

The Lodestone

September 2025



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AAUW Mission

The mission of AAUW is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy. To that end, the organization encourages its members to actively participate in public discussion to ensure enlightened advocacy on the priorities of AAUW as established by members. Priorities were adopted in May 2019 and can be found on the AAUW website under AAUW Public Policy Priorities.

<https://www.aauw.org/issues/>



Welcome Back, 2025 Trekkers!
Welcome Back Brunch for All!

Saturday, September 20

9:30 AM, doors open; 10:00, program starts

**Peace Lutheran Church
828 West Main St, Grass Valley**

September marks the beginning of the AAUW year and with it the traditional Welcome Back Brunch. When the doors open at 9:30 AM, guests & members are welcomed in for brunch goodies and a chance to explore the many Interest Group displays and AAUW-branded items for sale. Interest Group leaders will be there to answer questions about their groups and perhaps excite your interest sufficiently to join one or more if you haven't already.

The program begins promptly at 10:00 AM. Among the morning's activities, we'll hear from our 2025 Tech Trek alumnae about their experience at camp at UC Davis and their takeaways as well as from others, including Nevada County camp staff. *Photo above shows 2025 NC Trekkers and NC TT staff.*



All general meetings are open to the public, so bring a friend and enjoy a morning brunch on us! (More details in the following pages.)

See you there!

A Whirlwind Few Months!

From a May Recognition Event for our new 2025 Nevada County Tech Trekkers at the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Office to a June pre-camp get-together at Lily's Garden to the July 13-19 Tech Trek camp on the UC Davis campus to an August post-camp get-together at Carole Yettick's home, it's been a busy few months for our Trekkers and Tech Trek Committee.



*Martha Rees
Tech Trek Chair*



Pre-camp get-together at Lily's Garden with TT Committee members

On Sunday, July 13th, our seven Nevada County girls (**Ophelia Cooper, Nina Corchero, Natalie Mendoza, Aspen Murano, Ainsley Paasch, Quoia Peterson, and Lyla Stidham**) moved into their dorm rooms and began their week of STEM discovery. The week was packed with core classes (Anatomy, Plant Biology, Environmental Engineering, Genetics, or Coding/Robotics), workshops, field trips, and special activities. At the September 20th AAUW meeting, you'll find out more. You can ask the Trekkers about building boats out of cardboard and duct tape to carry two across the pool; or visiting the Mondavi Center for Performing Arts, or learning to start an IV at the School of Veterinary Medicine; or meeting STEM career women, such as an anesthetist or civil engineer; or learning about solving crimes using forensics, or balancing a budget.

A sampling of Trekkers' takeaways: "I've learned so many helpful ideas of how to deal with many difficult things in life and met amazing people." "I've learned... possible side jobs I can do as I continue my journey to become a neurosurgeon." "Tech Trek has taught me that there are multiple fields of study that I could pursue. One that has piqued my interest is engineering." "Through your generous donations, I was able to participate in the most educational and inspirational camp..."



Kit Lofgren was among Professional Women's Evening (PWE) participants.



Above: Racing solar cars and robot cars.

Below: Dorm Groups created and race their cardboard/duct-tape boats.



*Professional Women's Evening (PWE):
campers and STEM career women*



*Vivian McKnight assists campers,
including Aspen, in robotics coding.*

All aboard for the coming year!

From Diane Kellebrew, Co-President

In August, the Board convened for the Branch year, and much to our advantage, we have dedicated ongoing Board members that serve, sometimes year after year, for the benefit of our Branch.

I want to give a special nod to the new Board members: **Lani Howard**, Membership Officer, who worked throughout the summer to ensure our membership stays robust; returning Co-Finance Officer, **Peg Flanders**, who now has the assistance of the capable **Karen Smith**, who has proven to be a fast learner, no small feat when talking about accounting systems. In addition, we welcome **Pamela Hertzler** as Facilities/Hospitality Chair. Pamela's upbeat energy and capacity to organize, has been put to use immediately. **Karen Hull** returns to the Board as the Program VP. Karen has a knack for assembling intriguing Branch programs to include topics on the judiciary and our local forests. Not new, but certainly newish, we welcome **Lisa Turlo** as the Local Scholarship Chair. Lisa assumed this role in the spring of 2025, so she begins her first full year. Likewise, **JoAnn Shilling** assumes her first full year in the role of AAUW Fund Chair. JoAnn and Lisa initially participated as part of a committee, eventually moving into leadership roles on the Board. Teams and committees, while sharing the work, also develop a skilled 'bench' for future leadership.

Branch teams and committees are fast at work. The Public Policy team follows the state and national news to keep us informed on issues related to our

mission. The Programs team has planned intriguing mission-based Saturday general meeting programs (see article below). The Branch Communications team continues to diligently get the word out about our work. Meanwhile, the Interest Group Coordinators (no Board meetings required) met this summer to fine tune how we support member participation in these fun, vital groups.

Individuals also significantly contribute such as Database/Directory maintainer/producer **Bonnie White** (past several years) and now, **Emily Frost**, diligently working this summer to ensure your directory is ready at our first general meeting.

Jennifer Wilkerson has assumed responsibility for procuring Program Sponsors that support our monthly general meetings. **Nancy Jeffery** and others proofread the *Lodestone*, and Nancy also helps with event planning, and pitches in when needed. **Susie Monary-Wilson**, ever ready, generously and regularly offers her home to hold Branch events.

In the limited space allotted, I can mention only a few, but there are many more to thank; please know that your volunteer endeavors are valued and appreciated. As part of the September 'Welcome Back Brunch' we will have a 'help wanted' sign-up board. If you have time or talent to share, let us know. You will find a group of dedicated women as your volunteer partners. Come join us!



Diane Kellebrew
Co-President



Carol McMillan
Co-President

Sneak Peek at the Year's Programs



Karen Hull
Program VP

September 20 – Welcome Back Brunch: Spotlight on Tech Trek and our Tech Trekkers. Learn how and why AAUW is encouraging girls to engage in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

October 18 – Local Scholarship recipients share their stories. Come learn about the significant

differences your donations make possible.

November 15 – Forest Health: A panel of local experts will update us on the health status of our forests.

December – Holiday parties within interest groups and perhaps a holiday gathering. Stay tuned.

January 17 – Judge Jane York Punneo, Branch member, along with other local women judges, will discuss how the judiciary works and discuss issues judges face in these difficult times.

February 21 – A report card on education in and around our county. A panel of prominent educators

and leaders will update us.

March 21 "It's All About Quiz-in": This scholarship fundraiser will be described in the coming months. Please keep the date open and volunteer if you are so inclined; we need you!

April 18 – The Director of Partners in English Language Learning (PIELL), a highly regarded local tutoring group, will fill us in on how their volunteers are making a difference to those striving to become proficient in English for a variety of reasons.

May 6 – Installation Luncheon at Lake Wildwood Country Club (Lake Wildwood photo). If you attended last year, you know this venue and the cuisine are outstanding. Please join in!



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Co-Presidents	Carol McMillan & Diane Kellegrew
Secretary	Ann Gould
Finance Officers	Peg Flanders & Karen Smith
Programs	Karen Hull
Membership	Lani Howard
AAUW Fund	Jo Ann Schilling

APPOINTED OFFICERS

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

STANDING COMMITTEES (NON-BOARD FUNCTIONS)

<i>Lodestone</i>	CeCe Royal
Branch Website	CeCe Royal
Directory & Database	Emily Frost
Facilities & Hospitality	Pamela Hertzler
Interest Groups	Sue Van Son
Gracious Helpers/ Friendship	Pat Pedersen
Historian	Shirley Zeff
Fund & Development	Open
Photography	Sue Miller
	Martha Rees
	Bernadette Sylvester

Proposed Branch Budget for 2025-26

At the September Brunch, members will be asked to approve the coming year's Budget, as summarized below.

	ACTUAL FYE 6/30/25	BUDGET FYE 6/30/2026	Increase (Decrease)
REVENUES			
Local dues & member support	2,900	2,900	
Program Sponsors & Donations	3,600	2,600	(1,000)
Ways & Means	1,700	600	(1,000)
Total Operating Revenue	8,200	6,100	(2,100)
EXPENDITURES			
Programs	4,400	4,000	(400)
Operational Expenditures	1,800	2,700	900
Member Events	700	1,100	400
Total Operating Expenditures	6,900	7,800	900
REVENUE OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	1,300	(1,700)	(3,000)



*Peg Flanders
Finance Co-VP*



*Karen Smith
Finance Co-VP*

Branch Operations does not include fund raising for Local Scholarships, Tech Trek or AAUW Funds. Amounts are rounded to the nearest hundred.

STEAM Fair

Thirty middle-school girls spent Saturday, May 17th at the Bright Ideas STEAM Fair, co-sponsored by AAUW Nevada County and Bright Futures for Youth (BFFY). The free event was the result of a national AAUW community grant to work together to infuse science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) into BFFY's Friendship Club. Open to the public, all 2025 Tech Trek nominees plus eligible Tech Trek alums were invited, and older alums plus AAUW members and local teachers volunteered to help out.

The day included engaging workshops in coding, anatomy, and math (Code It, Shape It, Print It; Bones in Motion: What a Chicken Wing Can Teach a Doctor; Pop-Up Shop Show) and opportunities to meet women in STEAM-related careers, including AAUW members **Laurie Segal** (engineer) and **Valarie Bush** (pilot). Surveys showed very positive reviews of the day: 100% of participants reported they learned something new with the majority (67%) marking "a lot" or "very much."



Laurie Segal describes her career as an engineer.



Valarie Bush shares her career path to jet engineering.



Vivan McKnight coaches girls in a coding workshop (above & right).



Rio Kane



Rio Kane

Rio is in her senior year at Point Loma Nazarene College. She plans to stay in San Diego after graduation. Her major is Poly Sci, with a minor in Criminal Justice. She isn't sure what she wants to do after graduation,

but she is leaning towards something in criminal justice. Her professors want her to be a lawyer, but she wants something more humanitarian. Her internship next year might lead to an answer.

She is grateful for her CLEO scholarship from AAUW and says that it allowed her to stay in school!



*Lisa Turlo
Local Scholarship Chair*

Maya De Hoyos

By Bonnie Curtis

Maya De Hoyos is well deserving of the CLEO scholarship she is receiving from our Nevada County Branch, AAUW. In person, though initially reserved, she then exudes an abundance of warmth and lively, insightful communication.

Maya reports: "My first year at Chico State was full of new adventures and challenges. Navigating a new world has been exciting and confusing, but with the help of my advisors, friends, family, and my liaison, I

had a great experience. In the fall, I am excited to be working with the California Faculty Association and Students for Quality Education.



Maya De Hoyos

Aria Conte

By Lisa Turlo

Aria Conte is proud of her first year at UCLA where she earned a 4.0. She is taking four online classes this summer to keep costs down. While she missed her family a lot, she did not find the academic courses too challenging, with the exception of the quarter system, which moves too fast. Aria was able to access extra help through the Peer Learning Facilitator, because of her Argentinian heritage.

This year, she will take Organic Chemistry and Labor Studies. She hopes to get hired as a Grader during the school year.



Aria Conte

Interest Groups are a great way to connect and build relationships. To learn more about any group, click the group name to open the AAUW Nevada County website page. You can also find the coordinator's

contact information in the AAUW Membership Directory or contact:
Sue Van Son sue@vansoninc.com. ▶



Group	Day & Time	Activity
Arts & Crafts - Teri McConnell	1 st Thurs, 10:00 am	Beaded Bracelets (<i>see IG photos p. 8.</i>) Oct: Mini Succulent Garden
Books: Evening - Cathy Kalt	4 th Wed, 6:00-8:00 pm	<i>Vacancy in Room 10</i> by Serephina Nova Glass
Books: Mostly Fiction - Robin Laverty-Reves	2 nd Thurs, 1:00 pm	<i>End of Drum Time</i> by Hanna Pylvainen
Books: Non-Fiction - Peg Flanders	3 rd Tues, 1:00 pm	<i>Invisible Women</i> by Caroline Criado Perez
Garden Group - Brett McWilliams & Carol Raynsford	4 th Thurs, 10-Noon	Plant Exchange
Gallivanter s - Deb Cubberley	(1) Wed, Sept 10 (2) Wed, Sept 17	(1) Horseback Ride (2) Kayak/Canoe Paddle
Gracious Helpers - Pat Pedersen	As needed	Meals, Notes of encouragement
Great Decisions - Susie Monary-Wilson	4 th Tues	Resumes in January
Hiking - Mary Menconi	1 st Wed, 3 rd Mon	Malakoff Diggins Scotts Flat Lake Trail
Writing - Lisa Turlo	2 nd Mon, 10:00 am 3 rd Mon, 2:00 pm	Write-in Critique Writing

September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 Arts & Crafts 10:00 am	5	6
7	8 Writing Group 10-Noon	9	10 Hiking Gallivanter s	11 Mostly Fiction Book Group 1:00-3:00 pm	12	13
14	15 Hiking Writing Group 2:00-4:00 pm	16 Nonfiction Book Group 1:00-2:30 pm	17 Gallivanter s	18	19	20 Welcome Back , 9:30-11:30 am
21	22	23 Great Decisions No meeting until January	24 Evening Book Group 6-8 pm	25 Gardening Group 10-Noon	26	27
28	29	30				



Hikers



Sept: Beaded bracelets



Oct: Succulent garden



September & October
Arts & Crafts Projects

- Bodacious Blooms Flower Farm
Karen Hull
- Cassiopeia Skinspace
- KNCO News Talk 830
- Kimberly "Pepper" Pepe, Keller Williams Realty
- Owens Estate & Wealth Strategies Group
- Ponderosa Physical Therapy
- Allison Rapp
- Sierra Tech Guy
David Ball
- Vital Health
- Westamerica Bank
Bernadette & Ed Sylvester
- Kim White, Attorney at Law

