

The Lodestone

March 2024



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

SATURDAY
MARCH 16

Doors open-9:30 AM
Program-10:00 AM

Peace Lutheran Church
828 West Main
Grass Valley



LGBTQ+ Panel Discussion

The American Civil Liberties Union is currently tracking 425 state laws attacking the rights of LGBTQ+ people in the United States in 2024. These laws range from curriculum censorship in schools, redefinition of sex, health care barriers and even suppression of expression.

On March 16th, we will hear multiple perspectives about how students and adults deal with this discrimination. Additionally, panelists will share their journeys, their challenges and their successes as LGBTQ+ persons.



Rhea Williamson

For a historical perspective, we will hear from our own AAUW Local Scholarship Chair, **Dr. Rhea Williamson**. Rhea's story will trace the long and difficult journey of an LGBTQ+ person working in academia with two strikes against her: being a woman and being an LGBTQ+ person. She will explore the ways she faced enormous challenges with grace as well as the

ways she supported LGBTQ+ students in an ever-changing world.

[Continued on Page 3](#)

Deborah York

We've been working on Inclusion these past several years as part of our DEI work and it's so great to see so many people participating with us at our Branch programs. I love seeing guests, spouses, friends, and new members in the audience. AAUW will be sending out ballots in March/April for all branch members across the country to vote on whether we should fully open our membership to non-college graduates. Our National AAUW has held several votes on this topic in the recent past. Many branches are struggling to increase membership and believe this will help. Our Branch has had a 'Friends of AAUW' membership status for quite some time. These members can participate in all our activities and meetings, except voting for Elected Board Offices in April and Branch budget approval in September. While our Branch has added over 50 members in the last two years, they have all been college graduates. Our own members likely have differing opinions on this. Some would prefer to keep the status quo, an organization that honors the hard work we all engaged in to earn our various

degrees. Others would be delighted to set the degree requirement aside and open our doors to non-college women. Our AAUW mission seeks to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.



President Deb York

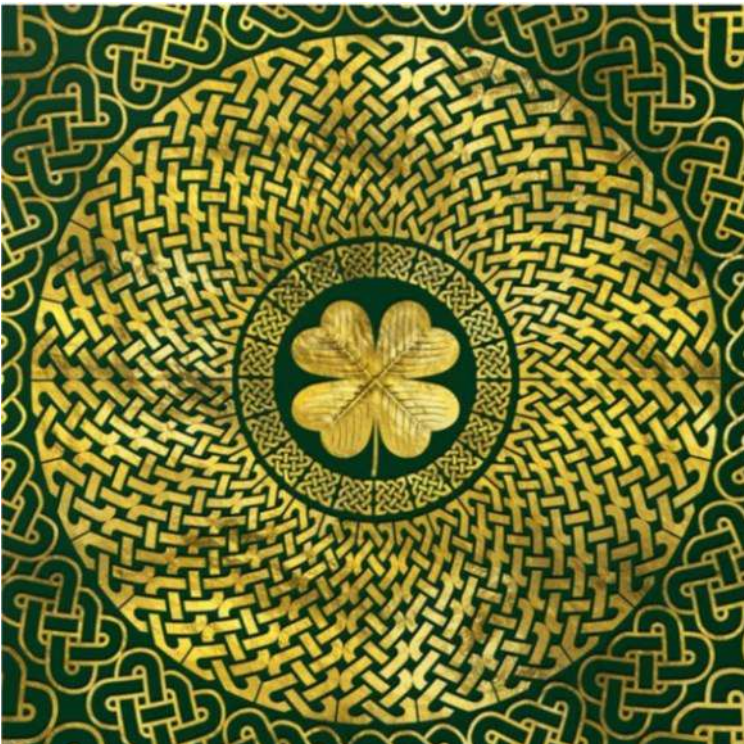
All members work to execute forward progress on our mission. By the way, -men are also allowed to join AAUW currently. Although we don't have any yet, the Auburn branch does. Some are concerned that we might have to change our AAUW name. We will set aside some time for table discussions on this topic from 9:45 -10:00 prior to the meeting start at our March program, which happens to be on Inclusion with our LGBTQ+ student panel. You'll get a chance to share your thoughts and hear those of others to help you prepare for the upcoming vote.

Wishing you all the best,

—*Deborah 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 (Bup) Greenwood
Secretary	Ann Gould
Finance Officers	Jennifer Wilkerson & Peg Flanders
Program VPs	Karen Hull & Diane Kellegrew
Membership VP	Deb Cubberley
AAUW Fund VP	Carol McMillan

APPOINTED OFFICERS

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

STANDING COMMITTEES (NON-BOARD FUNCTIONS)

<i>Lodestone</i> Editor	Cece Royal
<i>Lodestone</i> Copy Editors	Bup Greenwood & Martha Rees
Distribution	Jan Williams
Directory/Database	Bonnie White
Hospitality	Gretchen Corbin
Interest Groups	Susie Monary-Wilson
Friendship	Pat Pedersen
Historian	Margaret Munson & Shirley Zeff
Event Planner	Open
Program Sponsor	Open
Development	
Photography	Martha Rees Bernadette Sylvester Sue Miller
AAUW Msg Line	Peg Flanders

Board Highlights

- The April Fundraiser and May Luncheon plans were discussed, and ticket sales will begin in March.
- Our January New Member event was well attended, and we now have over 140 members in our Branch.
- The Nominating Committee is busy recruiting new

officers and leaders for next year.

- The Job Descriptions for Officers are continuing to be reviewed and updated.
- The Local Scholarships and Tech Trek committees are reading applications and meeting to discuss the 2024 awards.



Ann Gould
Secretary

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Dr. Rhea Williamson began her academic career in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at San Jose State University where she taught courses in environmental engineering. After 17 years of teaching, Rhea entered the world of administration as the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Research. She also served as the Associate Vice President of Research and Sponsored Programs as well as Dean of Research, Economics and Community Development.

Rhea holds a BSc from SJSU degree with a Marine Biology emphasis. She earned her PhD from UC Berkeley from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

Maddux Eckerling will lead a student panel of several LGBTQ+ students from Nevada County to explore questions regarding identity, community, and challenges, as well as ways we can support the LGBTQ+ community.

Maddux is in his first-year at San Francisco State University, where he studies sociology and political science. Maddux graduated from Ghidotti High School where he served as the student body president. Maddux's activism in

the areas of LGBTQ+ and mental health in Nevada County stemmed from his own struggles with anxiety and depression in our small rural community. He led Bring Change 2 Mind and Gender and Sexuality Alliance clubs at his school, and worked to educate his classmates on LGBTQ+ awareness. Maddux has been a guest speaker on multiple podcasts and has advocated for LGBTQ+ and mental health topics from school board meetings to the CA State Capitol.



Maddux Eckerling

Huge thanks to **Allison Rapp**, owner of Move Like You Used To, for sponsoring this program. Allison is also the mother of a transgender lesbian and is available to support other parents who are navigating this journey.

There are just days left to cast your ballot in the March 5 Primary. No matter how well read and informed you may be, choosing who and what to cast your vote for, and how to do it, is confusing.

First off, if you are not registered, you can do so in person at a Voting Center, where you can also cast your ballot until election day.

If you are registered, you should have already received a ballot in the mail. To be sure your ballot is received by the Elections office in time, it's safest to take your complete ballot to an official Drop Box or to a Vote Center. You can find Drop Box and Vote Center locations [here](#).

Now to the voting part:

- If you live in Nevada County Districts 1, 2, or 5, you can vote for a Board of Supervisor candidate. Note that Hardy Bullock runs unopposed in District 5. To find which district you live in, [check here](#). To view a video replay of our District 1 candidate forum, [click here](#). To view a video replay of our District 2 candidate forum, [click here](#).
- Nevada City residents can vote on Measure C, as well as three uncontested City Council positions. To read an explanation of Measure C, [click here](#).
- Grass Valley residents can vote on Measure B. To read an explanation, [click here](#).
- Twin Ridges School District residents can vote on Measure A. To read an explanation, [click here](#).
- All California residents can vote on Prop 1. To see a non-partisan pro and con video explainer put together by the California League of Women Voters, [click here](#).
- All California residents can vote in their district State Assembly race. See our candidate forum video replay [here](#).

- All California residents can vote in the U.S. Senate race. To make things nice and confusing, this appears on the ballot twice: The first vote is for the remainder of Dianne Feinstein's term, and the second vote is for the complete six-year Senate term. [Here](#) is a video replay of the second televised debate among the candidates.

There are a number of other voter resources to help you make these important decisions, including the League's [VOTE411](#) tool, the [CalMatters Voters Guide](#), and [Ballotpedia](#).

It does take some effort to vote, that's true, but anything worth doing takes a little skin in the game. We have an incredible opportunity to participate in how our government works and who we decide is best to lead us. Let's all vote like we mean it.

—*Lynn Forbes and Jan Bedayn*
Co-Presidents, League of Women Voters
Nevada County



Lynn Forbes



Jan Bedayn



March 5th is the California Primary Election.

There are so many bills pending in Washington that your votes for U.S. Congressperson and U.S. Senator are especially important now. Be sure to vote wisely!

March 12th is Equal Pay Day 2024 and marks the current state of the gender pay gap: the average woman who works full time is paid on average 84% of the typical man's pay. That means a woman must work nearly 2 ½ months more to catch up to a man's annual salary. This gap is much greater for women of color. Equal Pay Day for Black women is July 27, and October 5 for Latina women. AAUW is working hard to change this.

GOOD NEWS

1. The White House announced in February that the administration is banning the use of current or past pay when determining the salaries of new federal employees. This means:

- The country's largest employer will halt a practice known to foster discriminatory pay.
- Federal contractors may soon follow a similar rule in the future and may be required to post salary ranges in job listings, as proposed by the White House.
- Women's paychecks, and the respect for our value in the workplace, should be positively impacted.

2. Congress reached a bipartisan agreement on a tax package that will temporarily expand the Child Tax Credit (CTC). AAUW joined over 350 organizations in urging Congress to prioritize this expansion which would benefit about 80% of the 19 million children who are currently left out of the full CTC or don't receive it at all because their parents' earnings are too low.

BAD NEWS PENDING



1. A slate of anti-abortion bills were recently introduced in the House, including the Pregnant Students' Rights Act. AAUW joined coalition partners in voicing strong opposition to the bill, which fails to address

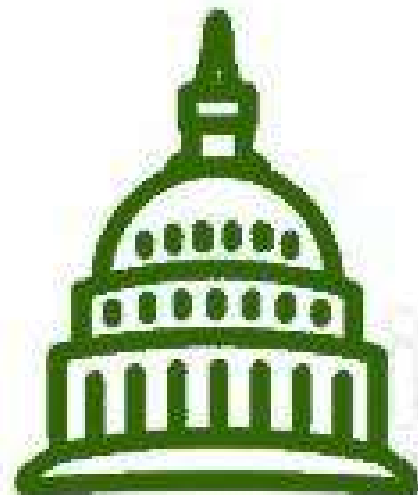
key barriers to pregnant students' educational

attainment. The White House also expressed opposition to the bill in its current form. The bill (H.R. 6914) passed the House in January, and it faces an uncertain outcome in the Senate.

2. AAUW joined a letter in opposition to the College Cost Reduction Act (H.R. 6951) due to our concerns that the bill would repeal current Financial Value Transparency and Gainful Employment regulations, which AAUW has supported as a way of protecting students from unaffordable student loan debt.



*Melanie Heckel
Public Policy Co-Chair*



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Two ways to promote equal pay for women are: (1) by prohibiting the use of prior salaries by employers to determine the salary for new employees, as announced for federal employees above, and (2) by making salary transparency a standard practice. Write a letter to your Congressman urging him to co-sponsor and pass the Salary Transparency Act (H.R. 1599). This bill would advance pay equity for everyone by requiring all employers to share salary or wage ranges during hiring and employment, protect employees from retaliation and establish civil penalties for violators.

Also, write to your Congressman and U.S. Senators, asking them to vote against H.R. 6914 (Pregnant Students' Rights Act) and H.R. 6951 (College Cost Reduction Act). I know, their names sound good, but they aren't good bills, as described above, and are officially opposed by AAUW and many other organizations.

VOTE, VOTE, VOTE!!!!!!

AAUW Funds: Where they go

Many thanks to those who contributed to the AAUW Fund in 2023. Our Branch gifts totaled nearly \$8500, thanks to direct contributions, a portion of the proceeds from Tapas and Trivia, and over \$1000 from the eScrip rebate program at SPD Markets. This helped California exceed its giving goal as well. You can learn more about the direct result of these funds by checking out the thumbnail biographies of the many recipients of grants and fellowships who are studying in California.

2023 Fellows and Grant Recipients



AAUW California

[AAUW 2023 Fund Fellows and Grant Recipients - AAUW California \(aauw-ca.org\)](https://aauw-ca.org)

Also, since many of you chose to support the Greatest Need Fund, here are a few examples of projects that received funding from that source:

- Updates and dissemination of the research reports **Simple Truth** (the gender pay gap) and **Deeper in Debt** (women and student loans)



Carol McMillan
VP AAUW Fund

- Expenses for the National Conference for College Student Women Leaders, as well as the salary negotiation, financial literacy, and leadership programs
- The majority of expenses for the policy team, advocating for AAUW's values
- Key expenses in the areas of operations, membership support, and communications

Clearly AAUW Fund helps build the strength and extend the reach of our organization. Your generosity makes a real difference!

Tech Trek '24 Gearing Up



Martha Rees
Tech Trek Chair

The Tech Trek Committee will hit the ground running in March. We received 26 seventh-grade applicants from 10 different western Nevada County middle schools and public charters. Committee Members will be busy interviewing all of them over the first 10 days of

March. Can't wait to meet these exceptional individuals who were nominated by their 7th grade science, math, or computer teachers. From their applications and essays, looks like we have potential engineers, animal lovers, doctors, conservationists, scientists, explorers, and more. No doubt, the committee will

have some tough decisions as to which six girls we will send to the 2024 Tech Trek @ UC Davis in July. We'll announce those decisions in next month's *Lodestone*.

The UC Davis camp is still looking for possible dorm moms – members who get to spend the week at camp. All your expenses are paid plus a free t-shirt and the experience of a lifetime with extraordinary middle-school girls, former Trekkers, and fellow AAUW members. Interested in learning more?

Contact: Stephanie Facchini,
sj.facchini@gmail.com or
Martha Rees,
mjkrees@yahoo.com





Dear AAUW,

After attending Tech Trek, I went to Ghidotti Early College High School and received my high school diploma and associate's degree in Spanish from Sierra College when I graduated in 2022.

During my time in high school I stayed involved playing volleyball and serving as the California Scholarship Federation (CSF) president and Sierra College Nevada County Campus Associated Students vice president.

I will graduate from Chico State in the spring of 2024 with a bachelor's degree in plant and soil science with an emphasis in crop production and horticulture. I started working in the Chico State Agronomy Research Lab in September of 2022. In the lab I have completed two cover cropping studies where I looked at the interactions between species in cover crop mixes. I have presented these projects at several agronomy conferences across the country. I earned a second place award from the California Chapter of the American Society for Agronomy for undergraduate plant science research posters last February. In the lab I am beginning a new study to compare the interactions between soybean varieties and soil microbes over the last century to see if breeding has altered these interactions.

Since May of 2023 I have been working at Sierra Gold Nurseries in almond tree breeding research. I spend half of my time in research orchards and the container nursery and the other half in their genetics research lab. I was the harvest manager for a variety trial orchard where I monitored harvest

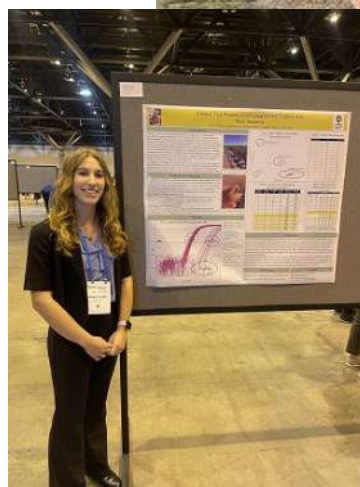
dates, created a standard operating procedure, and managed sample processing. I have worked with Polymera Chain Reaction (PCR), tissue culture plants, and agrobacterium transformations. In the lab I was responsible for genotyping 230 almond progeny trees for two traits of interest in our breeding program. I created a research poster from this project that I presented at the International ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Conference in St. Louis, Missouri this past November.

I recently traveled to Puerto Rico with the Chico State College of Agriculture on an immersive educational exchange. Students had the opportunity to tour many different farms, talk to growers and extension agents, and learn more about struggles in the Puerto Rican agriculture industry. We also learned about Puerto Rican culture and history by participating in cultural celebrations.

After graduating from Chico State I will be starting my master's degree at the University of Missouri to study tree nut breeding.

Thank you so much for introducing me to a future in STEM and supporting me in my educational endeavors.

Aubrey Teckam



Local Scholarship Recipient Updates

Letter from Clara Mairs



Hi, I'm Clara Mairs and I'm a freshman at UC Santa Cruz. While I already had this vision, this year's classes and

experiences have solidified my plan to major in psychology and minor in dance.

I've had the opportunity to live in on-campus housing, surrounded by tall trees and a beautiful view of the ocean. Even though living in a very small triple has been somewhat of a challenge, I am incredibly grateful for the experience and my amazing roommates I now call best friends.

As I love to stay busy and do many activities, I joined a philanthropy-based sorority on campus, Alpha Psi. Now, in my first quarter as a new active, I am apprenticing the decorations and mental health and wellness chairs. In the future I plan to have leadership

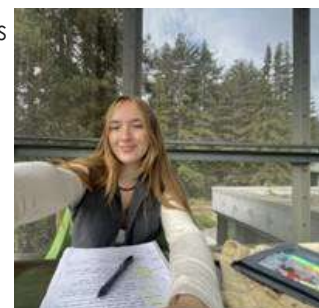
positions within the sorority as well.

I have also had the opportunity to continue my passion for dance at a college level. I am currently taking 8 credits of dance and teaching class twice a week. My 9-minute choreography final will be featured in our upcoming spring show, "Random With a Purpose."

Currently my classes mainly consist of GE's, but I am so excited to begin my psychology path next quarter and take developmental and cognitive psychology courses.

When I am not working on school or other commitments, you can find me on the beach or thrifting downtown Santa Cruz. Both are only a bus ride away! Reflecting on my experiences these past months, I feel very blessed and grateful for everything thus far. Thank you for all the support from AAUW; I wouldn't be here without you!

—Submitted by *Melanie Heckel*



Madyline Jaramillo Balances Dance and Business



Since being selected in the first year of the CLEO Scholarship, Madyline has shown herself to be a poised, goal-oriented, high-achieving, though modest, young woman.

From Grass Valley (Yuba River Charter, Nevada Union High), Madyline is now in her third year and into her dual majors of Business and Dance at Sonoma State University.

Very comfortable in the areas of math and science, she considers her Business major practical, and her Dance major her passion. While many of her business courses do not ignite a huge spark, her interest was recently piqued by a course in microeconomics where she appreciated connections between economics and current events and advances in technology, providing her additional insight into possible career options within her business major.

Madyline's excitement about dance is palpable! It has provided her with an incredible array of experiences both on and off campus. Along with

performing, she has honed her skills in choreography and teaching. Amazingly, she has been able to expand her learning during school breaks through scholarships to dance programs at other universities and communities: CSU Fresno; UC Irvine; the Henry Juriens Studio Program in Amsterdam, Holland; and others.

In San Francisco, she has performed in harness on the sides of skyscrapers, and in Mill Valley she has taught dance to young children. She takes full advantage of opportunities to network.

When not studying or dancing, Madyline enjoys rock climbing and serves as treasurer for the Sonoma Senders Climbing Club. She also has reorganized and chartered the SSU Dance Club, now known as the Dance Collective where the mission is to provide free and safe classes.

Madyline states, "I cannot thank you enough for the hope and support you have uplifted me with. I believe we rise by lifting others and I am honored to have the opportunity as a student and community member to do so."

—Submitted by *Bonnie Curtis*



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 through **ten different Interest Groups** that meet monthly. 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

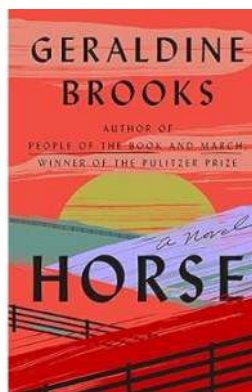
Arts and Crafts — Teri Mc Connell

In March we will be creating a beautiful clay tile which can be used as a trivet. This will be held on **March 7th at 10:00 am** at



the Artists' Studio in the Foothills (ASIF). **The cost for the tile, painting and firing is \$10. The attendance is limited**, so please contact Teri McConnell if you want to attend. Join us in April for a relaxing morning of

making these cute magnets for displaying pictures and notes on your refrigerator. All materials will be supplied unless you want to bring your own scraps of fabric for your yo-yo flowers. This will be held on **Thursday, April 4th at 10:00 am** at the home of Sue Miller. If you would like to attend, please contact Sue.



meeting in a large conference room at Bright Futures for

Youth. Interest group members will receive an email with specific details, but other Branch members are welcome to join us. For more information, please contact Robin: robinreves@comcast.net.

Non-Fiction — Diane Kellegrew

In March AAUW readers will have two options to discuss *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks as all book groups will discuss the same book. On **Tuesday, March 19th** the Non-Fiction Book Group will meet from **1 to 2:30 pm** at the home of Janine Martin, our host and discussion leader. This timely historical fiction from a Pulitzer Prize winning author is sure to be a worthwhile read. If you are interested in attending, kindly RSVP to Diane: (diane.kellegrew@gmail.com) for meeting location and details.

Book Discussions

Evening — Robin Lavery-Reves



The Evening Book Group is up and running. A big shout out to **Robin Lavery-Reves** for all her help in coordinating and launching our brand-new group. Our first meeting will be on **Wednesday evening, February 28th at 6 pm** to discuss

Trust by Hernan Diaz, a novel about wealth, power and capitalism. We'll be meeting on the 4th Wednesday of every month, and I am happy to announce Mary McClain will facilitate our discussion on the 28th. If you're interested in joining us or would like more information, please contact Cathy Kalt at cakalt@hotmail.com.

Mostly Fiction — Robin Lavery-Reves

The Mostly Fiction Book Group will discuss Geraldine Brooks' *Horse* on **Thursday, March 14th at 1:00**. This novel, inspired by the true story of Lexington, a record-breaking thoroughbred racehorse, weaves strands of Southern history, art history, and science, while grappling with racism across time. Because of many factual aspects, the Non-Fiction Book Group selected the same book for March. The member list for Mostly Fiction continues to grow, so this month we will be



Above, the Non-Fiction group Feb. meeting for a discussion of A Crack in the Edge of the World.

Garden Group—Janine Martin



On **Thursday, March 28** the Garden Group will meet from **10-12**. We will walk the Buttermilk Trail at Bridgeport for a docent-led talk about local wildflowers. Please meet at Safeway downtown Grass Valley on Neal St. at 9:30 to

carpool. Bring lunch, water, hat, sunscreen and hiking poles if needed. Janine Martin 530 263-5894 or janineandgalen@gmail.com.

Gnaw and Jaw — Deb Cubberley & Chris Boykin



Hello diners! We are in the middle of our small group dining experiences for this year and decided that it was time to plan a whole group event. This February 29 we will be going to Enrique's Lounge (the former Kane's) and try out their menu. I've talked with Henry, the owner and head chef, and he is very excited about their offerings. Looking forward to trying a something new As always, new single or couple members are welcome to join us. For more information contact Deb Cubberley at 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 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 Pedersen 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 be discussing Chapter 2, Climate Technology on **Tuesday, March 26th**, led by Melanie Heckel and Lani Howard. We'll meet from 10 to noon at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 235 South Church Street, Grass Valley in

Bucks Hall. Please contact Susie Monary-Wilson for more information at monarywilson@msn.com.

Hiking Group — Mary Menconi

In early February the Hiking Group got together *indoors* to plan their 2024 hikes. Over warm drinks and delicious snacks we discussed the beautiful places we want to go. The resulting 2024 Hike Schedule has been sent to everyone on the Hiking Group email list, and updated Hike Schedules will be sent out periodically.

Our March hikes will be

Wednesday, March 6,

led by Barbara Perkins, and **Monday, March 18,** led by Carol Raynsford. Thank you, Barbara and Carol! Hike locations are decided by the leader and are announced via email about one week in advance. We hike the first Wednesday and third Monday of each month. If you would like to join the Hiking Group or reserve a date to lead a hike please contact Mary:

marymenconi@gmail.com



Brisk Walking Group — Joan Naszady

Many of us are counting our steps to health these days. Would you like to participate in a once or twice weekly walking group in the local area? Join the fun with fellow members as we step outside and down a scenic path together. Take turns leading a group along your favorite local path on moderately level terrain. We will meet to make a plan soon. Contact Joan at jnaszady@gmail.com or text 707-972-6852 for more information. See you in the sunshine!



Writing Group — Deb York

Writing Critique Group will meet on **Monday, March 11th, 10-12**, at the Madelyn Helling Library in the Prospectors Room. Write-In will meet **Monday, March 18th, 2:00-3:30**, at the Madelyn Helling Library in the Prospectors Room. For more information, contact Deb York.





Teri McConnell shared her expertise about pruning trees & shrubs, and sharpening garden tools; the group gathered at her home/orchard in Rough & Ready, Feb. 22.

Payment and reservation(s) for the April 27 fundraiser below can be made online. **Click the image below.** Also, please indicate your preference for carpooling (or not) by completing the form linked to the same page.

American Association of University Women - Nevada County Branch Fundraiser

Save the Date!

Saturday

April 27, 2024

5:00 - 8:00 PM



Fund the Future - Come and Have a Blooming Grand Time!

Catered Buffet Dinner, Drinks, Live Music
Home of Karen and Maury Hull (pictured above)

North Auburn, CA
(30 min from Grass Valley, with carpools)

Tickets: \$75/person
More info: Next Lodestones
Tickets available:
nevadacounty-ca.aauw.net



Two New Members



*Deb Cubberley
Membership VP*

Renee Mayne, a resident of Grass Valley and a very active new member, is interested in several of our interest groups. She presently works parttime as an Adjunct Professor and Labor

Arbitrator. On top of this she has a number of hobbies, including former glass and metal artist, outdoor activities, writing and sewing. I look forward to getting to know her.

Our second new member is the mom of a former Tech Trekker. **Maura Devlin**, of Nevada City, is known to several of our members already. Maura is now retired, but not just sitting as she is an adult literacy tutor through the library, works at the food bank, and volunteers at Union Hill School. Another great addition to our membership.

Just a note, it appears that members either are not receiving or not recognizing notices

from National that it is time to renew. Most of us will be renewing in June; however, the newer members are now renewing on the anniversary of their joining. So far it appears that these renewal notices are not reaching members. I will try to keep on top of this, but please be aware of your renewal month so that if I miss it, we don't lose you. Everyone does have three months of "grace" after their membership has expired. During this time you may renew without a problem. After that, a new member application will be required. Remember, you may renew on line at aauw.org once you create an account with a password, etc. This is the easiest method and you can use a credit card, but we still accept checks at our local post office box: AAUW-NCB, P.O. Box 326, Grass Valley, CA 95945.

PLEASE NOTE: *New members will have a bee affixed to their name tags. Please be sure to introduce yourself.*



Buoyant by Anna Citrino



Anna Citrino

Sometimes, after reading deep novels and interesting historical fiction, it comes as a comfort to read some insightful and colorful poems. Anna Citrino's poetry collection *Buoyant* (2022), sends us through deep waters as a diver and lets us imagine what it is like to discover the underwater world of marine

life and vegetation. As I have been on diving trips with Anna throughout Asia, it is magical to witness sea life through her vivid poetry.

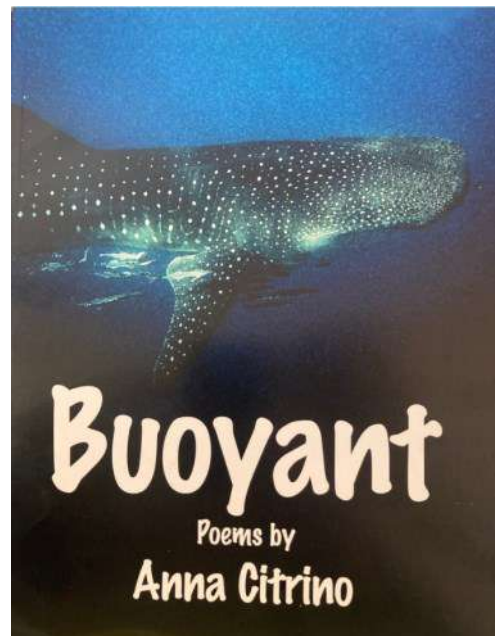
In *Buoyant*, Citrino guides us through an alluring and ever-changing world of the sea. If you have experienced the awe of underwater sea life, or not, you are immediately drawn into this vibrant world and follow her as she explores the beauty and wonder of deep-sea life.

In the poem, "What Tony Taught Us" she writes,

"The point of diving is to observe, to look deeply, to let go into being a stranger." As poet Mary Quillin says, "Humans will ultimately protect what they love and Anna's remarkable poems, photos, and prose give us fuel for the journey on every page."

I hope you enjoy this plunge into deep sea poetry and savor the beauty of our precious blue planet.

—Ann Gould - February 2024



We also 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](#)
- [Nevada Irrigation District \(NID\)](#)
- Allison Rapp
- [Sierra Tech Guy](#)
David Ball
- [Westamerica Bank](#)
Bernadette & Ed Sylvester
- [Wolf Mountain Spa](#)
Dan Wray
- [Kim White, Attorney at Law](#)



Karin Quinn
Ways & Means Chair

Ways & Means Raffle Tickets

Tickets are \$5 each, or a \$20 donation gets you 5!

We're asking each member to donate to our Branch operations by

purchasing one or more raffle tickets for a chance to win the Handmade Quilt by master quilter Virginia Kingston. You can purchase raffle tickets at monthly meetings.

- Did you know that the cost for renting the Peace Lutheran Church for our meetings has gone up and 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.

In addition, we have many useful AAUW branded items for sale: aprons, T-shirts, daypacks, ceramic traveling cups. [AAUW Branded Merchandise | Nevada County \(CA\) Branch](#)

Be sure to stop by the Ways & Means table at the March meeting. See you there!

