'S LOBBY WEEK!

As I write this column, AAUW CA is in the middle of Lobby Week at the State Capitol. How does this work? AAUW CA has selected 30 bills to support for this current legislative session. From the 30 bills, three bills were selected as top priority to be presented during our lobbying efforts this week.

Who was the lobbying crew? **Carol McMillan** and I attended mandatory training on Monday night on Zoom and learned that 120 members statewide had been recruited to participate from 50 branches. Five girls who just finished the Gov Trek training also joined in. AAUW was much more successful this year in scheduling meetings with legislators and staff. Some of the meetings are in person and some are on Zoom. Generally, AAUW teams of 4 or 5 make the case for the bills, while also describing AAUW and branch activities.

Our Branch, along with the Auburn Branch, scored an in-person meeting with Senator Brian Dahle that we participated in today. Although he did not make a commitment to our top three bills, we all thought it went well.

Top Three Bills for Lobbying Efforts

AB 1394 – California Social Media Platform Liability for Child Sexual Abuse and Trafficking introduced by Buffy Wicks. Since 2000, traffickers have recruited 55% of sex trafficking victims online, usually through social media platforms. AB 1394 would allow victims of child sex exploitation to sue large social media platforms to seek damages of \$1 to \$5 million for each act of exploitation if the platform knowingly, recklessly or negligently facilitated, aided or abetted child exploitation.

SB 287 – California Social Media Platform Liability For Child Addiction and Harms introduced by Nancy Skinner. Our youth are currently experiencing an unprecedented mental health crisis, and researchers attribute a significant part of the cause to their social media use. During the time that Instagram use rose from 1 million to 1 billion users, suicide among girls age 10-14 doubled. Instagram knowingly worsened body image issues for 1 in 3

teenage girls. SB 287 would prohibit social media platforms from knowingly or negligently using a design, algorithm, or feature that causes child users to purchase drugs, inflict harm on themselves, develop an eating disorder, take their own lives or experience addiction to social media. Platforms could be liable for \$250,000 for each violation unless they institute quarterly audits and correct problems within 30 days of discovery.



*Melanie Heckel & Carol McMillan
at the Capitol in Sacramento*

AB 539 – The California Elimination of Discrimination Against Women Act introduced by Assembly members Rebecca Bauer-Kahan and Lisa Calderon. AB 549 would require all state agencies to conduct an evaluation of all their departments to ensure the state does not discriminate against women, including examining the implementation of policies and programs, allocation of funding, and delivery of services. The findings would be reported every two years (beginning in 2025) to the California Commission on the Status of Women with recommendations for necessary changes.

Senator Brian Dahle listened to us and gave us enough time to present our ideas, despite the fact that his receptionist kept knocking on the door saying he was going to be late to his next meeting. He seemed most interested in the bills that work to protect young girls, noting that he has a 13-year-old daughter.

We are scheduled to meet with a staff member for Assemblywoman Megan Dahle on Friday. We will see how that goes, but it already seems like Lobby Week for AAUW is a success, and it feels good to be heard!

—*Melanie Heckel, Public Policy Co-Chair*

The Branch Trust: What's It All About? & AAUW Fund

And Who's In Charge Here, Anyway?



*Cheryl Morris,
Board Trustee*

As we look forward to Tapas and Trivia, a quick quiz: What is the connection between Nevada County Branch, Local Scholarship Committee, Tapas and Trivia, and the Nevada County Branch Charitable Trust? If you're not quite clear, you're not alone.

Read on and be enlightened.

Not all AAUW branches give local scholarships, and few have their own trust. The Nevada County Branch Charitable Trust was established in 1970. Its purpose is exclusively educational; it holds the funds from which local scholarships are awarded. It is a separate nonprofit organization linked to the Branch by the terms of the trust.

Three Branch members serve as trustees: **Ann Shulse, Joanne Weatherly,** and **Cheryl Morris.** They work closely with a pro bono



financial adviser. Trustees serve without term limits and would like to have possible successors in place. If the opportunity to serve in this role in the future is of interest to you, please contact any of them for more information.

Tapas and Trivia is the Branch fundraiser for local scholarships. Thus, when you participate in this event, besides having fun you are contributing directly to our scholarship program.

The Local Scholarship Committee is made up of the trustees and volunteers from the Branch. The committee decides the number and amount of scholarships awarded each year as well as selecting the recipients. Please refer to **Rhea Williamson's article** in [last month's Lodestone](#) for more details about the current variety and amounts of the scholarships.

There are several ways that Branch members can contribute to our long tradition of providing local scholarships; the first was given in 1946! Support Tapas and Trivia, contribute directly to the Charitable Trust, and/or join the Local Scholarship Committee.

Ready for that quiz now?

—Submitted by Cheryl Morris, Board Trustee

DONATIONS to AAUW Funds SOAR!



Your determination and generosity helped AAUW donations reach even higher levels of giving. California gifts reached:

- \$595,562 by individuals
- \$124,300 by branches
- \$719,862 total

This is an increase of 145% over last year's total of \$494,020.

Karen Vanderwerken, AAUW Fund Committee Chair for California, sends kudos to all branches!

Thanks to these gifts and others across the USA, these funds provided \$6 million in funding to more than 320 fellows and grantees in the 2022-23 award year.

Two of the grantees studying in California provided inspiration as they related details of their research at the Inter-Branch Zoom Event in January.

If you missed it, click here <https://www.aauw-ca.org/aauw-2022-fund-events/> to learn about AAUW Funds at work.



*Carol McMillan
VP AAUW Fund*

2023 Local Scholarship Recipients & 2022 Recipient Updates

High School Scholarship Recipients Chosen

By Ann Shulse

It's always exciting this time of year when we choose new scholarship recipients. Eight high school graduates have been selected and will receive a total of \$24,000. Each recipient will be partnered with an AAUW liaison who will stay in touch.

- **Ava Johnson** - STEM - Computer Science/ Machine Learning Engineer - \$3000
- **Sophia Lance** - STEM - Computer Science/ Creative Writing - \$3000
- **Teran Baker** - STEM - Civil and Environmental Engineering - \$3000
- **Layla Mertz** - STEM - Biochemistry/Pre-med - \$3000
- **Halle Browning** - STEM - a Health field - \$3000
- **Clara Mairs** - Cleo - Psychology/Dance Movement Therapy - \$4000/year/4 years
- **Hannah Bybee-Peltier** - Cleo - Business/Library Science - \$4000/year/4 years
- **Amelia Glaz** - Ann Shulse Scholarship - Civil Engineer/Waste Water Engr - \$1000+

Three behind-the-scenes Reading Teams made all this happen and are to be applauded for their dedication and perseverance. Many applications were read, top choices were made, semi-finalists were interviewed, and final, gut-wrenching choices had to be made. Kudos to **Franny Erickson, Melanie Heckel, Kathy Scott, Paula Stephan, Barbara Tagg, Lisa Turlo, Joanne Weatherly, Jennifer Wilkerson, Bonnie Curtis, Penny Savelly, Deb York, and Ann Shulse.**

Recipients of four Re-entry grants and a transfer student scholarship, all totaling \$5000, are currently being chosen by the Sierra College Reading Team.

And how do we pay for these scholarships? **Cleo** recipients are funded from a large bequest made by Cleo Gibson. The **Ann Shulse** recipient will benefit for 3 years from a generous \$3500 gift to Ann when she stepped back from Local Scholarship Chair and Board duties. The **Tapas and Trivia** event is the major fundraiser for **STEM** and **Re-entry** scholarships.

Come join the fun and **support local scholarships** on April 29th, 4-7 pm, at Peace Lutheran Church. Tickets can be purchased online at [AAUW Nevada County \(CA\) Branch](#) from Carol McMillan, or from me.

Etta Stewart by Fran Erickson



Etta and I were able to get together during her Winter Break since she was very much involved with doing the sound for the play "Into the Woods," a community production.

Etta is very positive about her experience at Chico. That experience includes living in off-campus housing, which creates something of a problem for her when she wants to visit with friends who live in the dorm.

Nonetheless, she is enjoying her classes, particularly chemistry. Her major is environmental science, and she is looking forward to taking more classes in her major. Because Etta attended Ghidotti High School, which supports a curriculum that includes AP courses, she was able to transfer with a considerable number of college-credit units to Chico.

In addition to belonging to an Environmental club, she volunteers in a directing class as an actor. Etta has much acting experience in the theater and has enjoyed this artistic endeavor a great deal.

All in all, Etta is a highly positive young lady who is doing well even with the challenges that she faces with no car and a new environment.

Vanessa Richards by Melanie Heckel

"Classes at UCLA have been tougher this quarter since they try to "weed out" STEM students in the first year. I'm taking a Life Science class, Paleontology, and a Statistics class for life science majors. I'm currently in week 9 for winter quarter, and I start finals next week.

"Spring break starts on March 24th, but I'm really ready for the quarter to be over.

"Recently I've been applying to more scholarships for this summer because I'm going to be doing an 8-week study abroad program in Scotland! It's an intensive physics program that satisfies two physics classes for my major. I know that it will be pretty hard but I'm looking forward to traveling plus I've heard good things about Scotland."



2023 Tech Trek Nominees



Our 2023 Nevada County Tech Trek Nominees

Our incredible Tech Trek Committee interviewed all 20 of the applicants from nine different Western Nevada County public schools for the 2023 Tech Trek at the UC Davis campus.

We'll share the results next month, but wanted to give kudos to our team who made each girl's first interview a positive, constructive learning experience.

Thanks for your dedication and passion, **Michelle Baker, Fran Erickson, Stephanie Facchini, Chriss Hood, Penny Savelly, JoAnn Schilling, Kathy Scott, Ann Shulse, and Carole Yettick!**

Here are some comments from parents and candidates:

"She was quite proud, coming out of the interview. The whole crew put her at ease."

"Already, trying to get in for Tech Trek has helped me grow so much in being able to fill out applications, writing essays, and especially my interview skills. Even if I don't make it into camp, I still thank you deeply for this experience and giving me a shot."

"She [her daughter] was surprised by how 'not scary' it was to talk with the interview panel. It says a lot about their efforts to ask the right questions and put the girls at ease."

—Submitted by Martha Rees



SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 4-7 PM

Tickets \$35

Purchase Tickets Now!

Tickets are available on the Branch website. [AAUW Nevada County \(CA\) Branch](#), where you can do the following:

1. Click the **Donate** button
2. In the screen that appears, enter the dollar amount and click the payment type (PayPal, or

Credit or Debit card).

In the screen that appears, click the plus (+) sign next to **Write a note**, and type Tapas & Trivia ticket(s).

Please include your name and the name(s) of any guest(s). Fill in the remaining info and submit.

Online purchased tickets will be honored as will call at the door.

Live & Silent Auction Items

Bocce Ball & BBQ for Eight—Donated & hosted by **Susie & John Monary-Wilson**



Bocce Ball & BBQ

You and your party enjoy an evening of fine food and drink and the goofy game of bocce ball at John & Susie's lovely home amidst the forest.

Massages (Dreams in Motion)—\$90/hr. Two sessions, donated by **Rhea Williamson**

Party Ponies, Johnny & Cash!

Johnny and Cash are ready to celebrate. One or both miniature horses can join your party or maybe you would like to visit them in south Nevada County. Donated by **Mary McMillan**



Watercolor Class



Two hours of instruction for eight (includes materials) from **Cherie Guerrette**. Each class guides students to produce a 9X12 painting from start to finish learning basic watercolor skills and techniques...."I do a step-by-step demonstration and provide the image....no drawing experience necessary."

John's Pies—Six gourmet pies throughout the year from legendary pie maker **John Shulse**.



Legendary Shulse Pies



InConcert Sierra

InConcert Sierra, Two Season Tickets, **\$588 Value**—World class music events, donated by **Barbara Drew & Robin Lavery-Reves**



See what it's like to make an artful pin out of glass. This workshop is for 4 people who will learn about flameworking, and will leave with a memorable artisanal piece they created.

Advance Auction Purchasing

If you are unable to attend the event and are interested in any of the auction items, note that:

- (1) We will send out an email by mid-April listing our local member donations. You may purchase any item listed at the market value price by contacting [Deb York](#).
- (2) If you are interested in purchasing any of the travel adventures offered by Pacific Auction company, set up a buddy to bid for you within your budget parameters.

Auction Item Get-Aways

■ Lavender Inn by the Sea, Santa Barbara



Two nights, centrally located in Santa Barbara, steps from Carriage and Western Art Museum and within a 10-minute walk of Moreton Bay Fig Tree. This hotel is 0.4 mi (0.7 km) from

Santa Barbara City College and 0.6 mi (0.9 km) from Santa Barbara Maritime Museum. Donated by **Jeanette Webber**.

■ Kauai Beach Getaway

Five nights in the Kauai Beach Resort & Spa, which sits on 25 lush, tropical acres. Centrally located be-



tween Kauai's North and South shores, the Kauai Beach Resort & Spa is minutes from the airport, tucked down a

tree-lined drive. Framed by sensational landscapes with four resort pools.

■ Thailand Luxury Resort

Six nights in a junior suite at the Pullman Phuket Panwa



Beach Resort, a Fairmont-managed 5-star luxury resort, including daily breakfast for two. Private beach to paddle board, kite surf, kayak, etc. Three freeform pools, spa, massages, Thai cooking classes, and floating afternoon tea or breakfast are all in the mix.

■ Mexico Beach Resort

Choice of: **Nuevo Vallarta** (home to an Aqua Park, kids club, golf courses), or **Riviera Maya** (diverse world cuisine, Cirque du



Soleil dinner show, and golfing) or **Acapulco** (spacious rooms, private pools, and sprawling Lazy River) or **Los Cabos** (triple-tiered expanse of pools, white-sand beach).

■ Little Bear Cabin

Two-night stay at cabin near Graeagle and Feather River. \$400 Market Value

Check it out through this link:

https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/51599674?guests=1&adults=1&s=2&unique_share_id=a44fe6ad-12ea-4039-bceb-3ae93829df11. Donated by friend of **Jennifer Wilkerson**.



■ Anderson Valley Long Weekend

Five days/four nights. Sleeps eight. Luxury home perched on a Redwood ridge with stunning views, ex-



tending the length of the valley. Enjoy morning fog in the company of soaring birds and spectacular sunsets. Wineries, special hikes, and kayaking opportunities abound.

■ Under the Tuscan Sun for Four

Five nights in a charming private residence in Cortona's Historic Center; equipped with Wi-Fi, A/C, and kitchen; welcome drink in the coolest wine bar in town, lunch in a winery with visit & tasting (transportation not included, but can be arranged).



■ Belize Island Resort All Inclusive

Five-night stay for two. Ambergris Caye is Belize's biggest island, located in the clear shallows of the Caribbean Sea off the tip of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. Scuba diving and Caribbean beaches. Off the eastern shore, snorkel in the Belize Barrier Reef.



In addition to our commitment to AAUW Nevada County Branch's mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research, we provide educational and enrichment opportunities for our members. If you would like to learn more about the Interest Groups, please see the leaders' contact information in the AAUW Membership Directory or contact **Susie Monary-Wilson** 530-470-9272.



Susie Monary-Wilson,
Interest Group Coordinator

American Mahjong — Ann Frankel



The 2023 American Mah Jongg Card can now be ordered and will be required for play. You can purchase a card from the National Mah Jongg League: [National Mah Jongg League](https://www.nationalmahjonggleague.com) If you are interested in playing and/or have any questions, please contact Ann Frankel at 530-205-6622 or

01012013af@gmail.com.

Arts and Crafts — Teri Mc Connell

For our April craft we will be making this cute wreath.



Can you guess what it is made of? This will be held on our regular first Thursday date, **April 6th**, at **10:00 AM** at the home of Stephanie Norton. For more information, please contact Teri McConnell (tjmccconnell@earthlink.net).

Our May meeting will be a lunch and planning meeting for the coming year. This would be a great time to consider joining the Craft Group, meeting the members and learning about the crafts we will make in the future. Come join us.

IDEAS: Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Action Squad—Lisa Turlo



The IDEA-Squad met at Susie Monary-Wilson's lovely home on March 15th. Our group celebrated the Nevada Union High School District's passage of the Anti-Discrimination board policy that was approved on March 8th. Group members continue to gather

data and reach out to various community groups to support students in our community.

We will meet on **April 19** at Ann Shulse's home. Please contact **Lisa Turlo** at lisaturlo59@gmail.com for more information.

Book Discussions

Mostly Fiction — Robin Laverly-Reves

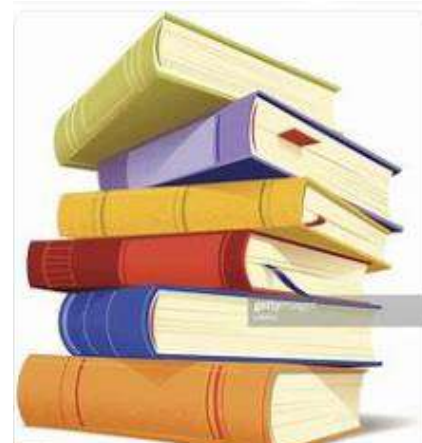
The Mostly Fiction Book Discussion Group canceled its March meeting due to heavy snow accumulation impacting travel and causing power outages for many members. Owing to the gracious flexibility of facilitators and hosts, we will discuss *The Rent Collector* by Camron Wright during our next regularly scheduled meeting on **Thursday, April 13th**. Members should keep books and notes handy to jog memories.

The Line Becomes a River, the book originally planned for April's discussion, will be rescheduled for a date during the summer. We are all learning to be adaptable. If you would like information about the Mostly Fiction book discussion group, please contact Robin: robinreves@comcast.net.

Non-Fiction — Diane Kellegrew

The Non-Fiction Book Club takes note of April's Earth Day with a book focused on climate change solutions. On **April 18th** we will discuss *All We Can Save: An Anthology* edited by Ayana E. Johnson and Katherine K. Wilkerson. This book is a perfect fit for AAUW members. The highly rated book is edited by women and highlights the work of women climate change leaders. Kirkus Reviews describes the book as "A well-curated collection with many ideas for ways large and small to save the planet."

If you are interested in joining us, please contact Diane Kellegrew (diane.kellegrew@gmail.com) for meeting location and details.



Garden Group—Janine Martin



On **Thursday April 27th** the Garden Group is going to the Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Farm Colony, the first permanent Japanese settlement in North America and the only settlement by

samurai outside of Japan. The group was made up of 22 people from samurai families that purchased land in the Gold Hill region near Placerville in 1869. They brought with them mulberry trees, silkworm cocoons, tea plant and bamboo shoots, cooking utensils, and swords. Though the group was able to successfully show their produce during the 1869 California State Agricultural Fair in Sacramento and the 1870 Horticultural Fair in San Francisco, the farm as a Japanese colony only existed between 1869 and 1871. Okei Ito, the first known Japanese woman to be buried on American soil, has her grave on the land. A private tour will provide insights to the history, motivations and outcomes of this intriguing farm colony, followed by a self-provided picnic lunch on the beautiful grounds. \$10 donation. To receive the trip details, contact janineandgalen@gmail.com

Gnaw and Jaw — Deb Cubberley & Chris Boykin



Our April theme is "Farm to Fork". It will be fun to see what the different groups come up with for this one.

We will have one more restaurant event, most likely in May before we end the AAUW year and choose new groups starting in September. It's not too late to join a group, though, as not all groups are full, and singles are always welcome! For more information contact Deb Cubberley debclubberley@comcast.net or Chris Boykin at chrismboykin@gmail.com

Gracious Helpers — Pat Pedersen



Gracious Helpers is a group that provides meals for members who are suffering from a trauma. It might be an injury, death, or surgery for themselves or a spouse or significant other. We determine the needs of the member, such as dietary necessities, day of delivery and time of the delivery. We use a website

called Meal Train which provides us with a page for the recipient. We deliver easy meals, and most providers make meals which they usually make for themselves. If you can assist us, please contact Pat at 530-477-1881 or ppedersen76@comcast.net. She will be happy to explain the process to you.

Great Decisions — Susie Monary-Wilson



Great Decisions will meet on **Tuesday April 25th** from **10 to noon** to discuss Chapter 3: "China and the US," led by Lani Howard and Judy Wilkins. We'll meet at Grass Valley United Methodist Church, 236 South Church Street, Grass Valley. Please contact

Susie Monary-Wilson for more information at monarywilson@msn.com.

Hiking Group — Jane Winter

After all the rain and snow we've experienced this year, it is time to lace up our boots and hit the trails for magnificent spring hikes! **Wed 4/5 Jane Winter** is leading a hike in the gorgeous Hidden Falls Regional Park, Creekside Trail to Great Egret Trail Loop (8.6 mi / 944'). The falls will still be running!

Mon 4/24 Florence LeFrancois is taking us to Empire State Mine for a hike on Osborn Hill (3.9 mi / 426') and wildflowers will be blooming! John Muir once said, "Of all the paths you take in life, make sure a few of them are dirt." If you are interested in being on the hiking list and exploring the beauty of the Sierras on foot, contact janeinsierras@gmail.com.



Watercolor — Allison Rapp

Spring is a fabulous time to pull out watercolors and immerse yourself in Nature. A simple palette produces an amazing range of colors that will leave even Mother Nature impressed. And best of all, the ability to draw is optional! Our watercolor group meets on the **third Wednesday** of each month

from **6-8:30-ish**. Contact Allison Rapp if you're interested in joining us at AllisonRapp@gmail.com



Writing Group — Deb York

The writing group will meet **Monday April 10th, 1:00-3:00** at the Madelyn Helling Library, Prospectors Room, to provide feedback to each other on work pieces submitted for review and critique. We will have a **Write-In** on **Monday April 17th, 1:00-2:30** at Communal Café in Nevada City. Come prepared to write or edit something, share what you hope to achieve—write uninterrupted for 60 min---share what you learned and did. Anyone is welcome to join us for this low-key, productive time, with writing friends. Please contact Deborah York deborah11623@gmail.com or 925.216.6140 if you are interested in participating.



Solito by Javier Zamora



Javier Zamora

Solito is the story of Javier Zamora's 3000-mile journey from a tiny village in El Salvador to Arizona in 1990. He was nine years old. And he was "solito" or alone as the title in Spanish translates. Zamora's father had immigrated to the United States five years earlier. His mother left and the same "coyote" or guide was slated to bring Zamora and a small group of other immigrants north.

What sets this story apart from the sea of similar tales of woe is the childish perspective of a nine-year-old boy. Tossed into a group of strangers, Zamora faces incredible hardships crossing wild seas, unforgiving deserts, and hostile border crossings. Yet he starts out embarrassed to use a public bathroom on his own. The world is a perilous place, yet the story focuses on the humanity that Zamora encounters with his traveling companions, who save his life time after time. A family emerges.

The Mostly Fiction Book Group read *American Dirt* last year, a book that was widely criticized

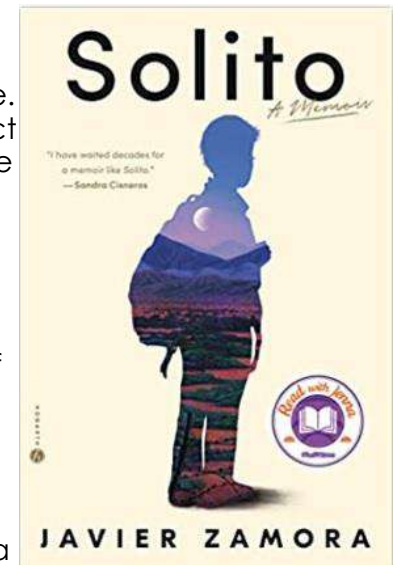
for trivializing the trauma of the immigrant experience. This book is the perfect counterpoint because it highlights the kindness and the humor of Mexican culture. *Solito* shows humanity at its finest even in the darkest of times.

Zamora is a poet and his words paint a beautiful and harrowing picture of a life-changing journey.

What was supposed to take two weeks, stretched to seven weeks. Zamora's parents had no contact during that time. And when the small group finally made it to the border, it took several trips, that nearly killed them, to finally make it across.

Anyone who wants to understand the immigrant experience should read this beautiful book.

—Submitted by Lisa Turlo



The 1619 Project

by Nikole Hannah-Jones



Nikole Hannah-Jones

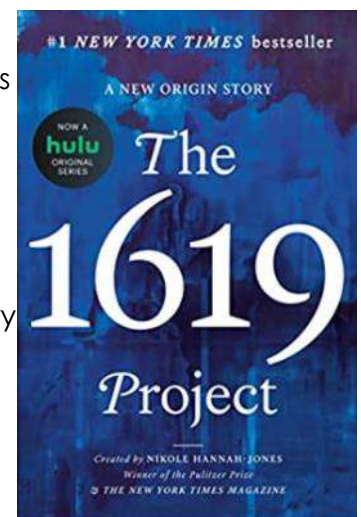
Slavery and the Black experience are at the heart of *The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story*, edited by Nikole Hannah-Jones. The book changes the narrative of our nation's origin story from what traditionally was the arrival of the Mayflower in 1620, to the arrival of the White Lion cargo ship with captured Africans landing in 1619. This bestseller explores the legacy of slavery and its connection to present-day situations in our country.

Nikole Hannah-Jones, the *1619* editor, received a Pulitzer Prize for Commentary in 2020 for her work on the project. Later, essays, poems and fictional works were added. Significant contributions of Black Americans are touched on again and again and delve into a history that is many times overlooked.

The Pulitzer Center has reading guides and lesson plans for teachers to support *The 1619 Project*. An illustrated children's picture book, *Born on the Water*, assists young readers to understand the consequences of slavery and the history of Black resistance in the United States.

After reading this text, many members of the Non-Fiction Book Club felt a real emotional response to the history of brutality and racism against Black Americans. We explored discussions on reparations and what we ourselves could do to have an impact. It left us with a job ahead!

—Submitted by JoAnn Castori



Our May luncheon and Installation will be on **Thursday, May 18th, 11:30-1:30** at The Miners Foundry in Nevada City with lunch provided by Emily's Catering.

Menu will include a salad buffet featuring:

- Mixed green salad with sliced apples & shredded beets
- Quinoa salad with roasted peppers, pine nuts, and arugula
- Spinach salad with mushrooms, egg, bacon, and feta



Also included are artisan breads, iced tea, lemonade, cucumber water, and desserts.

We will be announcing AAUW Fund Named Gift Honorees, Edi Silverman Community Services Award, and the Installation of our new officers for the 2023-2024 year.

We are pleased to have **Baraka Anderson**, a 16-year-old piano student of Lynn Schugren and a member of the InConcert Sierra Composer's project. He recently composed a piece of music for voice and piano using Jabberwocky for the lyrics for the "Poetry in Song" concert.

Handicap parking is available near the building in the lower parking lot. We will have someone posted at the door to let you in.

Once you get inside, there is an elevator lift up to the main floor which we will help operate.

Purchase tickets for **\$35** by May 1st. We will have them available at interest group meetings or online at our website [AAUW May Luncheon | Nevada County \(CA\) Branch](#) - please include your name, and May Luncheon in the Note section. You can also mail your check to AAUW-Nevada County Branch, P.O. Box 326 Grass Valley, CA 95945.

We are currently accepting nominations for our annual Edi Silverman award. This award goes to a Branch member who actively serves our community.

We need to acknowledge the following businesses who have generously donated toward the support of our Branch. Please patronize them and thank them for their support!

- **Bodacious Blooms Flower Farm**
Karen Hull
- **KNCO News Talk 830**
- **MOVE! Fitness Studio**
Marilyn Rohrbacher
- **Move Like You Used To**
Allison Rapp
- **Sierra Tech Guy**
David Ball
- **Sierra Timberline**
- **Sierra View Medical Eye, Inc.**
Keith Mercer, MD
- **SPD Market**
Ben Painter
- **Westamerica Bank**
Bernadette & Ed Sylvester
- **Jennifer L. Wilkerson, Attorney at Law**
- **Wolf Mountain Spa**
- **Young Enterprises Rincon del Rio**



Ways & Means Just Buy 2!

Just 10 bucks for 2 raffle tickets!!



We're asking each member to "Just Buy 2" Raffle Tickets (\$5 each) for the Handmade Quilt or Shoulder Bag to support Branch operations (if your budget allows).

- Did you know that the cost for renting any room, especially the one we currently use at Peace Lutheran Church for our meetings has gone up? Monthly costs are between \$400-\$500!
- Other expenses such as printing, mailings, supplies, advertising, and speakers have gone up too!

The Ways and Means budget supports these administrative expenses.

You can purchase raffle tickets at our monthly meetings or on our AAUW Nevada County website. [AAUW Ways & Means Raffle to Support Branch Operations | Nevada County \(CA\) Branch.](#)

We have a new AAUW branded item for sale! Double wall ceramic 11 oz. tumblers with silicone lids.

Just \$10 each!!

Available online [AAUW AAUW Branded Merchandise | Nevada County \(CA\) Branch](#). You may have to wait, however, to receive it in September.



Chris Boykin
Ways & Means Chair