

The Lodestone

October 2025



Saturday, October 18

Doors open: 9:30 AM

Peace Lutheran Church, 828 West Main, Grass Valley

Where are they now?

The **Local Scholarship** Committee raises money for scholarships each year through a variety of methods, from fundraising events to letter writing campaigns to direct asks. Why do we spend so much time and energy on this endeavor? The October 2025 Program will answer that question by providing background and explanation about the way our Branch facilitates many aspects of this program.

The October program is

mainly about our scholarship recipients. We have invited ten (pictured below) to talk about the scholarship's impact on their lives and the support that AAUW has provided.

Higher education is a journey and often a long road. So we have included women who are just starting out, women who have re-entered the educational arena after a gap, as well as women who are working in their careers. We even have a recipient who is retired!

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AAUW advances gender equity through education, economic security, and civil rights. See National's 2025 Strategic Plan: [2025 AAUW Strategic Plan – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](#)



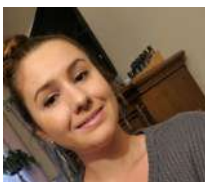
Sidney Pixley



Aneka Torgrimson



Laura Murphy



Taylor Mitchell



Ashley Andes-McCullough



Tori Newman



Katie McCannor



Becca Shultz



Hillary Hodge



Emily Frost

Grateful thanks to our program sponsor:

Cassiopeia Skinspace.

(See [next page](#) for more on each of the above recipients.)

Happy Halloween



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

APPOINTED OFFICERS

AAUW Fund	Jo Ann Schilling
Communications	Katherine "Bup" Greenwood
Facilities/Hospitality	Pamela Hertzler
Fund Development	Carol McMillan
Governance	Open
Interest Groups	Sue Van Son
Local Scholarship	Lisa Turlo
Lodestone	Cece Royal

Public Policy
Publicity
Tech Trek
Website

Melanie Heckel & Carolyn Feuille
Martha Rees
Martha Rees
Cece Royal

STANDING COMMITTEES (NON-BOARD FUNCTIONS)

Directory & Database	Emily Frost
Event Coordinator	Nancy Jeffery
Historian	Shirley Zeff
Photography	Sue Miller
	Martha Rees
	Bernadette Sylvester
Sponsorship Coord.	Jennifer Wilkerson
Ways and Means	Karin Quinn

Continued from front page....

Ten Scholarship Recipients Now

You will hear from each participant, and then have an opportunity to speak to several. They all have remarkable stories.

- **Sidney Pixley**
2024-5 STEM
CSU East Bay Student
- **Aneka Torgimson**
2022-25 CLEO
UC Davis Student
- **Laura Murphy**
2025-26, Re-Entry
Sierra College Student
- **Taylor Mitchell**
2021,23, 24 Re-Entry
Sierra College Student
- **Ashley Andes-McCullough**
2020 STEM
Livestock and Horticulture Manager
- **Tori Newman**
2015 STEM
High School Teacher
- **Katie McCannon**
2019 Re-Entry
Program Director Climate Change Non-Profit
- **Hillary Hodge**
2007 Scholarship
Mayor of Grass Valley
- **Emily Frost**
2007 Scholarship
Business Strategy/Org. Change
- **Becca Shultz**
1976-77 AAUW Fund Scholarship

Trivia Night | Bake-Off

Scholarship Fundraiser

Join us for an engaging evening featuring both a trivia quiz competition and a bake-off contest promising a delightful combination of culinary treats and stimulating challenges.

Saturday, March 21, 2026
4:00 PM to 7:00 PM

More to come....



Angela Martinez

by Joan Naszady

Angela Martinez is a sophomore at Sierra College, studying chemistry, physics, and Spanish. Her summer break included hiking on Catalina Island and two backpacking trips as a volunteer counselor with Youth for Christ. While she juggles classes, work at a coffee shop, and volunteering, Angela is adjusting to a shifting support system as friends disperse. She excels at connecting with people, and continues to give and

receive support. Her goals include transferring to UCSB to study Biology. Angela is also a talented artist, creating a portfolio of work for scientific illustration. The future looks bright for this talented young woman!



Julia Katz

by Nancy Jeffery

After a vibrant first year of university, I am excited to embark upon my sophomore year at UCSB this fall. I arrived in Santa Barbara as a history major with hopes to enter the field of investigative journalism.



Though with time, my courses exposed me to a myriad of dynamic studies that spurred new curiosities. While history continues to center my academic engagements, courses in sociology and ethnic studies have deepened my interest in historical policy issues. I am now majoring in History of Public Policy and Law, eager to explore the department's varied avenues of academic and professional pursuits.

Faith Krason

by Barbara Tagg

I am a freshman currently attending Sierra College. I am majoring in nutrition and hope to transfer to a four-year university after two years at Sierra College. After school, I find myself babysitting, hanging out with friends and family, working at The Oaks Clubhouse, and

enjoying the beautiful hikes around our county! I am enjoying my classes and can't wait to see what is in store for the rest of the year!



Laura Murphy

by Wendy Wilkinson

Laura is a confident woman with a goal of becoming a veterinarian. Laura's current Sierra College courses include Chemistry 1A, Intro to Ag, and Intro to Animal Science. Laura is the mother of a son (7th grade) and participates as



assistant coach of his track and field team.

Laura is President of Environmentally Concerned Organization of Students (ECOS), promoting both the student body and community awareness of environmental issues and solutions. Laura harvests and delivers the produce from the EOS garden to the student Food Bank. Laura is VP of the Associated Students, offering office hours to support other students in their journey.

Can We Stay Neutral?

As we kick off the new year, many new challenges present themselves to setting our priorities and furthering our mission.

This November, Californians will be asked to vote on Prop. 50, which would approve drawing new district boundaries for future elections (notably those in 2026 & 2028), until maps are redrawn in 2030.

Non-partisan organizations, like the League of Women Voters and Common Cause, have *normally* argued against any type of gerrymandering; these organizations have supported leaving district line redraws up to California's independent commission, established for that purpose. However, these are not normal times, given the current threats to our democracy. Thus, both organizations have declined to take a position on Prop. 50.

AAUW is also avoiding a clear position on Prop. 50, but wishes to inform voters about what is at stake in this election. That information is put forth in the article following this and is written by the AAUW-CA Public Policy Committee. We encourage you all to vote and hope you find the article helpful in your decision-making about this issue.



OTHER CALIFORNIA NEWS

Two of AAUW-CA's top bills reached the Governor's desk. They were part of our Lobby Day focus, and **Lisa Schliff** and I were able to recommend them to California legislators. Two others reached the Governor's desk that are worthy of note, including one that would have positive impacts for women and children in our general area, and was co-authored by our own Senator Megan Dahle. Here are all the noteworthy bills:

1. **AB 771** was sponsored by AAUW-CA and authored by Senator Henry Stern. It clarifies that a social media platform may be liable for civil penalty under existing law if and when its algorithms or AI aid and abet individual users who are engaging in already unlawful intimidation of others in online spaces.

2. **AB 418** is strongly supported by AAUW-CA and authored by Senator Caroline Menjivar. It would prohibit a health plan or a health insurance provider from denying coverage or denying benefits to a person based upon their race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex – including sex characteristics such as intersex traits, pregnancy, and gender identity.



Melanie Heckel
Public Policy Co-Chair

3. **AB 260** would allow health care providers to mail abortion pills to patients in other states without listing the patient's or prescriber's names on the package. The bill aims to shield providers who mail the pills to states with abortion bans from legal action and to protect patients from potential identification and repercussions.

4. **SB 669**, co-authored by Senators Megan Dahle (R) and Mike McGuire (D), would create a pilot program for up to five critical-access rural hospitals, developed by Plumas District Hospital to fulfill its

commitment to provide maternity care, by allowing hospitals to staff labor-and-delivery services on a "standby" basis, with medical teams available within 30 minutes, instead of 24/7. Round-the-clock staffing has proved impossible to sustain in many rural communities, leaving pregnant women no local option for delivery at all. Traveling long distances is itself dangerous to women and their babies.

Breaking news: Governor Newsom on September 26 signed **AB 260**. In addition, aside from those mentioned above, he signed other bills protecting a woman's right to privacy and access to contraceptive care: AB1525, AB 45, and AB 50. He still has until October 12 to sign all the rest mentioned above. Let's keep our fingers crossed!

STAY STRONG, STAY POSITIVE, AND STAY COMMITTED TO WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY!!!

Prop 50: What to know

This year, AAUW California will focus on "Get Out the Vote" (GOTV) for the special election on November 4, 2025. Our [AAUW CA Public Policy committee's] focus will be on providing information about and emphasizing the positive impacts of [Proposition 50](#). Please note that we are NOT making a formal recommendation or endorsement. Rather, as a trusted resource, we are providing non-partisan and information-centric information with focus on:

- California impacts
- AAUW California Public Policy Priorities
- Combating misinformation
- The importance of saving democracy for Californians

We have two resources to get you started:

1. Newsletter article "Investing in Our Democratic Future: Non-Partisan Voter

Education Around Proposition 50 in California" - [AAUW CA Prop 50 NL Article.docx - Google Docs](#)

2. Messaging Guide to follow for postcards and campaigns - [AAUW CA-Prop 50 Messaging Guide - Google Docs](#)

Please feel free to start using these resources immediately. Share them with your branch members, and with your wider (non-AAUW) network. More strategies and materials, including press releases, social media materials, and more, will be coming soon - stay tuned.

Thank you for all you do.

Amy Hom and Missy Maceyko

Co-chairs, AAUW California Public Policy Committee, publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org

Cc: AAUW California Public Policy Committee and AAUW California Leadership Team

An Online Directory with Photos?

Can you help us get there?

If you attended the September meeting, you received your Membership Directory. If you were not at the meeting, you should receive it in the mail.

Emily Frost produced the Membership Directory, and she also came up with a method by which we might include member photos in our online roster.

The "Directory Ask" insert (pictured below

next to the Membership Directory) requests that you use the **QR code printed on it** to access the AAUW Nevada County Directory - Photo Submission form and submit a photo of yourself that we can include online.

Just open your smart phone camera and zero in on the QR code []. Tap the bar that appears with your finger, which will access the website screen shown below.

PS: be sure to have a photo of yourself in your photo library ready to submit. Thank you!



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	Oct: Mini Succulent Garden Nov: Reindeer Ornament/Gift Tag
Books: Evening - Cathy Kalt	4 th Wed, 6:00-8:00 pm	<i>The Secret War of Julia Childs</i> by Diana R. Chambers
Books: Mostly Fiction - Robin Laverty-Reves	2 nd Thurs, 1:00 pm	<i>Fire in the Springs</i> by Lisa Schliff
Books: Non-Fiction - Peg Flanders	3 rd Tues, 1:00 pm	<i>Prisoners of Geography</i> by Tim Marshall
Gallivanter s - Deb Cubberley	Sunday, Oct 5, 2-4 pm	Off Broad Street's "Dracula"
Gardening - Brett McWilliams & Carol Raynsford	4 th Thurs, 10-Noon	23-Native Plant talk/care/sale 30-Pumpkin/Succulent decor
Gracious Helpers - Pat Pedersen	As needed	Meals, notes of encouragement
Great Decisions - Susie Monary-Wilson	4 th Tues	No meeting: resumes in January
Hiking - Mary Menconi	1 st Wed, 3 rd Mon	TBD TBD
Writing - Lisa Turlo	2 nd Mon, 10:00 am 3 rd Mon, 2:00 pm	Write-in Critique Writing

October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 Hiking	2 Arts & Crafts 10:00 am	3	4
5 Gallivanter s 2 pm: Off Broad Street	6	7	8	9 Books: Mostly Fiction 1:00-3:00 pm	10	11
12	13 Writing 10-Noon	14	15	16	17	18 General Meeting 9:30-11:30 am
19	20 Hiking Writing 2:00-4:00 pm	21 Books: Nonfiction 1:00-2:30 pm	22 Books: Evening 6-8 pm	23 Gardening 10-Noon	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	





Oct

Arts & Crafts Projects

Oct: succulent garden

Nov: cork reindeer



Nov

(below) Hikers at
Malakoff Diggins



◀(left) Gardening meeting

(below) Gallivanter's
kayaking on Fuller Lake



The Year's Start

The Nevada County AAUW year is off to a lively start with its first general meeting, featuring a brunch and a program packed with information about the Branch, announcements of the previous year's Named Gift Honorees who were absent from the May luncheon (**Kit Lofgren, Lisbeth Noel, & Bup Greenwood**), now recognized with those honored in May (**Brett McWilliams, Carol Raynsford, and Rose Tammi**), and, of course, presentations from our charming and amazing Tech Trekkers.

Well attended, with just about every seat taken, the meeting highlighted the Trekkers, recounting their days at camp: what they did, what they learned, and their take-aways on reflection. **Ava Johnson** edited and produced a [VIDEO](#) of the girls engaged in activities and workshops during the July week they became residents on the UC Davis campus. Certainly, for each Tech Trek participant, an unforgettable experience.

Attendees were encouraged between a break in the program's first and second segments to wander the room and collect raffle tickets from tables that displayed information about the Branch's many areas of interest and its mission. Five winners received one of the various prizes: Onyx Theatre tickets, Flour Garden gift certificate, or Blue Diamond almonds.

So after a summer hiatus, we are launched and now look forward to a full year of programs, opportunities to meet others, engage in Interest Group activities, volunteer, serve our community, and stay connected!



Program Sponsors



These businesses and individuals have generously donated toward the support of our Branch as individual underwriters. More information can be found about each by clicking its name. Please patronize them and thank them for their support!

- **Cassiopeia Skinspace**
OCTOBER PROGRAM SPONSOR
- **Bodacious Blooms Flower Farm**
Karen Hull
- **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**

Ways & Means — Karin Quinn



Karin Quinn
Ways & Means

A new season has begun, with our first meeting of both long-time and new members in September. It was fun seeing members and guests stopping by the Ways and Means table for both a 'look see' and sometimes a purchase or two that could include a colorful hat for the sun, sand and treks. A new T-shirt, in one's favorite color and style, for easy wear and a little AAUW advertising to boot. A daypack to complete the outfit. And a sharp looking and functional apron if you just wanna stay home and master the art of cooking. Hats of many colors, too! (see photo)

Yes, Ways and Means has 'The Look', including some beautiful new native wildflower design tote bags (generously donated) for only \$5.00.

Please check out your Branch's merchandise at our general meetings, or contact me. Remember that all net proceeds from sales help support our Branch operating expenses, ranging from monthly meeting room rentals to supplies to advertising and more.

Enjoy the transition to autumn and hope to see you all at our October general meeting!



Lynn Forbes models an AAUW-NC-branded baseball cap in stylish gold.