

The Lodestone

December 2024



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Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep.
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

—**Robert Frost**

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.](#)

holidays HAPPY

It's hard to believe that the holidays are upon us and with that, planning for the new year. I hope you've had an enjoyable Thanksgiving and are looking forward to your next celebration. It's time for AAUW to look forward as well.

To identify Branch leadership for the coming year, the Nominating Committee will begin their search in January. Luckily for them, and for all of us, our membership is full of talented people who are willing to take on one of the many roles that it takes to keep our Branch thriving. Currently, serving in key positions we have a combination of those who are relatively new to a job, and those who have years of experience. In many a role, there is a team of two or more helping to balance the work.

For myself, I can say that serving as a Co-President has not only eased the responsibilities of the office but has also fostered the generation of new ideas that benefit everyone.

It seems to be true that "two heads are better than one!" In the coming year, I hope there will be even more examples of co-leadership.

A challenge for every organization is succession planning to ease transitions. Sharing a job can help transfer knowledge and experience. If one is willing to help but feels uneasy because of a lack of knowledge in an area, working with someone who "knows the ropes" is reassuring.

If you are interested in helping the Branch in some way, give a shout out to the Nominating Committee. Joining a team is a great way to get involved. In Nevada County we are fortunate to be building on strengths. Raise your hand and offer to be part of the Branch leadership. You'll enjoy it!



*Carol McMillan
Branch Co-President*

Save the Date January 18, 2025

The January program will be about the Sierra Nevada Family Residency Program, created to meet the growing need for more local primary care physicians.

Dr. Glenn Gookin, Residency Program Director, will tell us how the program works and about the six current interns working through the 3-year integrated program led by partners Dignity Health Methodist Hospital of Sacramento, Chapa-De Indian Health, and Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital.

Covid Guidelines

1. We will assume all Branch members are vaccinated and boosted. If you are not, please wear a mask and let us 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 to 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 & Jo Ann Schilling

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Local Scholarship	Rhea Williamson & Lisa Turlo
Public Policy	Melanie Heckel
Publicity	Martha Rees

Tech Trek
Ways and Means
Communications

Martha Rees
Karin Quinn
Katherine "Bup" Greenwood

STANDING COMMITTEES (NON-BOARD FUNCTIONS)

Lodestone & Branch Website
Directory & Database
Facilities & Hospitality

Cecelia Royal
Bonnie White
Catherine Criss Flowers
Penelope Savelly

Interest Groups
Friendship
Historian
Fund Development
Photography

Sue Van Son
Pat Pedersen
Shirley Zeff
Open
Martha Rees
Bernadette Sylvester
Sue Miller
Peg Flanders

AAUW Msg Line

Board Highlights

- The Board discussed the November Branch Meeting Program focusing on food insecurities and the ways AAUW members can volunteer and help.
- The December Holiday event will be at the Off Broad Street Theater. The program is sold out with AAUW members and their guests.
- The Local Scholarship and Tech Teck committees are gathering to prepare for the

applications that will arrive in early 2025.

- The May Luncheon plans were discussed and the final destination and costs will be finalized soon.
- Our Branch Bylaws are being clarified by a committee and these Bylaws will be presented to the Branch by April 2025.



Ann Gould
Secretary

December 6: Holiday Outing Details

For those attending: The theater opens at **6:15 pm on Friday, December 6**, with pre-show entertainment. We will check you in at the



door – no tickets are needed. Yummy desserts, coffees, beer, wine and soft drinks will be available for purchase at your table.

DIRECTIONS: Off Broadstreet is located in the heart of historic Nevada City, at **305 Commercial Street** (Right around the corner from Friar Tuck's Restaurant)

From the west: I-80 to Hwy 49 in Auburn, north for 28 miles to Broad Street exit for Nevada City. At the end of the off-ramp, turn left and continue up the hill to Pine Street. Turn right on Pine and continue for one block to Commercial. Turn left on Commercial and proceed up the hill for one half block. Off Broadstreet is on the left in the middle of the block. Commercial Street is one way only up the hill and a public parking lot is on the right at the top of the hill.

From the east: I-80 to Hwy 20 for 27 miles to the Coyote Street exit. Turn left and continue down the hill to Commercial Street. Turn right and continue up the hill for one and one half blocks. Off Broadstreet is on the left in the middle of the block.

Here I sit at my computer on November 10, 2024. I hardly know what to write. My deadline is 10 days away, but I want to get this task out of the way, so I can move on. As you know, we are non-partisan and cannot support partisan candidates. We are, however, anxious to continue to advance our mission, "To promote equity for women and girls" and our Public Policy priorities. These efforts will become more challenging, but let's start with some good news.

GOOD NEWS

Women's Right to Choose - 7 out of 10 states with choice on the ballot backed abortion rights. Colorado, Maryland, Montana and New York – states where abortions are already permitted until fetal viability – will add abortion protections to their state constitutions. Nevada voters also favored protections and can enshrine them by passing the measure again in the next general election. The biggest changes came in Arizona, where in 2022, abortion was banned after 15 weeks, and in Missouri, which has had a near-total ban. Voters in those states approved constitutional amendments to protect abortion rights through fetal viability, opening the door to overturning those states' restrictions and increasing access to abortion services.

Unfortunately, nothing will change in Arizona and Missouri any time soon, as preexisting state laws on abortions will likely remain in place while they are contested in court, a process that could take months or years. Abortion rights amendments failed in Florida and South Dakota and Nebraska voters affirmed the state's existing ban on abortions after the first trimester. It is worth noting that the Florida measure received a yes vote of 57%, but a 60% majority is required there.

Women Have Achieved Parity in the California Senate – At least three additional Senate districts will be represented by women in the next two-year session, raising the number of women from 18 to 21 in the 40-member chamber. One member, Janet Nguyen, is expected to leave if she wins her bid for Orange County Supervisor.

BAD NEWS

Well, this one isn't too hard to figure out. There is no question that a second Trump administration will make it harder for AAUW to implement our Public Policy Priorities: 1) Economic Security for All Women; 2) Equal Access to Quality Public Education for all students; 3) Social and Racial Justice for All members of Society; and 4) Increased Representation of Women in Leadership Roles. I attended an AAUW-CA webinar shortly before the election about the impact of Project 2025 on these priorities. I must tell you that it was pretty sobering. If implemented, Project 2025 would adversely affect all four pillars listed above. I do not have the space here to

describe all these impacts, so I will just focus on one, Title IX. As you may recall, Title IX protections were rolled back under the last Trump administration. New Title IX protections under the Biden administration were adopted in 2024 and went into effect in August, except in certain states who have blocked them. There is little doubt that these will be rolled back again, but will likely go much further. In fact, if implemented, Project 2025 would dismantle the Department of Education and move The Education Department's Office of Civil Rights to the DOJ and strip its power to investigate complaints of civil rights abuses.



*Melanie Heckel
Public Policy Co-Chair*

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Continue the Fight for Women's Rights – Never give up! According to Gloria L. Blackwell, AAUW Chief Executive Officer, "We will not back down from our belief that women's work should be valued, our bodies should be respected, and that our education and work spaces should be inclusive and free from violence, discrimination, harassment and bias." She also promised, "AAUW has been in this fight for a long time. Our strength comes from our collective voice, and together we will continue the work to support women's education and economic empowerment."

Count Your Blessings – I don't know about you, but I think some self-care is needed right now. Appreciate your friends and family and be thankful that we live in such a giving and caring community as Western Nevada County. We have so many non-profits here and people give their time and money because they care about each other. Of course, AAUW is on the top of the list! But, also think of Bright Futures For Youth, Gold Country Senior Services, Interfaith Food Ministry, the Food Bank of Nevada County, and so many more!



AAUW Fellowships & Grants

This month I am focusing on a particular area in AAUW FUNDS: Fellowships and Grants. Frankly, I have come away so impressed after reading about the history and amount of money given to women as well as the breadth of the grants.

I remember a grant years ago that had to do with desalination in Africa. I also remember an obituary in the *Sacramento Bee* in which the family spoke how much their mother depended on an AAUW grant for a Masters in Social Work and how much she appreciated that support.

For more than 130 years AAUW has funded education grants/fellowships to enable women to follow their dreams in nearly ever field of endeavor. As of 2024, over \$146 MILLION has been granted to over 14,000 women and non-profit organizations to help shape history (even Marie Curie was a recipient!) as well as nonprofits at the forefront of driving social change. Locally Bright Futures for Youth (BIFFY) is an AAUW recipient for one of two grants given in California. It's exciting to see the results

of our fund-raising being utilized in our own community. These grants seek a diverse pool of applicants who represent the full spectrum of women.

There are various categories that provide monetary assistance, for example: the American Fellowship program, career development grants that include re-entry scholarships, Community Action Grants, International grants, and lastly Professional Fellowships in STEM fields.

I'd love to tell you more, but I'm past my allotted space. Let me just say that I am so proud to be a part of an organization that has done and is doing so much for women and children. Since there is no big fund raiser this year, we are relying on members' donations to fund these incredible programs. If you are interested in hearing the stories of some of the recipients, come to the luncheon in January. You can purchase a ticket online (see flyer below).



Fran Erickson
AAUW Fund VP



North Ridge Country Club, 7600 Madison Ave. Fair Oaks

Join the party! AAUW Fund Luncheon

Sponsored by your Capital Counties Interbranch Council

Saturday, January 25, 2025
Noon – 2:30 PM; doors open 11:30

Keynote speaker: Charmen Goehring, AAUW California President, speaking on our current challenges & opportunities, and on the positive work of AAUW Funds.

In addition, two active AAUW Fund Scholars will share their remarkable journeys, highlighting the details and progress of the work AAUW is supporting.

Make sure you have a place at the table! To use a credit card (fees apply) click [here](#). OR – write a check for \$32 to AAUW Sacramento. Mail to Reservations Coordinator, Hedda Smithson, 4033 Main Street, Fair Oaks, CA 95628-7520. Online or mailed payment must be received by Jan. 16th, 2025. If mailing, include this information, & menu choice:

Name _____ Branch _____
Phone _____ Email _____



- Menu choices:
 Turkey Breast, Mashed potatoes, vegetables OR
 Thai Chicken Salad OR
 Pasta Primavera (vegetarian)
 AND
 Limoncello cake OR Fruit cup



The Legacy of Lilly Ledbetter

Lilly Ledbetter passed away on October 12, 2024, at the age of 86. She was a true groundbreaking activist helping women achieve economic security, including equity in the workplace and enforcement of anti-discrimination. Her story is not just one of individual resilience; it embodies the ongoing struggle for women's equality in the workplace. Lilly worked for nearly two decades at Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company when she discovered that she was being paid thousands less per year than her male counterparts. This sparked a fire within her, igniting a campaign that would forever alter the landscape of equal pay in America.

In 2007, Ledbetter took her fight to the Supreme Court, yet the Court's ruling was disheartening; it stated that she had filed her complaint outside the statute of limitations. Ruth Bader Ginsberg provided one of her infamous and noteworthy dissenting opinions, calling out the eight male justices for their apathy, imploring Congress to act. Undaunted, Lilly remained a voice for many. Her activism ultimately led to the introduction of the **Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009**, which President Obama signed into law as his first piece of legislation. The Fair

Pay Act amended the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to declare that an unlawful employment practice occurs when: (1) a discriminatory compensation decision or other practice is adopted; (2) an individual becomes subject to the decision or practice; or (3) an individual is affected by application of the decision or practice, including each time wages, benefits, or other compensation is paid. It allows liability to accrue and allows an aggrieved person to obtain relief.



Beyond the legislative impact of the Act, Lilly became an icon of empowerment and perseverance, traveling the world and encouraging others to stand up for their rights. Learn more about Lilly by reading her memoir, **Grace and Grit: My Fight for Equal Pay and Fairness at Goodyear and Beyond**. Lilly, a feature film based on her life, premiered at the Hamptons International Film Festival on October 10, just two days before her passing.

Lilly's story reminds us that we should never give up hope. Our strength comes from our collective voice, and together we will continue the work to support women's education and economic empowerment. —*Melanie Heckel*

Local Scholarship News

Happy Holidays! Exciting times are on the horizon. In the upcoming 2025 cycle, the Local Scholarship Committee's Reading Teams will be selecting recipients of our scholarship and grant options!

New News!!! As many of you already know, in past years we have offered scholarship funding in five categories; the High School STEM, Sierra College STEM, Sierra College Re-entry, High School CLEO, and the High School to Community College awards. This year we added a new funding opportunity: the Helga Rohl Career Technical Education (CTE) Grant to be made in the amount of \$1,500 for a high school graduate to register in a certification program. Funds were made available from the now defunct local branch of the Business and Professional Women's Association and from our STEM Scholarship account.

Meeting Updates: The LSC Leadership Team met on October 23, 2024, followed by a full team meeting on November 7, 2024. The meetings are

a chance to reconnect and to review our finances, procedures, achievements, and goals for the upcoming year.

We also update team lists, practice using the rubric, and receive updates on our alumni database, the scrapbook digitization project, and upcoming events (KNCO Interview on December 4, 2024, and a Branch program on scholarships in October of 2025). Everyone is so engaged and excited, supportive and collaborative...it is a fantastic and growing team! We now number 34 members including our newest members **Susan Duey, Valarie Bush, Susan Rogers, Lisbeth Noel, and Allison Rapp!**



Rhea Williamson
Local Scholarship Chair

Hot News!!! In 2025 we propose making awards of \$89,500 to 31 women, with over \$18,000 in renewable STEM awards, a change approved last year in response to feedback from our awardees!! This is an ambitious plan, bolstered in part by available funds of over \$40,000 from existing accounts. We will need to work hard

to raise the balance (\$48,000); a challenge, especially given that the Branch will not hold a major fundraising event this year.

On the bright side, our generous donors can contribute without the effort of volunteering or attending an event, and hotter news, we have already had \$6,500 in new donation commitments from members!! That means without even asking, we have raised almost 14% of our fundraising goals!

Our hope is to keep the momentum going in supporting our AAUW-NC mission and in supporting educational opportunities of

women and girls in our county. After all, we are on an upwards path of giving: in 2024 the AAUW NC Branch made 28 awards in the amount of \$79,000 to women of all ages. This was a substantial increase relative to 2023 (\$48,000) and 2022 (\$25,500). It is the incredible giving and support of each and every one of you makes this possible, in whatever ways and amounts you are able to give. Thank you for your support.

All for now, be safe, stay healthy, and do what you love. —*Rhea*

Aria Conte

Submitted by Lisa Turlo

Aria Conte is attending UCLA as a neuroscience pre-med student. She has been working towards this goal for many years, working at her father's company to save money and applying for fifty scholarships. She explained that UCLA costs \$42,000 per year and the average medical student spends \$300,000 on their education.

Aria is excited because her friend Brooke, a fellow NU student (and AAUW scholarship recipient) is also attending UCLA.

Aria is taking 17 units, 3 classes and two seminars, including English, Molecular Biology,

Calculus. So far, she is earning 99% in Biology and 100% in math. She really likes her professors and finds the material interesting.



Marie Locks

Submitted by Brett McWilliams

Receiving this scholarship has been a tremendous support in my journey as I pursue my educational and career goals. I recently completed my classes for a degree in social behavioral science where I maintained my 4.0 GPA, which deepened my understanding of human behavior. Now, I'm finishing my major requirements in law enforcement, with plans to transfer to CAL State next fall. Alongside my studies, I'm a dedicated mom to five children and volunteer at my church, where I work with a wonderful group of 2nd graders. Balancing school, family, and community commitments has its challenges, but the rewards are well worth the hard work.

Having the support of an organization dedicated to empowering women has meant so much to me, providing encouragement and

strength along the way. Thank you for investing in my future and helping me make a positive impact in my community. I feel empowered to stay focused and keep moving forward. With your support, I am not only pursuing my dreams, but also becoming part of a legacy of women lifting each other up—a force of strength and change that I am honored to carry forward.



Moving onto 2025



Martha Rees
Tech Trek Chair

Looking forward to getting the ball rolling on Tech Trek 2025. We plan to hold a full committee meeting around the start of the year to finalize plans for the 2025 Trekker selection process as well as discuss our collaboration with Bright Futures for Youth, including the late spring STEAM event. Everyone who signed up in September to join the Tech Trek committee and/or BFFY activities will receive info re: the meeting – hope you can make it. And, if anyone would like to be involved in any part of Tech Trek or BFFY activities, please email mjkrees@yahoo.com.

From Tech Trek Alum Vanessa Cristdahl

A 2013 Trekker and 2016 Junior Counselor, Vanessa says:

“Tech Trek was highly influential in my life in that it really brought me out of my shell. I was



2013 Trekker
Vanessa

painfully shy prior, and being away from my family allowed me to blossom in a safe context into a much more independent young girl. It also solidified my desire to pursue science. I had always liked science, but hadn't committed to pursuing it until so many science-loving girls and women surrounded me!

“By 13, I realized that I wanted to pursue medicine. Returning to Tech Trek as a counselor only added to my commitment to pursue science/medicine. I realized early on that I needed to get some kind of certification that would allow me to make more than minimum wage so that I could put myself through school.”

Vanessa chose Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and finished her training and certification during her first year at community college. She has been working for Sierra Nevada Ambulance in Nevada County for 4.5 years, while going to

school. Vanessa graduates with a BS in Biology in December with no debt. It's taken her six years, but she completely paid for her education with money earned as an EMT.

Her goal is to take the MCAT late spring and, if that goes well, she will apply for medical schools this summer.



Vanessa (center) with her two supervisors. She's wearing a bulletproof vest for mass shooter training.

On a side note: You may also recognize Vanessa as one of the “All About Unique Women” models for several years. She says, “I miss all the AAUW ladies!!”

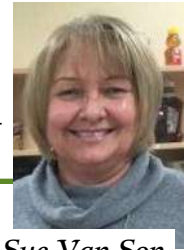
If you're interested in learning more about or joining the Nevada County Tech Trek Committee, please contact **Martha Rees**, mjkrees@yahoo.com; 530.274.8177.

We welcome new members as we begin planning for 2025 Tech Trek.

“Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn.” – Benjamin Franklin

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 Interest Group Coordinator **Sue Van Son**.



Sue Van Son

Arts and Crafts — Teri McConnell



What a wonderful time we will have on **Thursday, December 5th**, at the home of Chris Boykin making paper pine cones which can be used as an ornament or just as a decoration. Some materials will be supplied and others will be supplied by you. Please RSVP to Chris Boykin to save your seat for this craft and to get all the details. This will also be the holiday gathering for the Arts & Crafts Group.

The Arts & Crafts Group wishes everyone a happy holiday season and a Happy New Year too! We are looking forward to making many creative crafts next year. Our first gathering in **2025** will be on **February 6**. More information will be provided in the January *Lodestone*.

Great Decisions — Susie Monary-Wilson

In October, the Great Decisions group hosted a very informative meeting on the 10 California propositions, and we will resume our regular meetings on **Tuesday, January 28th**, at the Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Grass Valley from **10 to noon**. The 2025 discussion 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, and 8. After Gaza: American Policy in the Middle East. This should be a very interesting and informative season so if you would like to join us, please contact Susie Monary-Wilson, at monarywilson@msn.com or call 530-470-9272 for more information.

at monarywilson@msn.com or call 530-470-9272 for more information.

Writing Group — Deb York

Our Write-in group meets for 1.5 hours each month to simply write together. We meet the **3rd Monday (Dec 16, 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 **3rd Monday (December 16, 2024) 10:00-12:00** in the Gold Rush room at the Madelyn Helling Library in Nevada City. We post writing for critique on 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, if you would like to join us.



Evening Book Group

Our Evening Book Group is currently on a winter hiatus until **February 26th** when we will resume our regular meetings on the **4th Wednesday** of each month from **6-8 p.m.** If you're interested in joining us or would like more information, please contact Cathy Kalt at cakalt@hotmail.com or 650-704-1579.



Mostly Fiction Book Group

Mostly Fiction Book Group members will reprise a tradition from years past for a holiday social gathering on Thursday, December 12th at 1:00. We will have a white elephant book exchange while enjoying holiday refreshments. The voracious readers in our group are asked to bring a used book wrapped in recycled wrap to share. We have extra books for anyone who does not have a book to bring. 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.

Non-Fiction Book Group

Our November book selection, *An Unfinished Love Story* by Doris Kearns Goodwin, closed out our three-month exploration of political history. In addition to discussing our memories of the sixties, we also gained insights into the key figures of that time - JFK, LBJ, and RFK. Both regular readers of Goodwin and those new to this author found the book engaging.

Our December selection promises to be a fascinating look at what happens when humans and wildlife collide - and how we can learn to better coexist. We will be reading *Fuzz: When Nature Breaks the Law* by Mary Roach. The *Washington Post* calls her "America's funniest science writer."

We meet on the **third Tuesday** of the month from **1-2:30 pm**. Our meetings are always fun and enlightening. Our **December 17th** meeting will be hosted by Diane Kellegrew, who will also lead the discussion. The meeting will include a Holiday Memory gift exchange. If you are interested in joining us, kindly RSVP to Peg Flanders at myblackdogs@dpflanders.com for meeting location and details.

Interest Groups (cont.)

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 husband/partner 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 and most providers make meals they usually make for themselves. We always respect the recipient's privacy, so requests are never publicized without the recipient's permission. 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. Give Pat a call or email if you know of someone who might need a meal. 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.

Garden Group — Brett McWilliams & Carol Raynsford



For our holiday celebration, we plan to enjoy holiday decorations (14 life-size holiday displays) and outdoor designs, and have lunch at the Pottery

World Café this year. We have a special okay to have a group there for **Thursday, December 12, 11 am. We will meet** at Safeway on Neal St. at **9 am** to drive together to Pottery World on Granite Dr. in Rocklin. We should arrive around 9:45 – 10:00 am allowing us from 10 – 11 to enjoy shopping and viewing their decorations, with lunch scheduled promptly at 11 and then more shopping and/or return. Ahh the holidays...join us!

Please RSVP promptly to give #s to restaurant. Any questions to: Carol Raynsford craynsford@gmail.com or 530-273-1244 or text 530-575-6510.

Gnaw & Jaw — Deb Cubberley & Chris Boykin

November was the first of our dinners. For this dinner, the theme was favorite foreign cuisine. Our group chose Italian. You can't go wrong with that! Each of our four groups of eight will meet at least three more times to experience favorite recipes from childhood, everything barbecued, and USA regional dishes. Yum. Looking forward to it. Good people, good conversation, and good food. What more could you want? Please, if you are signed up for this group but find that you are no longer interested in attending, let us know so that those on a waiting list may take your place.



Brisk Walkers — Joan Naszady

Join us this fall as we explore the local trails, enjoying the fabulous autumn colors! We walk a gentle 3-5 miles for a couple of hours on the following new schedule, which alternates with the hiking group:



- 2nd week of the month: Monday or Friday
- 4th week: Monday or Friday

Days/times are set by walk leaders. Please email or text me if you would like to lead or join a walk. I will send an email reminder a week ahead. Joan Naszady, Group Coordinator, jnaszady@gmail.com or 707-972-6852

Hiking Group — Mary Menconi

Our November 6 destination was Woodpecker Ravine, led by Rose Tammi. This twisting trail winds along the forested slopes north of Cascade Canal. Thank you, Rose!



Our November 18 hike was on the Banner Mountain Trail, 5 miles long with about 600' of elevation change, led by Ann Frankel. Thank you, Ann!

Our December hikes will be **Wednesday, December 4,** and **Monday, December 16.**

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.

Gallavanters (newly formed)

In November, Lisa Turlo and her husband hosted a Game Day and dinner at their home. There were 14 of us and lots of choices for games, laughs and a good time. In December, we are having a dinner at Sopa Thai prior to the Off Broad Street play that is the Branch's Holiday Party. The good news is that we filled the space at Sopa Thai to capacity. Apparently our group likes to eat.

In February Deb York will lead a snowshoe. January and March are yet to be decided.

If you would like to participate, this group includes members singly or with their partners. All are welcome. We are very casual.



New Interest Group & New Members

NEW INTEREST GROUP POSSIBILITY

Spanish Group

AAUW members are invited to gather at Lisa Schliff's residence once a month to practice speaking and listening to Spanish. All levels – beginning to advanced and native speakers – are welcome. We will spend the entire time conversing in Spanish. To prompt lots of conversation, we'll play board games, have cooking lessons, sing songs, read poetry and listen to presentations volunteered by any participant. Lisa will have Google Translate available

on her laptop for expansion of vocabulary. Lisa holds a BA from UCSB in Spanish and spent her senior year in Spain. She sang in a Spanish chorus for twelve years and taught computer skills in Spanish to immigrants in Richmond, California.



Contact Lisa at onthbeamisa@gmail.com.

Suggested day and time: Mondays from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. This is subject to change depending on availability of interested members.

Membership

News of our active Branch continues to spread even when we are not meeting. We added two new members in late August/early September. **Emily Frost** is a former AAUW scholarship recipient and has come back to join us after receiving a masters in business. Living in Grass Valley, she works in transition and change management. Her hobbies are reading, community building, and making new friends. She's diving right into interest groups: Arts & Crafts and book discussions, and is also keen to get involved in our many Branch activities. **Linda Baran** has a PhD in psychology and has retired here in Grass Valley. She is interested in our Great Decisions interest group.

At the September brunch **Shirley Hall** and **Lisa Schliff** joined our membership. **Shirley** has a degree in math and has taught at Sac State University. Our Branch is intergenerational with her family as her granddaughter went to Tech Trek. She is interested in book discussions, Gnaw and Jaw, and hiking interest groups. She is also

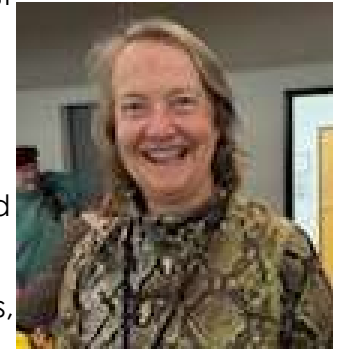


eager to help out in educational opportunities and Tech Trek. **Lisa** has a masters in English and currently teaches English as a second language part-time. She's interested in

our book discussions, Garden Group, Brisk

Walkers, and Writing interest groups as well as Local Scholarships efforts.

Lisa Lehr joined in October and knows AAUW from her mom, who was a member. She has a BA in biology and current works part-time at an animal clinic. She's interested in Arts and Crafts, Garden Group, Gnaw and Jaw, Hiking/Brisk Walking and Writing.



*Vicky Hines
Membership VP*

We welcome 2 new members this month – **Darcy Briel** and **Marilyn Yerkes**. **Darcy** studies draft and design and has settled into Grass Valley. She is interested in our Great Decisions interest group. **Marilyn** has a BA in history and chemistry from USC. Her hobbies are kayaking and hiking and she is interested in our book groups, Great Decisions, and Brisk Walkers.

A single sentence does not begin to describe any of these talented women. All seem enthusiastic and ready to "dive-in" to the wonderful opportunities we offer. I hope that each of you will take some time to introduce yourself and find out more about our new members. Remember, they will be the ones with a bee on their name tag. These new members are not in the new membership directory, but contact information for all of our members is available to members only online (available on our website with password).

See you at our holiday celebrations or our January meeting.





*November Meeting (Above)
Interest Groups (below)*

◀ *Hikers & Mostly Fiction Book Group* ▶





Gallavanters' November Game Night



The world recently lost one of our AAUW members, a wonderful woman, Beverly Moncrieff. She was intelligent, witty, gracious, understanding, engaged, always with a smile on her face and often a signature chuckle. I'd like to share a few memories with you; i.e., memories of who she was from my perspective and the perspective of others.

I don't know exactly how I met Bev. Have you ever had a friend like that? That's my friend, Bev Moncrieff. Bev and I worked at IBM in the Bay Area. She was a senior manager in the traditional side of IBM (blue suits and ties), and I had spent most of my time in the research/education side (casual dress and flex hours). Never were two environments so different; however, I ended up spending my last 5 years in the traditional side and that is where we met. We were in the same organization, but not working on the same product. We were not even in the same building. We must have had a common acquaintance. Here we were, two women who had worked our way up through the ranks in software development to become successful senior managers, and we became friends for the rest of our lives. I believe this was because of our view of management, of encouraging rather than dictating, and of "respecting the individual," which was one of IBM's early mottos.

Bev retired in 1999, a few years before I did. She and husband, Bob, moved to Grass Valley. A few years later I took early retirement. Dave and I knew we would leave the hubbub of Silicon Valley and had driven through Grass Valley several times on our way to ski. We already had a wonderful friend living there, so the decision came easily. Fast forward a few years to 2002. Bev invited me to my first AAUW meeting. She didn't tell me she was the president! Only 3 years after retiring, she was leading our AAUW Branch! She was always one to jump in with both feet. At that meeting she (and others) "badgered" me into joining. How could I not join this organization with so many intelligent women and such a great mission?

I did not realize that it was during that same year the Edi Silverman Community Service Award was created with the first award going to Edi Silverman herself. I am sure Bev played a

big part in getting that award created. Here is what Bev said about the award when asked this past year:

"When we set up the Edi Silverman Award, we were looking for a loyal member, with primary emphasis on her outstanding community contributions. Edi was absolutely the model in front of us. We felt fortunate the awardee was both a strong Branch and community leader, but not serving as a Branch officer, etc., was not a disqualifier for the award. Edi's outstanding contributions to League of Women Voters, sponsoring candidates' nights for the public, etc., were examples of how she served." Bev was there when I received this award, and I will never be more grateful.

A few days ago, I visited Stephanie Norton, who was also a close friend of Bev's, to get some insight on their friendship. They were contemporaries in our Branch as Stephanie was president in 2001, with Bev following in 2002 and 2003 (BTW, Stephanie was again president in 2009 and 2010). One of the traits these two have in common is that they were leaders in many organizations in our community. In fact, you wouldn't believe how many organizations were blessed with their involvement. I hear there were many long telephone calls between these two over the years. Wouldn't you have liked to have been a fly on the wall?

Bup Greenwood's interactions with Bev when creating the Cleo Gibson video in 2022 were memorable: "I didn't know her well, or for long, but what a spirit she had. Her piece of the video honoring Cleo a few years ago stole the show with her sparkle and her lively memories of their times together. Still sharp as a tack [the] last time we talked, and interested in the world, and the people, around her."

I am sure some of you have memories of Bev. Share them as we remember the impact she had on our Branch, our community and our lives. She is truly missed.

You can read more about Beverly Moncrieff at <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/theunion/name/beverly-moncrieff-obituary?id=56792629> —Teri Mc Connell



Beverly Moncrieff

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**
- **Owens Estate & Wealth Strategies Group**
- **Allison Rapp**
- **Sierra Tech Guy**
David Ball
- **Westamerica Bank**
Bernadette & Ed Sylvester
- **Wolf Mountain Spa**
Dan Wray



Ways and Means



Karin Quinn
Ways & Means Chair

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.

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

Thanks to **Bup Greenwood**, we will have a preview of the beautiful upcoming quilt to be raffled next year! Stay tuned.

