

The Lodestone



December 2023



This issue, dedicated to you for:

COLLABORATING *Joining*
Engaging Observing
Serving ADVOCATING
Giving Attending
Learning *Assembling*
Participating!

In this issue

[President's Message](#)

[Covid guidelines](#)

[Interbranch Council Luncheon](#)

[Holiday Service Project](#)

[Public Forum: Braver Angels
recap & video](#)

[Public Forum & November
Meeting Photos](#)

[Public Policy](#)

[AAUW Fund Progress](#)

[Local Scholarship Recipient
Update](#)

[Former Tech Trekker Update](#)

[Interest Groups](#)

[Book Groups](#)

[Membership](#)

[Branch Support](#)

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 2023 and can be found on the AAUW website under AAUW Public Policy Priorities. [AAUW Public Policy Priorities – AAUW: Empowering Women Since 1881](#)

HAPPY

holidays



Deborah York

Such a beautiful time of year, and we have much to be grateful for in AAUW—the many strong friends who rally around us in times of need and celebrations, and the new friends who are excited to join us on our journey.

This has been an exciting fall with our Fire & Water in Nevada County programs. We learned that although there are many risks to our forests and water, we have strong organizations who have it in their missions to protect our natural resources today and in the future. The slides from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy presentation in October are up on our website and the videotape of the NID Program facilitated by **Karen Hull** will be up very soon.

We joined hands with the League of Women Voters and Business & Professional Women to sponsor a community-wide event on “De-Polarizing Political Conversations.” OMG, the room was packed with over 270 people. Clearly there is great interest and need for this work. Thank you to our dynamic PR team for getting the word out in every way possible. Although this was only the first step, we have begun the process of learning how to listen to each other with acceptance of our differences.

Our members have been quite generous in supporting the needs for food in Nevada

County, exceeding our financial goals for both Interfaith Food Ministry and The Food Bank. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Although I am sad that we won't be able to gather for a large holiday celebration, I hope that you will enjoy the many smaller celebrations with your friends in the interest groups. Thank you to our faithful Board of Directors who meet each month year-round to plan and shepherd the many activities in our branch.

I wish you the very best during this holiday season and may all your dreams come true.

Love, Deborah



President Deb York

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.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Deborah York
Past President	Katherine Greenwood
Secretary	Ann Gould
Finance Officer	Jennifer Wilkerson
Program Co-VPs	Karen Hull & Diane Kellegrew
Membership VP	Deb Cubberley
AAUW Fund VP	Carol McMillan



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
Historian	Margaret Munson & Shirley Zeff
Fundraiser	Open
Program Sponsor Dev.	Open
Photography	Martha Rees Bernadette Sylvester Sue Miller
AAUW Msg Line	CeCe Royal

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Local Scholarship	Rhea Williamson
Public Policy	Melanie Heckel
DEI Officer	Lisa Turlo
Publicity	Martha Rees
Social Media	Marilee Norton
Tech Trek	Martha Rees
Ways and Means	Karin Quinn
Communications	Katherine (Bup) Greenwood

The flyer below invites you to the annual Interbranch Council (IBC) luncheon, where branches from Northern California gather to hear informative & inspiring speakers, this year with a focus on Gov Trek and how AAUW Fund has impacted recipients' lives.



Northridge Country Club
7600 Madison Ave. Fair Oaks, CA

AAUW Fund Luncheon

Sponsored by your Capitol Counties Interbranch Council

Saturday, January 20, 2024
Noon – 2 PM

Keynote speaker: Tracy Ramondini, Elk Grove Sheldon High School teacher and Gov Trek State Committee member, will update us on the Gov Trek program.

In addition, two current AAUW Fund Recipients will share their educational journeys, focusing on details and progress of their work.

Reserve your spot today; deadline for reservations is January 10, 2024.

Make your \$40 check payable to

AAUW CHAR, P.O. Box 1555, Fair Oaks, CA 95628

Name _____ Branch _____

Phone _____ email _____



Please indicate your menu choice:

___ Turkey w/mashed potatoes & veggies

___ Vegetarian Risotto



Holiday Service Projects Thank you!

Your kindness is providing food to the hungry. After November's Branch meeting, we are at a remarkable \$3,200 for Interfaith Food Ministry, providing holiday dinners for **128 families**. Digging out your spare change, you donated \$448.12 (plus one Canadian nickel) for the Food Bank to fund 100 gift bags to the homebound, almost \$50 beyond our target.

In addition, some members opted for hands-on holiday cheer, helping pack the gift bags on Nov 29th. In varied ways, you reached out to support those in need in our community.

Thank you to the wonderful, good-hearted women of our Branch, to **Peg Flanders** for her help with the finances and manning the holiday table, and to the Holiday Project team:

Diane Kellegrew, Sue Van Son, Bonnie White, Susie Monary-Wilson, and Bup Greenwood.



“De-Polarizing Political Conversations”: Forum attracted huge audience!

November 16, 2023: The Branch worked with the League of Women Voters and Business and Professional Women to present a public forum that demonstrated how persons of differing political persuasions can have civil and non-confrontational exchanges of ideas and opinions.

This forum was held at Sierra College in a packed Multipurpose Auditorium; it was video-taped for those who could not attend. To view it: click [De-Polarizing Political Conversations](#).

[More photos on next page.]



Lynn Forbes, Co-President, League of Women Voters, opens the event.



Braver Angels facilitators, Paul Norris and Maxim Schrogin



AAUW Public Policy Chair Melanie Heckel poses a question to the facilitators.



AAUW Board member Carol McMillan (far left) demo'd the Braver Angels perspective exchange method with Gene Cook (center).



November 16, 2023, Public Forum: “De-Polarizing Political Conversations”



November 18, 2023, Branch general meeting: NID Board President Karen Hull spoke to the audience about the District’s management of our water resources and the impact of climate change; she shared NID options that could mitigate and avert any issues relating to the threat of shortages both now and in future decades.



PUBLIC POLICY NEWS

By *Melanie Heckel*

GOOD NEWS

Yes, let's start with good news! We really need it, and the November election brought some important wins when it comes to women's rights.

1. Ohio passed the "Right to Reproductive Freedom with Protections for Health and Safety Initiative." This was a citizen-initiated constitutional amendment that was approved on November 7 by a majority vote of 56.6%. It codified reproductive rights in the Ohio Constitution, including contraception, fertility treatment, whether to continue one's pregnancy, and miscarriage care; restoring Roe v. Wade-era access in Ohio by protecting the right to abortion up to the point of fetal viability.

2. In Virginia, Democrats held on to their state Senate majority and won back a majority in the House of Delegates. Yes, AAUW is non-partisan and does not support candidates. However, according to a recent AAUW National fundraising letter, "we are political because our mission includes holding leaders accountable for giving women equal opportunities to learn, earn, and lead." In the case of Virginia, Governor Glenn Youngkin and the GOP legislative priorities include banning abortion and stripping away LGBTQ+ rights. We CAN celebrate an important election that helps protect women's and minority rights!

3. In California, many of AAUW-CA priority bills were passed by the California Legislature and signed by Governor Newsom. AAUW-CA supports and tracks numerous pieces of legislation and ranks them Level A (the highest priority), Level B, Level C, and Watch. Of the 2023 bills, 18 were transitioned to 2-year bills, 19 were signed into law, and 3 were vetoed. One Level A bill (AB 1394), 2 level B bills, 15 level C bills, and 1 Watch bill were signed into law. AB 1394, authored by Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, and co-sponsored by AAUW-CA, will help child sex abuse survivors remove their images from social media platforms, holding Big Tech accountable for design features that knowingly, recklessly or negligently facilitate, aid, or abet child exploitation.

PENDING GOOD NEWS?

The U.S. Department of Education has missed its own deadline to release new final Title IX rules, weakened by the Trump Administration. The new Title IX rules are expected to restore protections against sex-based discrimination, clarify protections for LGBTQ+ students, strengthen support for pregnant and parenting students, and provide clarity on transgender students' participation in athletics.



Melanie Heckel
Public Policy Co-Chair

BAD NEWS



Election conspiracy theorist Congressman Mike Johnson from Louisiana was elected Speaker of the House. Mike Johnson supports a nationwide abortion ban and was quoted in the wake of the Dobbs decision to say, "we will get the number of abortions to zero." He is a very far right conservative. This is very scary in terms of women's rights, to say nothing of the threat to our democracy itself.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

1. Write to the U.S. Department of Education asking them to take immediate action to finalize the new Title IX rules to restore civil rights protections of students regardless of gender, color, or sexual orientation.
2. Write to Congressman Kiley asking him to support/co-sponsor the Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMILY) Act (HR 3481). The FAMILY Act would provide workers with up to 12 weeks of paid leave when they take time off for a serious health condition impacting themselves or their family.
3. Get ready for the 2024 election year. I don't think it has ever been more important. The California primary is on March 5th, just around the corner. Look for candidates who will support AAUW's mission, including equity and women's right to choose. At the Congressional level, look for a candidate who will select a Speaker who will not put women's rights at risk. Support those candidates and be sure to vote!



AAUW Fund Progress



Carol McMillan
VP AAUW Fund

Thanksgiving is definitely in store for those of you that supported AAUW Funds when responding to the recent appeal letter, when renewing your membership in AAUW, by shopping at SPD Markets and using the escrip rebate system, and of course by participating in last spring's Tapas and Trivia Event.

Your generosity makes so much possible for the programs of AAUW, and of course for the many fellows and grant recipients of AAUW Funds. Since 1988, AAUW has been a leading supporter of women's graduate education. If you want to be very inspired by what your contributions make possible, use this link to the [AAUW – California website. AAUW 2023 Fund Fellows and Grant Recipients - AAUW California](https://www.aauw-ca.org/2023-Fund-Fellows-and-Grant-Recipients) (aauw-ca.org) There are 34 women receiving support this year that are studying in California. You can read a capsule biography and view a short video of each. There's no better way to feel confident of the future than to know these women are helping create it.

All gifts received by mid-December will count toward our branch's 2023 total, so if you haven't had a chance to respond, it's not too late.

Note: Reminder regarding end-of-year donations from IRAs

Federal law allows people aged 70 1/2 or older to make direct transfers up to \$100,000 per year per person to charitable organizations from their Individual Retirement Account (IRA), without the withdrawal being treated as taxable income.

Contact your IRA custodian and follow their procedures to request a "Qualified Charitable Distribution." Please provide the information below for your desired donation to your IRA custodian, along with the TIN. It is helpful if you please let us know your donation is coming, as sometimes the Donor is not identified on the check they send.

AAUW NCB- TIN 94-6095030 - POB 326, Grass Valley CA 95945. Our Branch is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization, so donations to the Branch, including Tech Trek, are tax-deductible.

AAUW-NCB Charitable Trust (Local Scholarships)- TIN 23-70922486. The Charitable Trust is a separate 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization, so donations to Local Scholarships are tax-deductible.

AAUW Fund- National- TIN 52-6037388 American Association of University Women Inc. 1310 L St. NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20005. All donations are tax-deductible.



TAYLOR MITCHELL GRATEFUL FOR YEAR TWO OF SCHOLARSHIP

—Submitted by Rose Tammi

Hello to all of the amazing women at AAUW. I am writing this letter with my sincerest gratitude for receiving a second year scholarship from you. I would like to thank you for the time and effort that you put into investing in other women's lives and helping them grow to be the best they can be.

I was so honored to receive another scholarship from AAUW that I actually cried when I found out that I was going to be in the newspaper! I really felt all your love, support, and recognition for all the hard work that I've put into my

college degree. School has given me self-esteem and made me so excited about the future.

Thank you again, ladies.

—Taylor Mitchell

Taylor Mitchell is currently taking accounting classes. She plans on transferring to California State University, Sacramento, in the fall of 2025, with the goal of becoming a CPA.



Letter from Former Trekker



Jocelyn McKinley at UC Santa Cruz

Dear AAUW Community,

I hope this message finds you well, and I want to express my profound gratitude for the incredible opportunities you have provided me throughout my academic journey. As a freshman at the University of California, Santa Cruz, majoring in Molecular Cellular Developmental Biology, I am acutely aware of the critical role women play in the field of STEM. Your unwavering support and encouragement have been instrumental in preparing me for this exciting chapter in my life. The community I am building for myself is beyond amazing. College is a beautiful place where I can learn about the things that are most exciting to me, meet new people who share similar interests and values, explore boundless opportunities, and meet new versions of myself that are most exciting to greet.

Here at UCSC, I wake up every morning to the beautiful redwoods and a view of the foggy morning sea. I attend my chemistry and calculus lectures where I get to interact with the most interesting and intelligent professors and TAs. I then get to learn and discuss topics of power and representation in my core class with my peers and anthropology professor. My roommate and I are also working together to get

our EMT certifications, so we are doing an online course together. I am not only learning so much about fields of science, but I am also learning

how to live and work in a community that emphasizes the importance of working together in a diverse and equitable society.

Weaving my way into a new community has been a struggle, but with the tools that AAUW provided me, I have been able to seamlessly integrate my way into a beautiful new place where I am committed to continuing the AAUW

legacy by actively participating in programs that promote

women in STEM and serving as a mentor to inspire and guide future generations of young women who share my passion.

I look forward to seizing the opportunities ahead, making meaningful contributions to the field, and playing my part in ensuring that women continue to excel in the sciences.

Sincerely,

Jocelyn McKinley

2018 Nevada County Trekker

2022 AAUW Branch November Program, Student Panel Member

If you're interested in learning more about or joining the Nevada County Tech Trek Committee, please contact

Martha Rees,
mjkrees@yahoo.com;
 530.274.8177.

We welcome new members as we begin planning for 2024 Tech Trek.



Martha Rees
Tech Trek Chair



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*

Arts and Crafts — Stephanie Norton



Our December craft gathering is on **Thursday, December 7, at 11:00 am** (NEW TIME, just for this gathering). It will be held at the home of Deborah York. We will be creating this beautiful holiday basket

made with fresh greens (or imitation) and decorated with bling of your choice. It can be a hanging basket or a table-top basket – you choose. Fairy lights can be added to make it extra special. Some supplies will be provided, and some will need to be provided by you. This gathering will also be our holiday party! RSVP to Deborah York (deborah11623@gmail.com or 925-216-6140) for more information including a list of supplies needed for the basket and to let us know if you will be joining in the fun of the holiday party.



Great Decisions — Susie Monary-Wilson

Great Decisions is on hiatus and will restart in February 2024. We'll meet on the 4th Tuesday, 10 to noon, at **Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 235 South Church**

Street, Grass Valley in Bucks Hall.

Please contact Susie for more info:
monarywilson@msn.com.

IDEAS (Inclusion, Diversity & Equity Action Squad) — Lisa Turlo



The IDEAS Interest group continues to engage in meaningful volunteer work to support our community members. For example, one of our members volunteers as an English Second Language tutor with Partners in English Language Learning, a non-profit group started by one of our early AAUW members, Edi Silverman.

She meets weekly with a 57-year-old woman who strives to improve her English. She helped her student obtain a library card, fill out a job application, and schedule a DMV visit. In November the IDEAS group attended the Braver Angels presentation in lieu of a meeting. The group will have plenty to discuss when we meet for a holiday gathering on **Wednesday, December 13th**, at Susie Monary-Wilson's home. Contact Lisa Turlo for more information at lisaturlo59@gmail.com.

Writing Group — Deb York

Our writing Critique group will meet on **Monday December 11, 1:00-3:00** at the Madelyn Helling Library in the Prospectors Room. Our Write-In group will meet on **Monday Dec 18, 2:00-3:30** at the Madelyn Helling Library in the Prospectors Room.

Please contact Deb York if you have questions or would like to join us, 925-216-6140. or deborah11623@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, spouse, or significant other. We determine the needs of the member, such as dietary necessities, day and time of delivery. We use a website called Meal Train,

which provides us with a page for the recipient. We deliver easy meals; some providers purchase ready-made meals and some make the meals themselves. If you can assist us, please contact Pat Pedersen at 530-477-1881 or ppedersen76@comcast.net. She will be happy to explain the process to you.

Garden Group — Janine Martin



The December luncheon date at High-Hand Nursery in Loomis (pictured above) has been changed from Thursday, December 14 to **Tuesday, December 12 from 10-2**. It is NOT the 14th as there was a conflict and needed to be moved.

We will meet at 10 am at the old Safeway downtown Grass Valley side parking lot to carpool. So far, I have 16 signed up. I need an exact number and will cut off RSVP by Dec. 1 so, please contact me if you want to go. We will look at the garden, enjoy all the Christmas decor, shop and have lunch at noon.

Happy Holidays. Janine: 530-263-5894
janineandgalen@gmail.com

Gnaw & Jaw — Deb Cubberley & Chris Boykin



Dining groups are busy scheduling their first get together. Each dining group will meet at least three times between now and the end of May 2024, generally aiming for a dinner in

fall, winter and spring. The theme for the first dinner is "a mystery ingredient." Plans are also in the works for a couple of dining-out experiences in local eateries. If you feel that you missed the opportunity to sign up, it is never too late, just contact either Chris Boykin

chrismboykin@gmail.com or Deb Cubberley debclubberley@comcast.net, your GnJ group co-leaders. Please know that (1) spouses, significant others, or just a plus-one are welcome and (2) you are also encouraged to come as a single if you prefer. Bon appétit!

Hiking Group — Mary Menconi



The Nevada County AAUW Hiking Group enjoys a variety of trails, year 'round. Past and future destinations include Deer Creek, Independence East, S. Yuba Trail to/from Hoyt's, Purdon and Edward's Crossings, No

Hands Bridge to Calcutta Falls, Quarry Road Trail, Foresthill Divide Trail, and higher Sierra trails in the sun.

Our next hike will be on **Wednesday Dec 6**; locations will be decided by the leader. Hikes are announced via email about one week in advance, and we meet to organize carpools in several locations around our area.

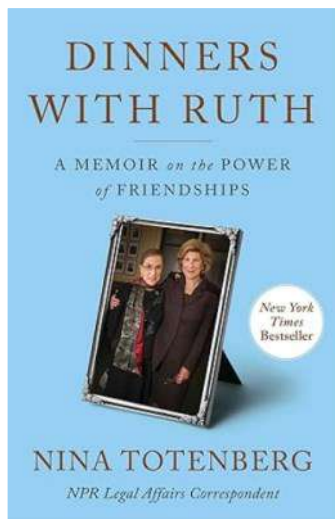
Beginning in January, our hikes are scheduled for the first Wednesday and third Monday of each month, as follows: Wed, Jan 3; Mon, Jan 15; Wed, Feb 7; Mon, Feb 19; Wed, Mar 6; Mon, Mar 18; Wed, Apr 3; Mon, Apr 15; Wed, May 1; Mon, May 20; Wed, Jun 5; and Mon, Jun 17.

We are also invited to join the Auburn AAUW Hiking Group for their hikes, which are usually two Thursdays each month. To join the mailing list, or for more information, contact Mary Menconi marymenconi@gmail.com.



Book Discussions

Mostly Fiction —Robin Laverty-Reves

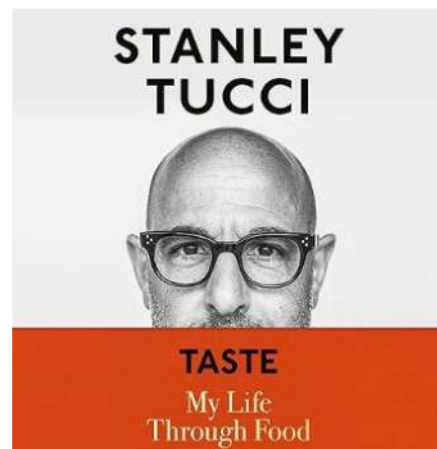


The Mostly Fiction Book Discussion Group members will meet for our traditional holiday luncheon on **Thursday, December 14th, at 11:00.** Lily's Garden will be the venue for the 25 members who have booked the room to full capacity! Many thanks to Ellie Anderson for organizing the reservation and to Linda O'Day from Lily's Garden.

After lunch we will discuss one of our non-fiction selections, *Dinners with Ruth-A Memoir on the Power of Friendships* by Nina Totenberg. Friendships are a wonderful theme for AAUW members during this time of year.

If you would like more information about the Mostly Fiction book group, please contact Robin Laverty-Reves at lavertyreves@gmail.com.

Non-Fiction — Diane Kellegrew



The Non-Fiction Book Group will celebrate the holidays with a story from the heart. Our December book, *Taste: My Life Through Food* (2021) is a memoir written by Emmy-award winner and gourmand Stanley Tucci.

Tucci explores how food connects him to his family, his wife, and his passion for cooking. He writes about recipes from his Italian heritage and the stories behind them. As part of our December meeting, we, too, will share favorite food and drinks and a white-elephant holiday gift exchange. Come join us for laughter, camaraderie and a book discussion about the traditions that give meaning to our lives. The Non-Fiction Book Club will meet on **Tuesday, December 19th, from 1:00 to 2:30 pm**, at the home of Diane Kellegrew. If you are interested in joining us, kindly RSVP to Diane Kellegrew (diane.kellegrew@gmail.com).

Welcome New Members

Our programs have been so outstanding, and our members so active in recruiting, that we gained six new members in November! We are now up to 141 members.

Here is a brief introduction of our new members. I hope you take the opportunity to introduce yourself and learn a little more.

- **Wendy Wilkinson** has a MPH in public health. She is now retired but is interested in hiking, gardening, cooking, reading, and community politics.
- **Karen Lauterbach** has an MS in physiology and a BS in animal science. She is a resident of Penn Valley.
- **Catherine (Kit) Lofgren** has a degree in environmental studies and cartography. She

is interested in baking, fitness, and environmental service projects.

- **Sandra Spargo** has a degree in English and has been a freelance reporter and a marketing guru for Alaska Airlines.
- **Pamela Hertzler** has a degree in plant sciences and still works fulltime as a district conservationist for USDA.
- **Catherine Flowers**, a longtime friend of Melanie's, had a long career in land use in the Bay area.



*Deb Cubberley
Membership VP*





Our Program Sponsors

These businesses and individuals have generously donated toward the support of our Branch. We are happy to thank them and acknowledge their support!

- [Bodacious Blooms Flower Farm](#)
Karen Hull
- [KNCO News Talk 830](#)
- [Nevada Irrigation District \(NID\)](#)
- [Westamerica Bank](#)
Bernadette & Ed Sylvester
- [Wolf Mountain Spa](#)
Dan Wray
- Allison Rapp
- [Kim White, Attorney at Law](#)



Ways and Means

— Karin Quinn

Hello and Happy Holidays! Happy to report that I've been receiving some positive feedback on the new T-shirts now being worn by our outstanding members. Great colors and styles for you to customize as your own.

Thinking about what to give for a Christmas or other holiday gift? Need ideas? How about a gift with purpose?

We have beautiful insulated ceramic tumblers (only \$12) that could be paired with a festive tea, hot cocoa mix, spiced coffee, homemade cookies, etc. Or an apron (navy or black) paired with some spices, favorite recipes or homemade goodies. A day pack perhaps (available in 3 colors) with a pair of fun socks. Just some thoughts for you to ponder.



Karin (far left) and some Board members model AAUW-branded merchandise.

You can contact [me](#) for any of these items now in stock. Your imagination knows no bounds!

Thanks to **Bup Greenwood** we have a preview of the beautiful upcoming quilt to be raffled next year!



You gotta have some humor to get through the holiday!

Here are some quotes and stories that might make you smile among the chaos of the holiday!

From a numbered list that went to 100, here's the funnier ones:

64. "This past Christmas, I told my girlfriend for months in advance that all I wanted was an Xbox. That's it. Beginning and end of list, Xbox. You know what she got me? A homemade frame with a picture of us from our first date together. Which was fine. Because I got her an Xbox."

— *Anthony Jeselnik*

65. "I set a personal record on Christmas. I got my shopping done three weeks ahead of time. I had all the presents back at my apartment, I was halfway through wrapping them, and I realized, 'Damn, I used the wrong wrapping paper.' The paper I used said, 'Happy Birthday.' I didn't want to waste it, so I just wrote 'Jesus' on it."

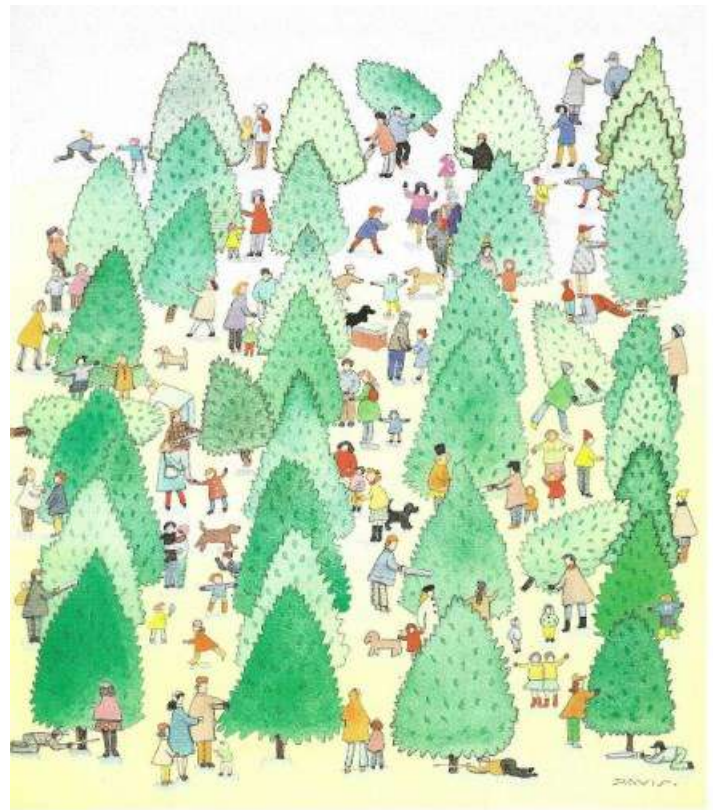
— *Demetri Martin*

66. "I bought my brother some gift wrap for Christmas. I took it to the Gift Wrap department and told them to wrap it, but in a different print so he would know when to stop unwrapping."

— *Steven Wright*

68. "My wife, like many women, actually likes wrapping things. If she gives you a gift that requires batteries, she wraps the batteries separately, which to me is very close to being a symptom of mental illness."

— *Dave Barry*



82. "A lovely thing about Christmas is that it's compulsory, like a thunderstorm, and we all go through it together." — *Garrison Keillor*

83. "Dear Santa, before I explain, how much do you know already?"

— *Unknown*

89. "You know what I got for Christmas? Fat." — *Unknown*

