

Branching Out

auburn-ca.aauw.net

Editor—Debra Sabo



LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

December 2021

In This Issue

- Happy Birthday
- In Memory
- International Dinner
- Important Dates
- Scholarships
- Women In Leadership
- Welcome our New Member
- Planning Trivia Bee
- Public Policy
- Website & Quote of the Month
- Community Action
- Section News
- Board Minutes
- Donation Form
- Membership Form

ADVANCING
EQUITY FOR WOMEN
AND GIRLS THROUGH
ADVOCACY,
EDUCATION AND
RESEARCH

In a recent Board to Board communication from AAUW California, they note that AAUW is 140 years old, and AAUW California is 100 years old. The Auburn Branch was organized in 1948 and chartered in 1949 - our Branch will be 73 in 2022.

In 1949, the Auburn Branch established a fifty-dollar annual grant-in-aid to a freshman girl attending Placer College. (Placer College was the precursor to Sierra College.) We continue the tradition today. Our scholarships have grown from one \$50 scholarship to up to eight freshmen, two transfer, and one re-entry. The \$50 has grown to \$1,000 each.

I can't think of a better way to advance women's qualifications and leadership skills.

Applications are now being solicited for fall 2022. Information is posted on our website at <https://auburn-ca.aauw.net/scholarships/> You can contribute to our scholarship tradition by donating on the same page.

Wishing you Happy Holidays – and a wonderful 2022.

Sandra Niemi Scott



GET THE WORD OUT TO SOMEONE YOU KNOW

Applications Open for 2022-23 Fellows and Grantees

We're pleased to announce that the application period for AAUW Fellowships and Grants is open for the 2022-23 academic year. Follow in the footsteps of award-winning authors, scientists, scholars and trailblazers by applying for educational funding through AAUW. Deadlines run from November to December 2021.

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/fellowships-grants/>

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MEMBERS FOR DECEMBER

**Norma Sexton
Meredith Bruck
Artella Hughes**

**Carol Hachmeister
Linda Yaffe
Joanna Kutzman**



IN MEMORY OF KAREN FLEMMING

Karen Flemming was a beloved member of Auburn AAUW. She fought cancer the last few years and passed away in November. She was surrounded by her 3 children Eliese, Kristen and Greg Rulifson.

Karen was our Auburn AAUW treasurer for several years. She turned that job over to me in 2017 and she was so helpful in getting me up to speed. I called her many times for her help and opinion.

I met Karen while training to do taxes for AARP Senior Citizens. We immediately became fast friends. I always tried to work on the same day she did when doing taxes. Karen introduced me to AAUW and the hiking group.

She loved to travel. We traveled to South England together for 2 weeks in 2019. I have very fond memories of our trip and long chats while on the bus. I remember standing with her at Stonehenge in the early morning before the crowds arrived.



For me, she was that friend I meet in later life whom I should have met much earlier in life. We discovered all the ways our lives crossed and paralleled. She was a Financial Advisor and friend to my close cousin. She traveled with them on a trip to the Basque Country of Spain. We both owned the same Timeshare in Tahoe and were



likely there at the same time over the 25 years. We both did a lot of sewing and we think she bought a sewing machine from me back in the 1970s (so we had met after all).

I saw Karen several times when she came to my home during COVID for lunch. We sat outside at a distance and enjoyed the food and weather. She was in good spirits and living life to her fullest.

Karen will be missed by her family and friends. Her family thought that she would appreciate a donation in her name to our Scholarship fund, which Karen always supported. You can make donations on-line or send a check to the Auburn AAUW PO box.

Debra Sabo



**INTERNATIONAL DINNER
JANUARY 2022
STARTS AT 5PM—DINNER AT 6PM**

Join us for our yearly International Dinner in January 2022. We are confirming the date and place and will post that info in the January Newsletter and on the WEB site.

RSVP is not necessary, but will be appreciated so we know how many places to set. RSVP to auburnaauw@gmail.com

We promise an interesting speaker. Please invite your friends and family to join. A Pot Luck dinner is planned. Please bring a dish of your choice.

MARK YOUR CALENDER
For important updates and details go to
auburnaauw@gmail.com

Key Public Policy/Community Dates for December 2021

Nov. 28 – Dec. 6	Hanukkah
December 1	World Day for AIDS Awareness
December 4th	Auburn AAUW Holiday Lunch
December 7	Pearl Harbor Day
December 7 5pm	Auburn AAUW Board Meeting
December 10	Human Rights Day
December 21	Winter Solstice
Dec. 21 – Jan. 1	Yule Celebrations
December 25	Christmas Day
January 2022 5pm	Auburn AAUW International Dinner

Although December has not been designated a special heritage month, it does contain celebratory days that are recognized internationally. On December 10 in 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The document set forth the basic civil standard of economic, political, and social rights that should be guaranteed to every person. Each December, the commitment to this universal document of rights is renewed and celebrated. In addition, the United Nations has established December 3 as the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. This international observance was established to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights, and well-being of persons with disabilities. It also aims to foster awareness of the importance of integrating persons with disabilities into every aspect of life.

HELP US SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT OUR 3 DIFFERENT SCHOLARSHIP OFFERING



HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

We are proud to offer up to eight \$1,000 scholarships to women graduating from high schools in the Placer Union High School District. Recipients are evaluated based upon the following criteria.

- Has maintained a 3.0 GPA or higher,
- Is applying to a 2-year or 4-year college or university (preferred major of science, technology, engineering or mathematics). Will submit two letters of recommendation, a high school transcript, and the application.

Application deadline: January 31, 2022. Apply here: [High School Application](#)

Applications also can be obtained through each of the Placer Union High Schools' counseling offices (Del Oro, Colfax, Foresthill, Maidu, and Confluence).

TRANSFERRING FROM A COMMUNITY COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Transferring Woman's Scholarships

Annually, we award up to two \$1,000 scholarships for women transferring to a 4-year col-

lege in the Fall. STEM majors are preferred, but not required. The student must:

- Have a permanent address within the Placer Union High School District boundaries.
- Be transferring to a 4-year college or university in the Fall of 2022
- Have a minimum of a 3.0

Provide the application, two letters of recommendation, and respond to the essay prompts.

Application deadline: April 1, 2022. Apply here: [Transfer Scholarship](#)



RE-ENTRY COMMUNITY COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Re-entry Woman's Scholarship

Annually, we award up to one \$1,000 scholarship to a woman actively re-entering college after some kind of a break. Use the link to Sierra College Scholarship Search.

https://sierracollege.scholarships.ngwebsolutions.com/scholarx_scholarshipsearch.aspx

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP— A FIFTH IN OUR SERIES

Sheryl Petersen

Sheryl is currently the President of Auburn Sunset Rotary, Board Member of the Auburn Senior Center, and former Auburn AAUW President 2012-2015.

Born in San Francisco and raised in Pacifica, Sheryl graduated from San Jose State in 1977, and in the next 27 years served as an Administrator, Teacher, Coach, and wearer of many hats at the Athenian School in Danville. In her last 14 years as Director of Special Programs, she developed income generating programs, while hiring, training, and supervising a seasonal staff of 85 employees. She received her MS in Education Leadership in 1999 from Cal State East Bay.

After moving to Foresthill in 2004 to be closer to aging parents, Sheryl then served as the Recreation Services Manager for Auburn Parks and recreation District (2005-2019) overseeing a seasonal volunteer and paid staff of 100+. During her tenure some accomplishments included: creating new community events and programs, offering innovative classes, developing innovative activities, as well as instituting a college internship program.

Following retirement in 2019, she is currently employed by Salarno Besselman LLC and Crime Victims United working in support of fundraising events, grant writing, daily operations, community outreach and special programs.

Q: What is one lesson learned that's unique to being a woman leader?

An important lesson Sheryl has learned as a leader is that we need to pay special attention to empowering young women through education and experiences-supporting them to trust their intuitions and decisions, providing a gentle landing space for their outcomes and a realistic evaluation of their experiences coupled with next best step strategies.



Q: What advice would you give aspiring female executives?

Sheryl is candid when advising her younger executive self: “grab your sister’s hand and offer her that step up; mentor and support her; provide her new opportunities for growth; open doors for networking with others; and most importantly, celebrate your sister’s successes.”

Q: Name a woman who has inspired you.

Sheryl- recognizes the benefit of being mentored, “I have been most fortunate to have several important women who have inspired me through my career; most notably Eleanor Dase, former Head of the Athenian School. Eleanor influenced my leadership style, teaching me: the importance of listening more than talking in relationships; the value of being prepared at all times; the significance of acknowledging the value of every voice at the table; the celebration of the success of others is paramount; always respect the time of others; and know when and how to have fun.”

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBER CAROL ROEDDER



Carol Roedder is one of the newest members of AAUW. She started her life in Compton, California, and moved to the San Joaquin Valley at the age of ten. Her family struggled financially, and she was told that she would not be able to go to college.

Somehow, her mother talked to the financial officer at UC Berkeley, who told her that any student who could get in and stay in on merit would not be turned away. As a result of that conversation, Carol applied on June 1 and was accepted on June 6 – five days later! She graduated with a major in French and a minor in music, getting her teaching credential after that.

She spent two years studying in France – one at the University of Bordeaux and the other at the Sorbonne – during what were some of that country's largest political upheavals. As a result, her classes were frequently cancelled, leaving time to make new friends and travel. She still keeps in touch with many of these friends today.

Carol says that when she graduated from high school, she had an "Ah ha!" moment during "Pomp and Circumstance" and knew without any doubt that she always wanted to

be in a school. She loved the students and the atmosphere, so she became a teacher and has never looked back.

When her two daughters were young, she became fascinated with the process of growth in small children, so she pursued a masters degree in education with a specialization in Montessori learning. Later, when teaching teenagers, she found she could apply many of Dr. Montessori's ideas to the middle school classroom. At one point she moved into the principal's chair, but after a few years decided she was a teacher at heart.

After fifty years in the Bay Area, Carol moved to Auburn to be near one of her children, Alexandra, who plays cello in both the Auburn and Folsom Lake symphonies. Her other daughter, who lives in Los Angeles with her husband and two children, plays the viola.

Carol has played the violin since age 10, and now also plays with both the Auburn and Folsom Lake symphonies with Alexandra. Her husband was a pianist, and the family would play quartets together when there was time.

Carol enjoys hiking and cycling and a few years back did some multi-day cycling tours of 500 miles or more. She tries to hike a few miles along the canals or in the canyon each day.



**TRIVIA BEE IS IN THE WORKS!
SIGN UP TO HELP WITH OUR MOST IMPORTANT FUNDRAISER
March 12, 2022**



We have missed 2 years of Trivia Bee and our biggest fundraiser for scholarships and Tech Trek. But the trivia Bee team is running full steam with March 12, 2022 as our date. Mark your Calendar!

We have our committee chairpersons meeting and getting plans in place. We have a list of small, relatively easy tasks that need to be done and are asking for our Auburn AAUW members Or friends OR significant others to volunteer.

- Bar Duty—pour wine, beer and Margaritas for our guests. Need 6 people.
- Take tickets and sell drink tickets at front door. Need 3-5 people
- Sell tickets—to interest groups, outside groups, and manage Roper ticket sales. Need 10 people
- Proctors—need a Chairperson and 7 helpers
- Question Committee—Need 1 additional person to help
- Decoration set-up—Day of event. Place tablecloths and decorations. Need 6 people
- Pass out posters and cards to stores and other sites to advertise. Need 6 people
- Help with other advertising such as an e-mail blast. Need 1-2 people.

Please contact Carol Hachmeister or Deb Sabo to volunteer.



PUBLIC POLICY—Susan Roughgarden

Q and A with School Board Member Julann Brown



Editor's Note: *As a former journalist, and later as a teacher, I attended my fair number of school board meetings. These comments from AAUW member Julann Brown are by far the most concise, philosophical, and informative that I have ever experienced.*



Q: How are School Boards organized, and what does a School Board Member do?

School Boards are usually 3, 5, or 7 members. School board members are locally elected public officials entrusted with governing a community's public schools. The responsibilities of a school board are numerous, the most central of which is ensuring that a long-term vision is established for the school system. The vision reflects the consensus of the entire board, the superintendent, staff and the community as to what the students need in order to achieve their highest potential.

School boards also establish an effective and efficient structure for the school district. This starts with the hiring of the superintendent and setting policy for hiring other personnel. A school board sets direction and policies around curriculum, prioritizing the allocation of resources, adopting the budget, and overseeing facilities. The school board determines the "WHAT," and the Superintendent and staff determines the "HOW."

A school board governs by consensus; no single board member has more authority than any other. Regardless of members' individual beliefs - the school boards speak as one voice once a decision has been made. As community representative, the board is accountable to the public for the performance and efficiency of the community schools. As the only elected officials chosen solely to represent the interests of schoolchildren, board members also have the unique responsibility to speak out on behalf of those children.

PUBLIC POLICY—Susan Roughgarden

Q: How did you get interested in becoming a School Board Member?

It all started with my involvement in my sons' school, Alta Vista. I volunteered as an Art Docent and served on the PTC (Parent Teacher Club). That experience led to serving on district-wide budget committees and advocating and campaigning for a number of parcel tax initiatives (unfortunately, none met the $\frac{2}{3}$ threshold).

I discovered that in order to really influence educational policy and advocate for both reform and more funding, I needed to serve at a higher level. Once both of my sons moved out of the Auburn Union School District (K-8 district) and on to high school, I threw my hat in the ring for an open seat in 2014.

Q: What is a typical meeting like?

School boards are required to hold their meetings in public and must allow for public comment. It is important to emphasize that a school board meeting is not a meeting of the public, but rather a meeting to conduct the district's business in public.

AUSD holds monthly regular meetings and a number of special board meetings or workshops. Our regular monthly meetings first start with a closed session, which is not accessible to the public due to the confidential nature of what is discussed (personnel, litigation, student discipline). The agenda and supporting documentation is posted and publicly available at least 48 hours in advance.

A typical meeting will consist of a special presentation featuring one of our five schools. We open up to public comment for items not listed on the agenda, which are usually limited to 20 minutes. We then have a Superintendent update, followed by reports of individual board members. After that, the agenda is divided up into a few sections.

- **Consent Agenda:** addresses routine operational matters that need board approval but not discussion or debate.
 - **Actions items:** matters requiring approval of staff recommendations that merit discussion or debate.
 - **Discussion items:** matters that may lead to Board direction for the Superintendent or future action by the Board
- Board Governance :** review and revisions of Board policies and protocols

PUBLIC POLICY—Susan Roughgarden

Q: How do you go about running for office?

You need to file your Declaration of Candidacy with your county elections office. The site www.placercountyelections.gov is a great resource! You will find a listing of open seats throughout the county and state. There are tutorials and workshops once the 2022 election cycle approaches. Learn as much as possible about the office you have chosen to pursue by speaking to current office holders and attending meetings.

As far as campaigning, the best thing to do is be visible in the community and be engaged with local service clubs.

Q: What are the rewards of running for office?

The biggest reward is the opportunity to share your business and life experience to benefit your community. You can represent different groups in the community and ensure that others have a voice in making policy decisions that have a direct impact on your community.

“I believe that the foundation of a thriving community is an equitable education of all our children. For me, personally, the reward is knowing that what I do is helping build that strong foundation.”

Q: What is the best way that our community can support our schools?

We have a community of students and staff who are trying to recover from the trauma of the COVID shutdowns of 2020 and 2021. Staffing shortages are currently crippling school districts. One of the best ways to support that recovery is by offering your time. If you can, volunteer or apply for some of the many job openings.

Q: What frustrations do you have?

School Board trustee is a nonpartisan office. Unfortunately, school boards and public education are currently at the center of partisan politics. Many school boards have been inundated with combative and radical factions, focused on grievance and false controversies. School boards need to hear from the community members that support good governance that maintains a focus on providing a safe and vibrant learning environment for all of our children.

“There is such important work to be done and so many opportunities to address the many inequities in our educational, health and justice systems that COVID has exacerbated. Unfortunately the noise of partisan politics is getting in the way from the real work that needs to happen to heal our community and nation.”

**AUBURN AREA LOCAL POSITIONS UP FOR ELECTION IN
2022
STEP UP and RUN**

CITY COUNCIL

Auburn City Council
Colfax City Council

EDUCATION

Auburn Union School District
Placer Union High School District Trustee Area 4
Placer Union High School District Trustee Area 3
Ackerman Charter District
Colfax Elementary School
Placer Hills School District

SERVICES

Auburn Valley Community Services District
Auburn Area Recreation & Park District
Christian Valley Park Community Services District
Heather Glenn Community Service District
Meadow Vista County Water District
Midway Heights County Water District
Placer Hills Fire Protection District

Make Your Voice Heard in our Community

Are you interested in volunteering to help support democracy? Have you thought about running for office but wondered where to start? You don't necessarily have to run for office. There are dozens of openings to which you can be appointed in Placer County. Check it out:

www.placer.ca.gov/4158/Boards-Commissions

PUBLIC POLICY—Susan Roughgarden

Two-Minute Activist

**If You are a Political Nerd . . .or If You Care about New Laws . . .
Then You will Love This 😊**

To receive Action Alerts via text, you can text “AAUW” to 21333. Or, you can sign up for the Two-Minute Activist by clicking [here](#)

AAUW National does so much for Women. Find out the ways you can support their effort.

Send emails and texts to your legislators to fight for equal pay, family leave, stopping sexual harassment, equality in education and more. Sign up to get regular alerts to be able to take timely action.

Inspiring Quote of the Month ”

“Some believe it is only
GREAT POWER that
can hold evil in check.
But that is not what I
have found. I have found
that it is the small every-
day deeds of ordinary
folk that keep the dark-
ness at bay. Small acts of
kindness and love.”
- Gandalf

COMMUNITY ACTION

DeWitt Community Complex Announces Updated Plans

The DeWitt Community Complex (DCC) Board of Directors has planned an unveiling of updated plans to restore the Historic DeWitt Theater. Their goal is to bring to life a place, “Where Art, History, and Community Meet.”

Charlene Daniels, who is also a DCC board member.

Rather than watch the historic DeWitt Theatre be demolished, the DCC proposes to save money and to bring back a civic landmark by reviving the historic DeWitt Theatre.



“We are excited to share our comprehensive development plans that we have prepared with JK Architecture Engineering to create a community-oriented restoration design for the DeWitt Theater, which includes a new outdoor activity area.” says AAUW member

AUW Auburn supports this restoration because it fits our mission of supporting women and girls in our community. It will revitalize the neighborhood and provide a much-needed venue for the arts and community events.

DECEMBER 2021 SECTION NEWS

Contact Susan Rushton,

BOOKENDS: meets at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 15 (a week earlier than usual) at the home of Mary Ellen Oliveira. This will be our Holiday gathering; each of us is asked to bring a gift-wrapped book to give away, as well as goodies to put on baked potatoes. Please let Mary Ellen know if you're coming: If you have questions, contact Susan Rushton:

BOOKMARKS: Bookmarks meets at noon on Friday, Dec. 10 at Joanna Jones's home. For information, call Sue Dings,

BOOKSTERS: Booksters meets on Zoom at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 8 (early for the holidays). The book will be "Artemis," by Andy Weir, and Anne Ruud will lead the discussion. Contact Carol Francis if you would like to join the discussion and she will send you ZOOM Instructions.

BRIDGE: The Bridge groups are up and running again. For information, days, and locations, contact Meredith Bruck. All members welcome.

DRAMA READING: meets at 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16 (different week than usual) at the home of Barbara Gerletti-Weiss. Please let Barbara know if you're coming: For info: Susan Rushton,. All members welcome.

GLOBAL ISSUES / GREAT DECISIONS: Global Issues/Great Decisions: No December meeting. This group usually meets at 10 a.m. on the second Friday of the month at the Raley's Event Center, 1915 Douglas Blvd., Roseville. Happy Holidays! Next meeting is Jan. 14, 2022. Pre-ordered 2022 discussion books will be delivered. For more information: Elsie Gaura.

HIKING GROUP: Thursday, December 9th we will hike the Shirland Canal trail from Pacific Ave to Eagle Nest. This is about 5 miles and very flat, running along the canal. Let's plan on going out to lunch in Auburn after the hike. But bring a snack. Wednesday, December 22 ,we will hike from the Glenn Tram station (near Folsom) along the bike path of the American River to Nimbus Dam. This about 5 miles, mostly flat and down the river. We will then take the tram from Hazel back up the river to Glenn. This is an easy hike on a paved bike path. Bring lunch and we will find picnic benches. An email will go out next week to the hikers list regarding details. For directions and more details contact Debra Sabo..

TECH CONNECT: Wednesday, December 10th at 3pm. Please join us via zoom. RSVP to either Steve Lease or Deb Sabo if you are a new attendee. Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/434491707> Meeting ID: 434 491 707

Auburn Branch AAUW
PO Box 7872
Auburn, CA 95604

ADDRESS SERVICE-
REQUESTED

AAUW Mission Statement

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

AAUW Vision Statement

AAUW empowers all women and girls to reach their highest potential.

AAUW Diversity Statement

AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

AAUW Value Promise

By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women and girls have a fair chance.

Websites

Auburn Branch:

www.auburn-ca.aauw.net

State:

www.aauw-ca.org

National:

www.aauw.org