

# The Lodestone

October 2024



Nevada County Branch

Saturday, October 19  
Doors open: 9:30 AM  
Program starts: 10:00 AM

Peace Lutheran Church  
828 West Main  
Grass Valley



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## 2024 Tech Trek in the Spotlight

This month's program is dedicated to the AAUW Tech Trek program and offers an opportunity to meet our 2024 Trekkers. The Branch has sponsored girls for Tech Trek since it began in 1998.

This past July, eight Nevada County middle-school girls attended the week-long AAUW Tech Trek camp at UC Davis where they explored wide-ranging STEM fields. The girls look forward to sharing what they experienced, residing in the UC dorm with other Trekkers from throughout Northern California. You'll learn about their takeaways from morning core classes, such as robotics and anatomy; field trips to the Veterinary Medical Center and to the Bohart Entomology; and workshops covering topics such as architecture, forensics, financial awareness and astronomy. Classes, workshops, and field trips were all led by women. The girls also met and interviewed professional women in related fields.

In addition to the Trekkers' presentation, we've invited Megan D'Errico, Associate Dean of Science and Mathematics, of Sierra College, as our guest speaker. She holds a PhD from Stanford in Geological and Environmental Studies. Megan will talk about the importance of encouraging girls to explore STEM options and the significance of bridging the gender gap in STEM-related academics and careers.



*Megan D'Errico*

Come join us on October 19 and learn all about this first-rate educational AAUW program, which encourages middle-school girls to explore the world of STEM and discover academic and career opportunities in related fields.

## **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/issues/>

Happy Halloween

I am looking forward to the October Branch meeting where we will all have a chance to learn more about Tech Trek, and now the follow-up STEM project we have joined with Bright Futures for Youth to operate. AAUW realized many years ago that supporting women in science and technology careers was critical to the mission of helping each to achieve her highest potential.

Tech Trek began in 1998 in California to start to address the gap in women pursuing those areas. It is a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) camp designed to develop interest, excitement, and self-confidence in young women who will enter eighth grade in the fall. It features hands-on activities in STEM-related fields. The program inspired AAUW branches in many other states to create similar programs. Last summer, in California, seven in-person camps and one virtual camp enabled nearly 1000 girls to explore their possible futures. What a wonderful 26-year legacy for the future women of California.

While progress has been made over the years, women still only make up 34% of the workforce in STEM fields and the gap is particularly large in some of highest paid and most in-demand fields – Computers and Math – 25% are women,



Engineers and Architects – 16% (Source, US Bureau of Labor Statistics). Although nearly 80% of the health care workforce are women, only one third of doctors are. Check the AAUW website for two important research studies: *Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics*– 2010 and *Solving the Equation: The Variables for Women's Success in Engineering & Computing* – 2015, as well as many other resources on this topic.



Carol McMillan  
Branch Co-President

I think we can be very proud of our efforts to make the work world inclusive. Tech Trek is a big step in this direction. The capable leadership of Martha Rees and our dedicated committee of volunteers makes this all possible. See you in October when we celebrate this year's participants.

## Covid Guidelines

1. We will assume all Branch members are vaccinated and boosted. If you are not, please wear a mask; we will accommodate you.
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

Co-Presidents	Carol McMillan & Diane Kellegrew
Past President	Deborah York
Secretary	Ann Gould
Finance Officers	Peg Flanders
Program VPs	Carolyn Feuille & Bernadette Sylvester
Membership VP	Vicky Hines
AAUW Fund VPs	Francesca Erickson & Barbara Johnson

## APPOINTED OFFICERS

Local Scholarship	Rhea Williamson & Lisa Turlo
Public Policy	Melanie Heckel & Helen Cavanaugh
Publicity	Martha Rees
Tech Trek	Martha Rees
Ways and Means	Karin Quinn
Communications	Katherine "Bup" Greenwood

## STANDING COMMITTEES (NON-BOARD FUNCTIONS)

Lodestone & Branch Website	CeCe Royal
Directory & Database	Bonnie White
Facilities & Hospitality	Catherine Criss Flowers Penelope Savelly Janine Martin Sue Van Son Pat Pedersen Shirley Zeff Open
Interest Groups	
Friendship	
Historians	
Fund Development	
Photography	Martha Rees Bernadette Sylvester
AAUW Msg Line	Sue Miller Peg Flanders



## Board Highlights from September Meeting



*Ann Gould*  
Secretary

- The Board worked on plans for the Welcome Back Brunch on September 21 to inform the membership about our mission and future activities. Interest Group tables will be set up to encourage members to sign up.
- The new Membership Directory has been completed and will be distributed at the September Brunch.

- Plans have been made for a Holiday Theater Event at the Off Broad Street Theater on December 6. See the website for buying tickets.
- The May Luncheon will take place on May 6 at Alexander's Steakhouse.
- Diane and Carol outlined their roles as co-presidents of our branch for the next year.

**Friday, 7:15 pm**  
**December 6, 2024**

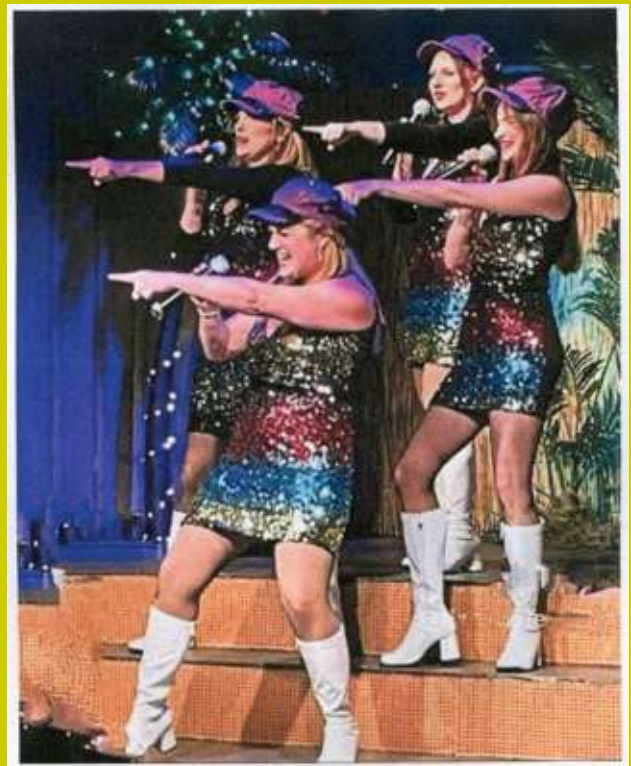
A special Evening at the  
Off Broadstreet Theater

Bring your spouse, family, friends,  
SO for a live performance of  
A Caddyettes Christmas

Ticket price: **\$35.00**  
Close to sold out!

Desserts and beverages  
available for purchase.

Purchase online @ Branch website:



[AAUW December 2024 Holiday Outing | Nevada County \(CA\) Branch](#)

Here it is, October of 2024. We are on the cusp of one of the most consequential Presidential elections ever. I know you are all intelligent women and will be ready to vote on November 5th. After my last *Lodestone* article, I got a little more direction from National and State AAUW about what we can and cannot write about during this election season. Discussion of partisan candidates and political parties is not allowed.

We CAN highlight AAUW priorities in this election year and urge you to do your own research and choose wisely when voting for President, U.S. Senator and 3rd District Congressperson. Here are a few of the AAUW priority issues that you should keep in mind:

**1. Reproductive Freedom** – AAUW seeks to advance “social and racial justice for all members of society, including self-determination in reproductive health.” In the wake of the Supreme Court overturning *Roe v. Wade*, the law of the land for over 50 years, 14 states have banned abortion completely, while others have made access all but impossible by criminalizing abortion early in pregnancy. In a post-Dobbs world, pregnancy has also become more dangerous for many people, including those who need emergency care. Access to IVF treatments has also become problematic in many states. Choose candidates who will work to expand reproductive freedom.

**2. Title IX Protections** – The current Administration finalized restoration and upgrades to Title IX rules in a way that takes a great step forward toward realizing the full promise of prohibiting sex discrimination in education. The new rules went into effect on August 1st 2024 and broaden protections against sexual assault and harassment and provide protections for pregnant students.

**3. Increased Participation of Women in Leadership Roles** – AAUW is committed to working toward proportional representation on publicly held corporate boards and access to programs that promote participation in public service careers, including elected offices, where women are clearly underrepresented!

## AAUW CA RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING CALIFORNIA PROPOSITIONS:



Melanie Heckel  
Public Policy Co-Chair

**PROPOSITION 2** – Public Education Facilities Bond Measure proposes issuing \$10 billion in bonds to fund construction and modernization of California's public education facilities. \$8.5 billion would be allocated to K-12 schools and \$1.5 billion would support improvements at community colleges. Many school facilities are over 50 years old. Research shows that modernized school facilities correlate with better test scores, higher attendance, and improved teacher retention.

**PROPOSITION 3** – Constitutional Right to Marriage would amend the California Constitution to recognize a fundamental right to marry, regardless of sex or race. This is already the case in California statutes, but would update the Constitution to match state law.



**PROPOSITION 4** – Parks, Environment, Energy and Water Bond Measure would authorize the state to issue \$10 billion in bonds to fund various environmental, energy and water projects, benefiting Californians confronted with sea-level rise, extreme heat, wildfire dangers and air/water pollution. Prop 4 requires that 40% of the bond revenue be used to fund

activities that benefit communities with lower incomes or that are affected by environmental change or disasters.

**PROPOSITION 32** – Raise Minimum Wage Measure would raise the current minimum wage of \$16/hour to \$17/hour in 2025 and \$18/hour in 2026 for employers of 26 or more employees. Women and communities of color bear a burden of low-wage jobs. A minimum wage of \$18 will reduce income inequality and improve the standard of living for millions of California workers, especially women and people of color.

**STAY INFORMED AND DON'T FORGET TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>!**

## League of Women Voters to Help Explain CA Propositions on the November 2024 Ballot

A representative from the League of Women Voters will address a Great Decisions special meeting **Tuesday, October 22, 10 - noon**, at the Episcopal Church, GV. This meeting is open to all AAUW members interested in knowing more about the 10 propositions that will be on the California ballot this November:

### ■ Prop 2: School Bond

Should California issue \$10 billion in bonds to help build or upgrade educational facilities?

### ■ Prop 3: Same Sex Marriage

Should marriage rights for same-sex couples be enshrined in the state constitution?

### ■ Prop 4: Climate Bond

Should California issue \$10 billion in bonds to fund various climate- and environment-related projects?

### ■ Prop 5: Housing Votes

Should California reduce the vote threshold needed to pass certain local bonds for affordable housing and public infrastructure projects?

### ■ Prop 6: Prison Labor

Should California ban involuntary servitude in prisons and jails?

### ■ Prop 32: Minimum Wage

Should all California employees earn at least \$18 per hour by Jan. 1, 2026?

### ■ Prop 33: Rent Control

Should California remove limits on the ability of cities to impose rent control policies capping annual rent increases?

### ■ Prop 34: Prescription Drug Spending

Should California restrict how certain health care providers can spend revenue from prescription drug sales?

### ■ Prop 35: Medi-Cal Funding

Should California make permanent an existing tax on health insurance companies and restrict how those funds can be used?

### ■ Prop 36: Criminal Penalties

Should California roll back past reforms and make it easier to charge people with felony crimes and send them to jail or prison if they repeatedly shoplift, or possess some drugs, including fentanyl and methamphetamine?



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## Local Scholarship Recipient Updates

### Life is Good for Delaney by Ann Shulse

Delaney Sherr is this year's "High School to Community College" scholarship recipient. As a practical gal, she's saving money by attending Sierra College for two years before transferring to Cal Poly SLO. As a social gal who loves to interact with professors and classmates, she attends all her Rocklin classes in person. As an active gal, she runs trails with her Cross Country team every day before classes begin.

Although Trig is difficult, Delaney takes full advantage of on-campus tutoring. Her Anthropology class fascinates her. She loves Soil Science lab that has hands-on activities and includes many field trips. After four years of Choir at NU, she's now part of the Sierra College Chamber Choir and looks forward to performing in the Winter Concert in the SC Theater.

After 14 summers as a participant at Unalayee Wilderness Camp in the Trinity Alps, Delaney was

very excited to be a counselor this year. She and another counselor led middle schoolers on a 3-night, 20-mile backpacking trip; later they took high schoolers on a 90-mile hike for 15 days. With a passion for nature, she'll major in environmental science.

Wholesome in spirit and lifestyle,

Delaney exudes joy and eschews social media, preferring instead to be engaged and is writing a book of poetry about nature. Delaney looks forward to getting an MA in Herpetology, so she can work to preserve declining habitats for reptiles and amphibians.



*Delaney Sherr*

# Local Scholarship Recipient Updates (cont.)

## Julia Barbieri

By Jennifer Wilkerson

Julia Barbieri, a Ghidotti graduate, is studying forensic science at Chaminade University in Honolulu, one of only a few colleges offering this program. With her excellent math skills, her career may be data analysis or lab-based in pathology, with the option of investigative field work. Julia loves crime shows on TV!

Julia is living the dorm life, finding new friends, and "seeing where I fall into the life here on campus. Sports has been a focus of Julia's life, especially volleyball. She hopes to continue playing (at the beach?) as a balance to hard studies at the University.

Julia hopes to visit home over the holiday break and is a little concerned about becoming homesick. She is especially close to her older brother, father and stepmother, having lost her

mother at a young age to breast cancer.

This summer, Julia had house sitting jobs, interspersed with a few road trips and concerts for fun. I gave her a copy of James Michener's Hawaii for historical background on her new State of residence.

With her warm personality and obvious commitment to hard work, I predict Julia will achieve whatever she dreams.



*Julie Barbieri*

## Maya de Hoyos

By Bonnie Curtis

"For these are all our children, We will all profit by, or pay for, Whatever they become."

—James Baldwin.

Our Nevada County Branch AAUW Scholarship awards reflect a broadening perspective of "Who is a college student?" We recognize the wide diversity of student potential among our local student population. Granted, all our CLEO awards are to high-achieving students in rigorous college prep courses. But, other factors are widely diverse, especially financial status, family background, and home security.

Maya de Hoyos is an exceptional young woman who has surmounted incredible odds to be on a current path she has largely determined on her own. Her educational background has been challenging due to circumstances beyond her control and she completed high school through determined efforts at Northpoint Academy (independent study), Sierra College, and her diploma at Ghidotti High. A teacher who instructed Maya at both Northpoint and Ghidotti stated that Maya "in addition to academic excellence, possesses a unique combination of independence, maturity, and a deep sense of responsibility." As her liaison, I have found her to be contemplative with a keen sense of who she is as a person and her direction in life.

Besides, she is an accomplished artist who has sold some of her work to satisfy personal financial need.

From CSU Chico, Maya writes, "As a first-year student majoring in business administration with a focus on accounting, I have been delving into classes and making connections that I truly believe will help me in my future.

Adapting to this new environment has been both exciting and nerve racking. I have been able to adjust fairly quickly to the academic rigor and campus life, finding a balance between my academics and social life. I've been surprised by how many resources are available to me and how I am encouraged to use them. I'm very excited to see what the rest of my time at Chico brings to me. GO, Wildcats!"



*Maya de Hoyos*

## The Latest from Tech Trek



**Martha Rees**  
Camp Co-Director

Our 2024 Trekkers are looking forward to sharing their UC Davis Tech Trek experience at the October Branch Meeting. They met last month to decide how and what they wanted to say about their week at AAUW Tech Trek @ UC Davis. Thanks to Stephanie Facchini who led that discussion. When asked for one word to describe their experience, the answers included “amazing,” “awesome,” “once-in-a-lifetime,” and “chaotic – but a good chaotic.”

On another front, AAUW Nevada County Branch will be supporting Bright Futures for Youth (BFFY) as part of an AAUW National grant that the organization received. BFFY is a community-focused nonprofit organization committed to addressing the

ever-changing needs of youth, from sixth graders to those in their mid-20s in Nevada County. The grant focuses on providing STEM-related opportunities for BFFY participants, with special focus on females. AAUW's role is to identify speakers for BFFY's “Find Your Future Fridays,” workshop presenters, and local tours – piggybacking on our goal for more ongoing engagement of our Tech Trek Alums. The grant runs from July 2024 to July 2025. Our hope is to get Trekkers involved by sharing activities they did at Tech Trek as well as assisting with other events. A major project will be an end-of-the-school-year mini-Tech Trek type event, with workshops as well as speakers from STEM-related career fields.

If you or anyone you know are/is interested in learning more about ways to help, please contact Martha Rees, [mjkrees@yahoo.com](mailto:mjkrees@yahoo.com).

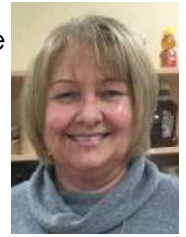


*Offering the “shaka” or “hang loose” sign, some of our 2024 Trekkers send a message of friendship and “Aloha spirit”. (Nevada County’s Rose McGill was a camp dorm mom and just started teaching in Hawaii this fall.)*

# 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 leader's contact information in the AAUW Membership Directory or contact Sue Van Son at [sue@vansoninc.com](mailto:sue@vansoninc.com)



Sue Van Son  
Interest Group Leader

## Arts and Crafts — Teri McConnell



Who knew that a set of canning jar rings could make this really cute pumpkin? Come to Arts & Crafts on Thursday, **October 3 at 10:00 am** to create this fall pumpkin décor. Use your creativity to decorate these pumpkins in a style all your own. This meeting will be held at the home of **Deborah York**. Please contact Deb ASAP to sign up and to receive information on supplies needed.

Since the Arts & Crafts group meets the first Thursday of the month at 10:00 am, sometimes there is little time between the delivery of the *Lodestone* and the day of our gathering. Here is info on the November craft. On **November 7**, we will be decorating matchboxes. Exercise your creativity to the max! These boxes will make cute gifts. After all, the holiday season is coming. Contact **Bup Greenwood** for more information.



## Book Discussions

### ■ Evening Book Group - Cathy Kalt

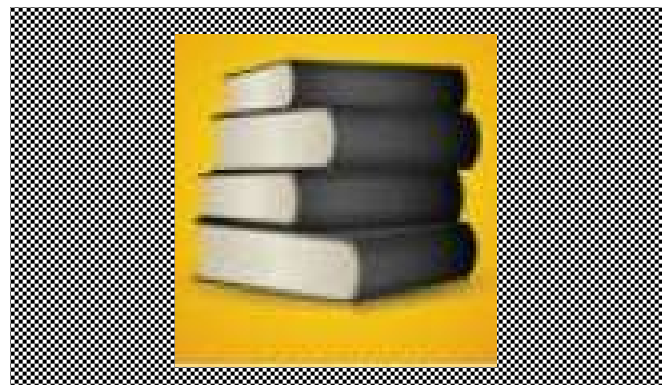
We are meeting on the **4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday** of each month from **6-8 pm**. We have continued meeting through the summer, but taking a winter break Nov, – Feb, and resuming in March. If you are interested in joining us or would like more information, please contact Cathy Kalt at [cakalt@hotmail.com](mailto:cakalt@hotmail.com) or 650-704-579

### ■ Mostly Fiction Books —Robin Laverty-Reves

Our members enjoyed gathering on September 12<sup>th</sup> to begin another season of friendship and insightful book discussions. October we will read the historical novel, *Mr. Keynes' Dance* by E.J. Barnes, a continuation of the fascinating story of economist Maynard Keynes. This is the sequel to *Mr. Keynes' Revolution*, read & praised by our book group two years ago. Our meeting will be **Thursday, October 10, 1 pm**. Interest group members will receive a reminder email with more information including a request to RSVP to the host. If you would like more information about the Mostly Fiction group, including venue for the next meeting, please contact Robin Laverty-Reves at [lavertyreves@gmail.com](mailto:lavertyreves@gmail.com).

## Writing Group — Deb York

Our Write-in group meets for 1.5 hours each month to simply write together. We meet the **3<sup>rd</sup> Monday (October 21, 2024) 2:00 – 3:30** in the Gold Rush room at the Madelyn Helling Library in Nevada City. Our Writing Critique group meets for 2 hours each month on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Monday (October 21, 2024) 10:00 – noon** in the Gold Rush room at the Madelyn Helling Library in Nevada City. We post writing for critique in our Google drive by Friday midnight prior to each meeting. We also offer quarterly skill building workshops as requested. Contact Deb York, [Deborah11623@gmail.com](mailto:Deborah11623@gmail.com) if you would like to join us.



### ■ Non-Fiction Books — Peg Flanders

Following up on the theme of our September book selection (*Age of Revolutions* by Fareed Zakaria), our choice for October will continue to explore political history, this time focusing on North America. *American Nations*, by Colin Woodward, lays out eleven regions of North America that have very distinct cultures. He explains why "American" values vary sharply from one region to another and how these differences have played a pivotal role in our history from the American Revolution to current times.

We meet on the **third Tuesday** of the month from **1 to 2:30 pm**. Our meetings are always fun and enlightening. Our **October 15<sup>th</sup>** meeting will be hosted by Ann Shulse and the discussion led by Susan Rogers. If you are interested in joining us, kindly RSVP to Peg Flanders at [myblackdogs@dpflanders.com](mailto:myblackdogs@dpflanders.com) for meeting location and details.



## Gardening — Brett McWilliams & Carol Raynsford



Our September trip to California Native Plant Society was educational and fun. We appreciated the hard work they put into ensuring native plants thrive in our beautiful state! The **October 24<sup>th</sup>**

meeting will entail revisiting our yearly plant exchange. We will carpool to Patricia Wolfe's home in Nevada City to swap plants and seeds. Bring a couple of plants and/or seed assortments to trade. Will have more details soon! Please RSVP or send questions to Brett McWilliams [brettmcwilliams054@gmail.com](mailto:brettmcwilliams054@gmail.com) or call/text 650-436-7307

## Great Decisions — Susie Monary-Wilson



The Great Decisions topics for 2025 have been announced and I'll be taking orders for the Foreign Policy Association workbook in early October.

Our first meeting of the new year will be **Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>** at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Grass Valley from **10 – noon**. The 2025 topics are:

1. American Foreign Policy at a Crossroads
2. U.S. Changing Leadership of the World Economy
3. U/S.-China Relations
4. International Cooperation on Climate Change
5. The Future of NATO and European Security
6. AI and American National Security
7. India: Between China, the West, and the Global South
8. After Gaza: American Policy in the Middle East.

Should be a very interesting and informative season! Please contact Susie Monary-Wilson, [monarywilson@msn.com](mailto:monarywilson@msn.com) for more information.

## Gnaw & Jaw — Deb Cubberley & Chris Boykin

If you are interested in joining a dinner group for couples or singles which meets in each other's homes three or four times a year, the Gnaw and Jaw interest group is for you! Usually, the host decides the main dish and others bring side dishes, appetizers or desserts. We need to know if you have any allergies and if you prefer to be in a group of 6 or 8. After we have our final count of participants, Deb and I randomly draw names and select 6 or 8

people to form a dining group which will coordinate dinner arrangements throughout the AAUW year. We will also arrange for our entire group to meet at local restaurants or a home one or more times during the year.



Our first Gnaw and Jaw group meet up will be on **Saturday October 5** at the home of Susie Monary-Wilson and John Wilson. They have graciously offered to not only host the event but to cook BBQ and provide drinks. We'll start gathering at **4:00** to play bocce ball and corn hole and then move into the happy hour with appetizers and dinner at 6:00. **Important: Deb Cubberley will be on vacation at that time and unable to go, so please email me (not Deb) if you didn't sign up at our September 21 meeting and would like to go. Please let me know if you will be bringing an appetizer, salad, side dish, or dessert.**

Every AAUW branch member is welcome and each of you may bring someone... a spouse, a significant other, a friend, relative, etc. OR you may come as a single. No problem. This is not just a couples group!

Contact either Chris Boykin [chrismboykin@gmail.com](mailto:chrismboykin@gmail.com) or Deb Cubberley [debclubberley@comcast.net](mailto:debclubberley@comcast.net), your G'nJ group co-leaders.

## 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 the Meal Train website to provide us with a page for the recipient. The page provides not only all their information and needs, but also, a calendar which we use to let each other know the days that are available for meals. We are beginning again to need meals for our members. Consequently, we will need more volunteers to provide these meals. They can either make homemade meals or use restaurant meals. We deliver easy meals, and most providers make meals, which they usually make for themselves. Contact [Pat Pedersen](#), who will be happy to explain the process to you. Our volunteers who provide the meals are the **heart** of our Branch and wonderful women who take care of us. We are so lucky to have them.

## Brisk Walkers — Joan Nazsady



We're so fortunate to live here in Nevada County. Come join the Brisk Walkers and enjoy the early fall weather and exceptional scenery on our local trails! Our goal is to get together with other members for a 3-5 mile walk on nearby trails once a week. This will usually take an hour or two. The days we will meet are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> week of the month: Monday or Friday
- 2<sup>nd</sup> week: Monday or Wednesday
- 3<sup>rd</sup> week: Wednesday or Thursday
- 4<sup>th</sup> week: Monday or Friday

Days and times will be set by those who lead each walk. Please email Joan Nazsady at [jnazsady@gmail.com](mailto:jnazsady@gmail.com) or text me at 707-972-6852 if you would like to join our group, lead a walk, or join a walk. I will send a reminder each week for the next week's scheduled opportunities. We hope to see you soon!

## Hiking Group - Mary Menconi



Sagehen Creek was our destination September 4, on a hike led by Kit Lofgren. We enjoyed Tahoe's high forest, meadows and eating lunch together on Kit's deck. Our next hikes will be **Wednesday, October 2**, led by Melanie Heckel and **Monday October 21**, led by Mary

Menconi. We hike the first Wednesday and third Monday of each month. Hike locations are decided by the leader and are announced via email about one week in advance. If you would like to join the Hiking Group or reserve a date to lead a hike, please contact Mary: [marymenconi@gmail.com](mailto:marymenconi@gmail.com).

## Yet-to-Be-Named Group

Counting partners, we have about 50 people signed up for the new interest group. We don't expect anywhere near that attendance for all activities, but there's likely something for everyone. Because of the short notice for many of you and a lot of competing demands on our members, we had only 8 of us (plus 6 dogs) at this the first event today. But what fun we had!

At present, we have come up with three possible names for this group: *Gallivanter*s or *Funseekers* or *Knockabouts*. Please let me know which name you

prefer. The name with the most votes will be our new handle.

Some months' activities we've settled on including a game night in **November**, a dinner out in **December**, a snow shoe in **January**, a kayak/canoe in **April**, and a concert in **May**. We are still lacking, however, someone to lead in February and March events. In October, I will again lead a short hike and picnic October 27 unless one of you is interested in taking responsibility for October. (Please let me know quickly if you are interested in taking on October since I will be leaving town September 30 for three weeks and need to secure the event before I leave. Please feel free to call if you'd like to discuss it. 530 272-2724.)



If you are interested in planning an activity for February or March, also, please let me know, though there is not quite the urgency for those. If you have an idea, but not the specific date or time, that is okay at this point, just let me know what you'd like to do.

If you are interested in joining or learning more about this, please contact, Deb Cubberley [debclubberley@comcast.net](mailto:debclubberley@comcast.net) If you are interested in being a co-leader, I would welcome your assistance.

## NEW INTEREST GROUP POSSIBILITY

### “Hot off the Press” book group

Are you interested in reading the latest book that everyone is talking about? This group could pick a book at one meeting and discuss it at the next meeting. Perhaps, the group would meet less often than monthly? Contact Karen Tajbl at [karentajbl@gmail.com](mailto:karentajbl@gmail.com) if you'd like to help organize and participate in such a book group.



## Celebrating the Year's Start



## Our Generous Underwriters



These businesses and individuals have generously donated toward the support of our Branch as individual underwriters. More information can be found about the businesses on the Branch website under [Philanthropy>Financial Underwriters](#). Please patronize them and thank them for their support!

- **Bodacious Blooms Flower Farm**  
Karen Hull
- **KNCO News Talk 830**
- **Nevada Irrigation District**
- **Owens Estate & Wealth Strategies Group**
- **Allison Rapp**
- **Sierra Tech Guy**  
David Ball
- **Westamerica Bank**  
Bernadette & Ed Sylvester
- **Wolf Mountain Spa**  
Dan Wray
- **Kim White**

## Ways & Means — Karin Quinn



*Karin Quinn  
Ways & Means  
Chair*

Welcome and hello all! I think we're embracing an exciting and new 2024-25 AAUW season buzzing with fresh ideas and renewed enthusiasm.

As your continuing Ways & Means officer, I hope to present a few new merchandise options to add to our menu of custom T-shirts, day packs, and aprons. Perhaps it could be a custom micro fleece jacket or a garment-washed cap that you can't live without. Or something else? This department is always open to other ideas and suggestions (fun part) but keeping in mind the cost factor (not fun part). There may also be a mystery box raffle thrown in at the general meetings too! Does anyone have a "priceless" item they'd like to donate? Contact me!

It's important to point out (for those new to our chapter) that Ways & Means' sales and donations help to cover the costs of our Branch operations, i.e., administrative expenses, advertising, various monthly program costs, public policy, etc. Not quite the glamorous stuff, but still an important part of the overall.

See you all in October and stop by the Ways & Means table for swag, conversation, and more!

