

# The Lodestone

November 2025



**Saturday, Nov. 15**

**Doors open: 9:30**

Peace Lutheran Church  
828 West Main, Grass Valley

## Protecting Forest Health

**Our Connected Landscape:  
How water, forests, climate and  
people intersect**

Forest health and reliable water are critical concerns for people living in Nevada County. As climate change continues to reshape our environment, what will it mean for our forests, the quality of our water, and the future of our local communities? What steps can we take — both here at home and across the region — to adapt and build resilience?

In our November program, we're excited to welcome **Dr. Aaron Zettler-Mann**, Executive Director of the South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL). A passionate and engaging speaker, Aaron brings deep experience in watershed science and will help us explore how our region can prepare for the changes ahead.



*Dr. Zettler-Mann*

Aaron's talk will connect the dots between our forests, water systems, air, and living ecosystems — showing how these four natural "spheres" are deeply interconnected. He'll discuss how healthier forests lead to cleaner water and stronger, more resilient communities.

Some of the big questions he'll tackle include:

- Why does restoring mountain meadows affect farms miles away?
- What exactly is a watershed — and why does it matter?
- What do we mean by "nature-based solutions" to climate challenges?
- Why is climate change so unpredictable?
- And what can economics teach us about the government's role in protecting our environment?

This program is for anyone who wants to better understand the big picture — and learn how we can all play a part in shaping a sustainable future for Nevada County. Please join us and bring friends & family!

*Many thanks to our program sponsors, KNCO - Nevada County's First Choice For News & Sports, and to Westamerica Bank.*



## In this issue

[Board & Com Chairs](#)

[New Members](#)

[Local Scholarship Recipient](#)

[Updates](#)

[October Program Recap](#)

[October Meeting Photos](#)

[Interest Groups' Schedule](#)

[Calendar](#)

[Interest Group Photos](#)

[Branch Support](#)

*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](#)*



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

## APPOINTED OFFICERS

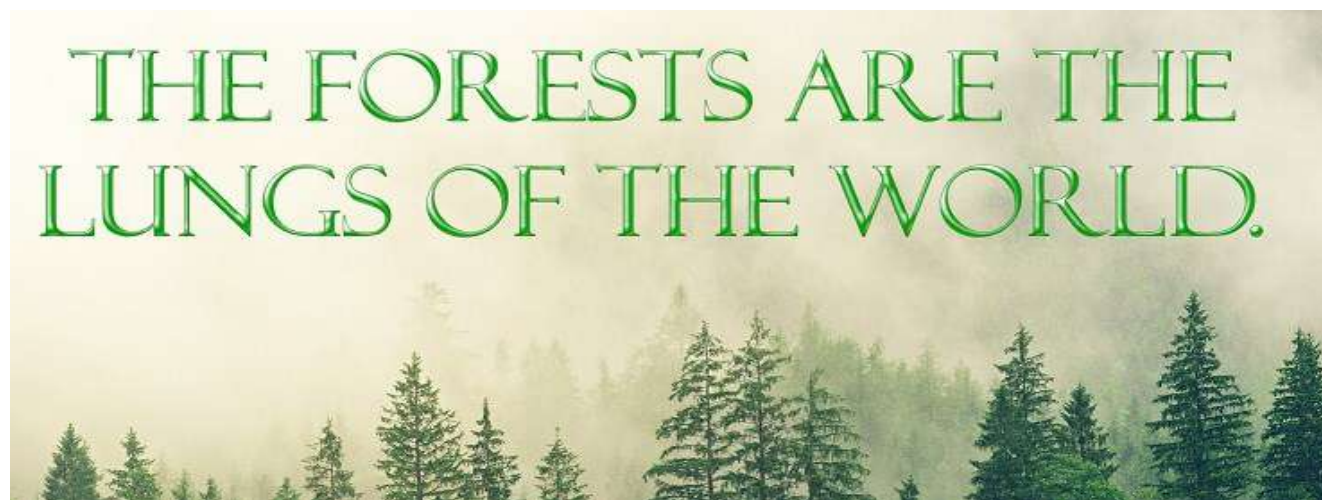
AAUW Fund	Jo Ann Schilling
Communications	Katherine "Bup" Greenwood
Facilities/Hospitality	Pamela Hertzler
Fund Development	Carol McMillan
Governance	Open
Interest Groups	Sue Van Son
Local Scholarship	Lisa Turlo

*Lodestone*  
Public Policy  
Publicity  
Tech Trek  
Website

Cece Royal  
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



## New Members

I am happy to report that we have four new members who joined between May and early October.

**Loretta Miller**, our first new member, joined in May. Loretta has a BA in History from UC Davis. She retired from a private equity management firm. She enjoys cooking and kayaking and is still thinking about which of our interest groups might be calling to her.

**MaryAnne Dulmage** joined at our last meeting. After retiring from her own ballet school in the Bay Area, she is now teaching ballet here in Nevada County. She is interested in all the book discussions and Great Decisions.

**Joyce Elliott** also joined at our last monthly meeting. She has a degree in Business Administration from Chico State University and a Law Degree from the University of San Francisco. She retired from her family law practice and now enjoys tennis, cycling and

hiking. She is interested in the mostly fiction and non-fiction book discussions, the Gallivanter, and the hiking group. She is also interested in several Branch help opportunities including legal advocacy and public policy.

**Page Brown** just joined us this month. She has a PhD in clinical psychology. She is still working part-time as a psychologist, primarily focused on treatment of combat veterans and forensic psychology. She enjoys jigsaw puzzles and reading. She is interested in non-fiction book discussion, Great Decisions, and Tech Trek.

Please welcome all these new members!



*Lani Howard*  
Membership Officer



## Meyah Rommelfanger

By Lisa Turlo

Meyah graduated from Bear River HS with seven AP credits under her belt. She will be leaving her family behind, but she also leaves behind the year-old guide dog that she has raised and trained since he was an eight-week-old puppy. He's ready to go to more intensive guide dog training.

Meyah is studying Biology at UC Santa Cruz. She would like to return to UC Davis to complete the Physician's Assistant program upon graduation. To enter that program, she needs 2,000 hours of patient care, so she will try to work part time.



## Hannah Bybee-Pelteur

by Franny Erickson



Hannah is starting her junior year at Sacramento State. Her long-term goal is to get a master's in library science. Her undergraduate major is Business, and she wants to add a minor in English Literature.

She is balancing six courses as well as continuing to work as a tutor. Her grades remain A's and B's. She says she has found a way to balance classes with work, which is also a significant commitment. She has been tutoring for a year and a half.

She describes her life as steady and peaceful. She has come a long way from a shy, quiet young lady we met many months ago. She is really glowing now.

## Blanca Mirada

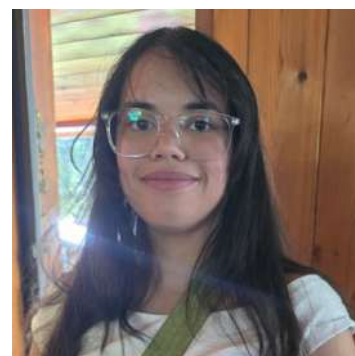
by Allison Rapp

It has been an honor to be granted the AAUW returning women's scholarship. This accomplishment has motivated me even more to accomplish my goals as a parent and full-time student.

This semester, I am taking a full course load with five classes: Human Anatomy and Physiology, Human Development, English, Critical Thinking, and Psychology. I enjoy

these courses, as I am one step closer to graduating with all my credentials.

I will be transferring to Sacramento State University for the Communication Science and Disorders program in fall 2026, with plans to work in Audiology.



## Sid Pixley

by Franny Erickson



In my second year of college I took on a job with housing, planning events for residents as president of the Residence Hall Association. I handle concerns and complaints as well as

suggestions residents may have.

I have also begun a research project that explores the relationship between college students' diets and their academic performance, physical health, and mental health.

I am currently in the middle of the nursing application and studying hard for the entrance exam. I also recently finished all my midterms and ended with straight A's!

## October's program focused on Local Scholarship & preview of the 2026 fundraiser/event

If you were at the October Branch meeting, you saw an amazing program featuring eight of the above ten women (Sidney Pixley, Aneka Torgrimson, Laura Murphy, Ashley Andes-McCullough, Tori Newman, Becca Schultz, Hillary Hodge and Emily Frost) who have received scholarships and fellowships from AAUW. What a wonderful demonstration of the impact these gifts make. Now it's time to think about building the funds for next year's grants.

Also at the Branch Meeting, a humorous skit introduced our planned spring (March 2026) fundraiser, Quiz-ine.



*Sidney Pixley*



*Aneka Torgrimson*



*Laura Murphy*



*Taylor Mitchell*



*Ashley Andes-McCullough*



*Tori Newman*



*Katie McCannon*



*Becca Schultz*



*Hillary Hodge*



*Emily Frost*



*President Carol McMillan,  
Cece Royal, & Event Planner  
Nancy Jeffery*

This delightful evening will feature a bake-off and a trivia contest.

A silent auction will provide the opportunity to purchase services, like the delivery of cord of wood, a massage, a weekend stay in a

lovely location or an event like a festive dinner or house concert.

A great team has already been formed to start working on plans, but more help is needed, as well as the contribution of auction items.

Get on board now! Email Nancy Jeffery ([najeffery@gmail.com](mailto:najeffery@gmail.com)) or Carol McMillan ([mcmillancar@cs.com](mailto:mcmillancar@cs.com)) if you want to volunteer, have an item for the auction or other suggestions.







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](mailto:sue@vansoninc.com).



Group	Day & Time	Activity
<a href="#">Arts &amp; Crafts</a> - Teri McConnell	1 <sup>st</sup> Thurs, 10:00 am	<a href="#">Nov: Reindeer Ornament/Gift Tag</a> <a href="#">Click here for photos</a>
<a href="#">Books: Evening</a> - Cathy Kalt	4 <sup>th</sup> Wed, 6:00-8:00 pm	No meeting, resumes in February
<a href="#">Books: Mostly Fiction</a> - Robin Laverly-Reves	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thurs, 1:00 pm	<i>Orbital</i> by Samantha Harvey
<a href="#">Books: Non-Fiction</a> - Peg Flanders	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues, 1:00 pm	<i>Who is Government?</i> by Michael Lewis
<a href="#">Gallivanter</a> s - Deb Cubberley contact: Rose Tammi	Monday, Nov 17, 4-7 pm	Games & dinner at the Wild Eye Pub
<a href="#">Gardening</a> - Brett McWilliams & Carol Raynsford	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs, 10-Noon	Wreath making
<a href="#">Gracious Helpers</a> - Pat Pedersen	As needed	Meals, notes of encouragement
<a href="#">Great Decisions</a> - Susie Monary-Wilson	4 <sup>th</sup> Tues	No meeting: resumes in January. New workbooks ordered in late Oct.
<a href="#">Hiking</a> - Mary Menconi	1 <sup>st</sup> Wed, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon	TBD Empire Mine
<a href="#">Writing</a> - Lisa Turlo	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon, 10:00 am 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon, 2:00 pm	Write-in Critique Writing

## November 2025

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





◀ *Arts & Crafts:  
November projects, holiday reindeer*



*Gallivanterers (above)  
Hikers (left)  
Gardeners (below)  
Mostly Fiction (below left)*





## 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!

*We especially thank our November program sponsors: KNCO News Talk 830 and Westamerica Bank (Bernadette & Ed Sylvester)*

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