



The Lodestone

Summer 2023



Nevada County (CA) Branch

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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>

2023 Tech Trek: *"the experience of a lifetime"*



Martha Rees
Camp Co-Director
& Tech Trek Chair

Incredible, most important, eye-opening, life-changing, and amazing are just some of the ways that our 2023 Nevada County Trekkers described their experiences at the weeklong UC Davis Tech Trek. From the first day Opening Session Keynotes by former Trekkers sharing their stories and ice breakers led by our core class teachers to the Friday night slide show, on-campus scavenger hunt and ice cream chemistry, the week was jam-packed!

Campers spent their mornings in their core class, which could find them dissecting an eyeball, designing and engineering a solar car, coding and sewing



wearable tech, building paper rockets and marshmallow moon landers, or tracking data for an artistic personal project. During the rest of the day, they might be helping Dorm Mom **Michelle Baker** escape from the Mad Scientist's Lab by figuring out clues, creating 3-D prototypes for solving a community problem they identified, solving a murder based on newly-learned forensics skills, or building an architecturally designed structure. Visits to the Veterinary Clinical Skills Lab, Food Innovation Lab, and Mondavi Center for Performing Arts were just some of the on-campus field trips. And, of course, the campers had a chance to meet a number of women with careers in STEM fields, such as civil engineering, environmental and food science, criminology, and audiology, during the Professional Women's Evening. That's just a sampling of what the week held for the 90 campers plus camp staff.

[Continued on next page....](#)

AAUW Nevada County was well represented at the 2023 UC Davis camp. Besides our seven campers, there was one dorm mom (**Michelle Baker**), one senior counselor (**Allison Johnson**), two junior counselors (**Liv DesAutels** and **Gina Genovese**), our camp nurse (**Lauren Monary** – yes **Susie Monary-Wilson's** daughter! So grateful that Susie encouraged her to apply!!!), tech specialist/videographer **Ava Johnson**, and co-directors (**Stephanie Facchini** and **Martha Rees**). In addition, **Susie Patterson** volunteered to help at the first day registration. And we appreciated that **Chriss Hood**,

JoAnn Schilling and **Ann Shulse** – plus nominating teachers **Cathy Harmon** and **Sue Stoddart**–made the effort to attend Visit Day. The girls loved seeing you – as did staff members! Thanks to everyone for your support and all-out efforts!! What an outstanding team!!

You'll hear more at the September brunch and can talk with the girls to hear about their experiences first-hand.

More to come about their experiences at the September brunch.!

—Martha Rees, Tech Trek Chair & Co-Camp Director



Makaela in anatomy



Sage with solar racing car



Light engineering at the Mondavi



Chemistry Magic



Trekkers and Staff



Veterinary Clinical Skills Lab

Hope you are all enjoying your summer, spending time doing whatever refreshes and energizes you—reading books, visiting with family and friends, traveling to interesting places, going on hikes, or kayaking....

I had a wonderful opportunity back in June to participate in the [Juneteenth Celebration](#) in Nevada City sponsored by Color Me Human. This was my first time, and I didn't really have a sense of what to expect. I helped wipe down tables waking up from winter neglect, covered them with lacy plastic tablecloths, and greeted guests as they arrived. **Tracy Pepper**, the Executive Director, and her board extended a warm welcome and gratitude to our community.

Sadly, the first time I'd ever heard of Juneteenth was just a few years ago. I grew up in Silicon Valley when it was mostly prune and apricot orchards, but nonetheless a mostly white CA suburb where Black history was not part of our curriculum. I learned of the Great Migration when reading *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson in our Non-Fiction Book group. This day of celebration perplexes me a bit since it was on June 19th, 1865, when enslaved African Americans in Texas were finally told they were free. A Union General arrived in Galveston to inform them that the war had ended, putting into

effect the Emancipation Proclamation, which had been issued nearly 2.5 years earlier on Jan 1, 1863, by President Abraham Lincoln.

I wondered if there would be a program discussing sentiments about this long delay in telling people they were free. What I found was a very welcoming



President Deb York

celebration of community, people from all walks of life gathering to share a meal and spend a lovely afternoon together by the creek in Pioneer Park.

These past several years we've been working on including others in our AAUW activities & programs—we've done a fantastic job in reaching out and bringing people in. Next year I hope we can look for opportunities to join with others in our community—supporting their efforts as well as our own. I will return to the park next year to celebrate Juneteenth and hopefully many more of you will join me.

See you in September, *Deb*



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.

Membership News & Juneteenth Photos

IMPORTANT Renewals

Under National's new membership protocol, members will renew one year from the date of their originally joining. However, since most of us have been members for several years, our renewal falls on the date that our membership last lapsed, or **June 30, 2023**.



*Deb Cubberley
Membership VP*

Most whose memberships have lapsed have renewed, but if you have not yet (and there are a few of you), please do so now since we want to be sure to get you in this next year's membership directory.

Four members have moved or are moving out of the area. These are **Susan Riggs, Suzanne Rounds, Patsy Webster, and Jane Winter**. By September we will have a membership count to officially start the year.

COVID hit AAUW very hard, resulting in lost membership in many branches and even the closing or consolidation of some branches, but we are strong. Our membership has generally grown and our programs and activities are increasing. Yeah for us!

Note: I apologize to those of you that attempted to renew online at aauw.org and were unable to do so. Some of you had success, but many of you had issues. I will be sending on the comments about the renewal process to National. Certainly renewing through the National website could be a little more user friendly.

Please note: Members will be asked in September to vote on raising Branch dues \$2. With membership approval, total yearly membership dues will be \$110.



*Tracy Pepper,
President, Color Me
Human, addressing
the crowd.*



*President Deb York,
ready to welcome guests.*



*Juneteenth Celebration
2023*

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Local Scholarship	Rhea Williamson
Public Policy, DEI	Melanie Heckel
DEI Officer	Lisa Turlo
Publicity	Martha Rees
Tech Trek	Martha Rees
Ways and Means	Open
Communications	Katherine (Bup) Greenwood

STANDING COMMITTEES (NON-BOARD FUNCTIONS)

Lodestone & Website	Cece Royal
Distribution	Jan Williams
Directory/Database	Bonnie White
Hospitality	Gretchen Corbin
Interest Groups	Susie Monary-Wilson
Friendship	Pat Pedersen
Historians	Margaret Munson
	Shirley Zeff
Fundraiser	Open
Underwriters	Open
Photography	Martha Rees, Bernadette Sylvester Sue Miller



Executive Board Members at the May Installation Luncheon L-R: President Deb York, Program VPs Diane Kellegrew & Karen Hull, Finance Co-Officers Jennifer Wilkerson & Peg Flanders, Secretary Ann Gould, AAUW Fund Co-VP Mari Kobus, Membership VP Deb Cubberley, & AAUW Fund Co-VP Carol McMillan

In case you missed it, the photo above shows our new Executive Board at the final meeting of the year, May 18 at Miners Foundry. The May program included:

- **SERVICE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & OFFICER INSTALLATIONS:** Deb York thanked departing Board members **Fran Erickson** (Secretary), **Mari Weaver** (Programs VP), **Chris Boykin**. (Ways & Means Chair). Carol McMillan announced and lauded named AAUW Fund Gift Honorees, **Rhea Williamson, Diane Kellegrew, Lisa Turlo, Karen Hull** and **Nancy Jeffery**. Ann Shulse installed officers (Executive Board pictured below), appointed officers, and committee chairs.
- **A PIANO RECITAL:** A piano recital featured Baraka Anderson, playing seven classical

pieces.

- **RAFFLE WINNER DRAWINGS:** The winners, **Diane Kellegrew** for the quilt by Virginia Kingston and **Katie Clement** for the handbag.

A THANK YOU TO MADAME PRESIDENT!:

Bup Greenwood and Karen Hull thanked President Deb York for her hours of dedication that resulted in a highly successful Branch year, presenting Deb on behalf of the Branch with a gorgeous bouquet from Bodacious Blooms.

The Miners Foundry proved to be a spacious and attractive venue, and hopefully we can re-visit Stone Hall in the future. Onward to 2023-24!



Current News

By Melanie Heckel

Happy Summer everybody! We are taking a few months off and getting ready to kick off our AAUW 2023-24 year. I love to start my articles with good news. Given recent Supreme Court decisions, it is difficult to find much that is encouraging in our efforts, but I will give it a try.

Good News:

1. Family Health Legislation: Two related bills were introduced in Congress in May, 2023. Both focus on expanding paid health leave for illness and family care. The US is one of the few developed nations without guaranteed paid family leave. Currently, only 1 in 4 private sector employees has paid family leave. The Healthy Families Act would address this disparity by establishing a national framework for businesses of 15+ employees to provide workers with up to seven job-protected paid sick days. Also, workers could receive up to 12 weeks of partial income for family leave. The FAMILY Act updates the existing Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) of 1993 by establishing a fund for the specified paid leave and also would update the definition of 'family.' Urge your Congressman and Senators to pass these bills!

A fact sheet on the Healthy Families Act is available [HERE](#). A fact sheet on the FAMILY Act is available [HERE](#).

2. Title IX rule changes have been proposed by the Biden Administration. For more than 50 years, Title IX has prohibited sex discrimination in education, covering both staff and students in any educational institution or program that receives federal funds. A year ago, the Department of Education proposed rules to protect students from sexual harassment, protect LBGTQ+ students, and strengthen support for pregnant and parenting students. In April, a second set of changes proposed affirming the rights of all students, including transgender, nonbinary, and intersex students, to participate fully and equally in school sports without discriminatory rules. AAUW partnered with the gender justice community to support the changes toward strengthening Title IX rules for the full inclusion and protection of all students in sports. These rule changes are expected to be finalized in October 2023.



Bad News:

1. The Dobbs Decision. This disastrous Supreme Court decision was rendered on June 24, 2022. This ruling has thrown reproductive health into chaos all across the country, particularly in states that have chosen to ban abortions. A recent NBC poll found 61% of Americans are opposed to the Dobbs decision, and only 36% of Americans support it. Isn't it sad that the minority seems to be in control in many places? Women and doctors talked about the "disastrous, real-world consequences of abortion bans" at a Capitol Hill hearing on April 26. As reported by *The Washington Post*, "The most compelling and heartbreaking testimony came from Amanda Zurawski" – a woman who was denied the care needed to save her life and health by Texas' abortion ban. Knowing that the fetus she was carrying had no chance of survival, she nevertheless was forced to wait until she developed sepsis and delivered her stillborn baby, before being whisked off to the ICU, deathly ill. She may not be able to have a child in the future. Meanwhile, NBC, PBS and others have reported that most OB/GYN interns in training now are not planning to practice in the states with abortion bans. Women living in those states will have reduced access to health care.

2. Supreme Court Decision on Student Loans. The Supreme Court invalidated President Biden's student loan forgiveness plan, ruling that a 2003 federal law does not allow the program to wipe out nearly half-a-trillion dollars in debt. This hits women especially hard. AAUW research has shown that women hold two-thirds of student loan debt in the U.S. and that women of color are disproportionately impacted due to higher borrowing rates leading to more debt and less ability to pay it off. The gender pay gap means that women are paid less than men, making it harder for them to pay off student loans.

What Can You Do?

1. Don't give up hope! The pendulum can swing.
2. Continue to support candidates and policies that correct these barriers to women's freedom and equity.
3. Take part in the National [AAUW Two-Minute activist program](#).



Melanie Heckel
Public Policy Co-Chair

*June 19, 2023, the annual Ice Cream Social,
once again hosted by **Deb Cubberley**.*



Interest Groups

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.

We have a few changes in Interest Group Leaders to announce: We say goodbye to **Jane Winter** as leader of the Hiking Group and thank her for her creative leadership over the last several years. **Mary Menconi** is taking over as leader so a big welcome to Mary!!

Janine Martin is retiring as leader of the Garden Group

so please join me in thanking Janine for all her fabulous efforts as leader of this group. We need a replacement, so if you love gardening and would like to help coordinate the meetings, please contact Janine.

Most Interest Groups are on summer break but please read below for announcements from a few of our groups. See the September Lodestone for a full list of all the Interest Group activities and be sure to stop by the Interest Group tables at the September brunch to say hi to the leaders and learn more about the groups.



Susie Monary-Wilson,
Interest Group Coordinator

Arts and Crafts — Teri Mc Connell



Please come join the Arts & Crafts group to make fun and easy crafts. No experience necessary, just a love of making things. For our first craft of the year, we will be making this cute button bouquet in a saltshaker. This meeting will be held on our regular first Thursday date, **September 7th**, at 10:00 am at the home of Kris

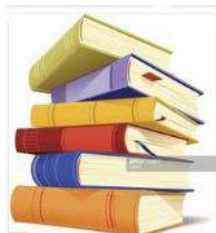
Vasser. For more information and to RSVP, please contact **Kris Vasser** or **Teri McConnell**.

Book Discussions

Mostly Fiction —Robin Laverty-Reves

Each year I am pleased that our book discussions remain focused, substantive, and respectful among a group of women who have developed warm friendships across the years. I'm grateful for the caring problem solving exemplified this season as we addressed the growing size of this interest group.

Thank you all for your input and willingness to help our generous hosts with refreshments. Our lunch meeting and selection process at Lily's Garden resulted in an excellent list of books to read and discuss. Here are the books for 2023-2024:



9/14/23 *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver

10/12/23 *Spare* by J.R. Moehringer for Prince Harry

11/9/23 *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus

12/14/23 *Dinners with Ruth* by Nina Totenberg

1/11/24 *Solito: A Memoir* by Javier Zamora

2/8/24 *Trust* by Hernan Diaz

3/14/24 *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks, a joint meeting with the Non-fiction book group

4/11/24 *The Marriage Portrait* by Maggie O'Farrell

5/9/24 *Tomorrow, Tomorrow, Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zevin

6/13/24 Book selection luncheon for 2024-2025

Non-Fiction — Diane Kellegrew

Non-Fiction Book Club members had a lively, engaging meeting to choose books for next year. So many excellent choices were proposed! A highlight for the upcoming year is the March joint meeting with the Mostly Fiction group to discuss the historical fiction book, *Horse*. Our members chose to go on summer hiatus, some noting a welcome opportunity to 'catch-up' or relax with summer reading choices. Our next book club meeting will be in September. The book club meets on the **third Tuesday** of most months, from 1 pm to 2:30 pm. We meet in members' homes and light refreshments are served. If interested in joining us, contact Diane Kellegrew diane.kellegrew@gmail.com to be put on the group distribution list. If you would like to attend, it is a good idea to contact Diane prior to the meeting as the meeting locations occasionally change. The reading schedule with meeting locations can be found on the Branch website. Our 2023-2024 reading list is as follows:

9/19/2023 *The Body: A Guide for Occupants* by Bill Bryson

10/17/2023 *The Secret Life of Groceries* by Benjamin Lorr

11/21/2023 *Outlive: The Science and Art of Longevity* by Peter Attia & Bill Gifford

12/19/2023 *Taste: My Life Through Food* by Stanley Tucci

1/16/2024 *Why Fish Don't Exist: A Story of Loss, Love, and the Hidden Order of Life* by Lulu Miller

2/20/2024 *A Crack at the Edge of the World: the California Earthquake of 1906* by Simon Winchester

3/14/2024 *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks, combined with Mostly Fiction Book Club

4/16/2024 *The Revolutionary Sam Adams* by Stacy Schiff

5/21/2024 *Daughters of the Flower Fragrant Garden* by Zhuqung Li

6/18/2024 *How the Word is Passed* by Clint Smith



***The Garden Group
toured Trés Jolie
Lavender Farm in the
month of June, 2023.***



Shirley Payne, Centenarian



Shirley Payne, May 25, 2023, at Springhill Manor, two days before her 100th birthday.

How many people can claim to be a centenarian? As of 2021, there were just under 100,000 centenarians in the US, according to the Census Bureau. That number represents only about 0.03 percent of the population, or about 1 out of every 3,333 of us. Shirley is one of those who occupy that rare percentage. What, you might wonder, is her secret?

Shirley sees nothing special in her having achieved a remarkable longevity. She dismisses her success in reaching this milestone as just day-by-day doing what she needs to do. But let's be clear: it isn't just the number of years that is remarkable where Shirley is concerned; it is her sharpness of mind that continues.

Shirley came to Grass Valley from the Bay Area, where she worked in the Hayward District, helping students who had fallen behind in their studies. For many years Shirley held this position, using the BA degree she'd earned years before when she was married for the first time. This marriage was not particularly happy, but it had its advantages in that Shirley was able to attend San Jose State free due to her husband's WWII

veteran status. Shirley married him in 1945 at the war's end while still in Chicago, where she grew up. From Chicago she and her husband moved to Ohio and then soon to California. She stayed in the marriage more than 20 years until her younger son was through high school at which time she felt she could break free.

In California along with work in education, Shirley became interested in real estate and bought property of her own. Independent as she was, she knew she would be happier with a companion. That realization led her to a meeting with her second husband, whom she eventually joined in Arizona. He was a widower with grown children. Shirley was a divorcee with grown children, and the two of them hit it off tremendously. Shirley recalls their marriage as a real love match of four years until her husband died of cancer (the same cancer, she says, as his deceased wife). As Shirley tells it, "After his funeral was over, I walked out the door, got in my car, and drove back to California." Shirley was bereft for some time, and her answer to my question as to how she got through her grief: "time."

After retiring from the Hayward School District, Shirley successfully dabbled in real estate. She owned three houses in Grass Valley when she moved here to be close to her daughter. She continues to live on her own in an apartment community, with periodic check-ins by her daughter and son-in-law. Her younger son is flying in from New Jersey, where he holds a high-level, responsible position in telecommunications. At the time of this interview, he was flying in from there to celebrate her 100th on May 27.

Recently, she endured a grueling bout of pneumonia which at one point frighteningly caused her heart to beat so fast that she believed she was having a heart attack. But she appears to have recovered, as can be seen in the photo above. Shirley has always been able to bounce back.

What is the centenarian's secret? I think Shirley and I and even scientists agree—RESILIENCE! —*Cece Royal*

We gratefully 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**



Message from Departing Ways & Means Chair, Chris Boykin

And we have a winner!!!

At our May luncheon we announced the winners of the beautiful quilt made by



Virginia Kingston and the purse donated by Lizbeth Noel. Drum roll please.....

Dianne Kellegrew won the quilt.

Katie Clement won the purse.

Congratulations to our winners and huge thanks to both Virginia and Lisbeth for their generous donations.

Thanks to all who purchased raffle tickets. We made a total of **\$900** for Branch operations!