

**February  
2011****GOLD FILINGS****President's Message**

**Author Symposium:** You were asked to spread the word about this program, and the response was wonderful. We had 80-90 in attendance (depending on who was counting), with many from the public. This well-received event was organized by Gretchen Kingsbury, who also brought us last year's symposium, Dirt, Documents, and Drama. Afterwards, I heard comments that we need to do a similar program next year. Gretchen, you are on notice!

The four authors discussed various aspects of family and county history. Carolyn Fregulia read from her book Silently They Speak about Volcano's early mining history and the effect mining had on the topography and original residents. Kathy Allen presented a slide show of the Kennedy Mine, demonstrating the changes from its inception. Barbara McMahon, a genealogy expert, told us how to get started in a search for ancestors. Members of the audience signed up to receive information on websites to help in that endeavor. If you wish to receive that material, let me know and I will send it to you. Kimberly Wooten's Power Point presentation provided details on the families who emigrated from Italy and settled in the Fiddletown-Shenandoah region, starting our local wine industry.

Besides our thanks to Gretchen for an outstanding program, thanks also go to Carol Campbell who moderated the event (and managed to get us some additional donations to our Little Red Schoolhouse), her husband Richard who set up the audio-visual equipment and made sure everything was plugged in properly for the presenters, Bernice Honeychurch for her publicity efforts, and to all of you who attended.

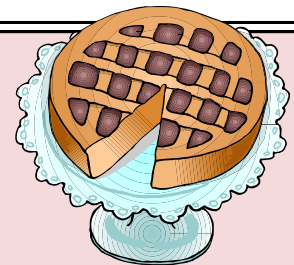
**February Program:** Our annual Dessert Social is scheduled for Wednesday, February 23, from 2 to 4 pm. See information about it below.

**Nominations:** Even though we have a lot of time left in this 2010-11 year, we need to start thinking about who will take the reins for 2011-12. Our nominating committee consists of past-presidents Mary Thorpe, Lani Chapman and Sandi Baracco. If there is a position you would like to take in the coming year (president, home tour chair, newsletter editor!), please do contact one of these members. Because if you don't, they will be calling.

~Sandra Campbell

**OUR FEBRUARY FAVORITE THING--DESSERT SOCIAL!**

**FEBRUARY IS WHEN WE CELEBRATE VALENTINE'S DAY AND THAT MEANS OUR PROGRAM FOCUS WILL BE ON TASTY THINGS SWEET AND/OR CHOCOLATE (OR EVEN SALTY/SPICY)! WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23 IS THE DATE, SUTTER CREEK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IS THE PLACE (14 MAIN STREET, SUTTER CREEK), AND 2 TO 4 PM IS THE TIME. PLEASE BRING YOUR FAVORITE TREAT TO SHARE WITH 6-8 PEOPLE. (ALSO, FEEL WELCOME TO BRING A POTENTIAL MEMBER.) THIS WILL BE A TREAT TO OURSELVES PRIOR TO THE BIG PUSH WITH HOME TOUR!**



**In addition to your treat, we will be collecting toiletries for Operation Care.**

**RSVP** to Susan Tigner at [suzt@hughes.net](mailto:suzt@hughes.net) or call Lynne Brumit.

**HOME TOUR NEWS:** The mailing list for the postcard announcing the Home Tour is almost complete. Do you know someone (outside the county) who might like to come to the Home Tour? Please help boost attendance by sending me the names and addresses of friends and relatives you think might be interested in purchasing Home Tour tickets. Please respond ASAP to Belva Pummer at [belva.pummer@mac.com](mailto:belva.pummer@mac.com). My thanks in advance for your assistance.

**More Home Tour News on Page 2.**

**HOME TOUR NEWS:** Decisions are being made and action taken.

**Ticket outlets** have been confirmed and tickets will go on sale March 11. The poster designed by Sarah Dougherty has been finalized and the order placed. Bookmarks and brochures will be ordered shortly.

This year's **quilt** was just donated by Barbara Davis of Volcano. We are looking for places to display it and possibly sell tickets. Suggestions so far are Newcomers, Sierra Bells, and Sutter Creek Women's Club. If you belong to an organization that would welcome our quilt, please contact Sandy Campbell at [skcampbell@volcano.net](mailto:skcampbell@volcano.net). We expect to have the quilt and tickets available at the Dessert Social.

**Hostesses for Home Tour:** We need additional hostesses. Lynne Brumit will be calling those of you who have not already signed up. If you have a preference or need for either the morning or afternoon shift, please say so.

**Cookies:** This year our Cookie Coordinator Margie Guletz requests five dozen **HOMEMADE** cookies from each of us for the Home Tour Tea. Cookies should only be a couple of bites. Drop-off locations will be announced later.

### **BOARD BRIEFS for January 20, 2011**

Report on members contacted regarding illness or adversity.

Approval of November 17, 2010, minutes; no meeting in December.

Treasurer's Report; need for request for donation to Women's Health Forum, form and check for Tech Trek.

Final accounting for Bead for Life: total of \$3856.

Feedback from Board members was that both the holiday party and Author Symposium were highly successful.

Finalized bylaw revision on nominating committee; to be sent to AAUW-CA for approval prior to vote by members.

Home Tour update. See items above.

Planning for Dessert Social. See p. 1 for details.

Discussed bylaw revision to sections on Officers and Board; further discussion next month.

AAUW-CA convention in April. See related article p. 4.

Update on scholarships.

Membership report on emeritus memberships and adding interest groups to the application.

Next board meeting February 17, 2011, at 1 p.m., at Margie Guletz's home.

### **AAUW AMADOR ON FACEBOOK?**

That is the question. Someone in the Sutter Creek business world suggested that we establish a Facebook presence for the branch. Everyone seems to be doing it so why shouldn't we? A lot of organizations are and perhaps it would be another way to get the word out about who we are and what we do: benefits of membership, programs we offer to the public, our Home Tour, and our scholarship program. We could link to other sites within and beyond AAUW.

We need someone who has knowledge of this social network and who would be willing to look into the possibilities for the branch. If you would like to take on this task, please contact the president.



Over the next few newsletters, articles about the Home Tour sites will be featured. These have been written by Norva Fagg, who has compiled these descriptions not only for the *Gold Filings*, but also for our website, the Home Tour brochure, and publicity efforts for the Tour.

## HOME TOUR RETURNS TO SUTTER CREEK FOR “Polished Gems”

The Home Tour returns to Sutter Creek, on April 16, 2011, for its 39<sup>th</sup> year. This year guests will have the opportunity to view four “Polished Gems”—homes that have undergone extensive and creative remodeling and updating. The Home Tour day will also offer the opportunity to visit four historic sites. Each home offers unique features that you are sure to find interesting. This February newsletter will highlight the two homes on Mill Street.

### **Home of Tom and Claire,**

The home of Tom and Claire Wait (Yes, our very own AAUW member Claire!) on historic Mill Street appears to be from an earlier time when the quartz mines and stamp mills were in their heyday. However, Ray Brusatori built their home, in the “Stick Victorian” architectural style of steep roof pitch and filigree decorations, in 1975.

Although the Waits have only owned this home five years, they have transformed the interior space with a new kitchen and dining area and redecorating throughout. The kitchen appears to be historic but is totally new! Wisely, the Waits completed the kitchen construction before they moved into the house. Chris Grey of Plymouth built a combination of painted and stained cabinets for a vintage look. A tall cabinet conceals a pantry and the kitchen office center. Corian is used on countertops with the exception of the island. It is topped with a solid mahogany butcher-block. The back-splash tiles have been interspersed with tiles designed as California fruit labels. Claire chose labels from areas that hold special meaning such as fruit from Contra Costa County where they lived before coming to Sutter Creek. New cherry hardwood flooring, combined with painted and stained cabinets, bring the desired vintage impression to the kitchen and dining area.

On the living room wall beside the custom painted TV cabinet, there is a landscape painting of the Wait ranch property on Latrobe Road where Tom grew up. The artist is Goula Wait, Tom’s mother. Her art, in many different mediums, is seen throughout their home. Claire’s sewing room has many ideas for storing the numerous materials needed for her textile art hobby, including thread racks and scissors holders. Tom’s office displays a collection which demonstrates his interest in hunting, ranching, big tractors and family antiques. Two large mule deer and wild boar heads are mounted on the wall. An old Standard cash register from Claire’s family and a tobacco stand from Tom’s father are near his office desk. In the corner on a tiered stand is a stack of old saddles given to him by friends.

On the stairway going up to the master suite, a collection of family photos and art are displayed. Goula Wait has several family portraits done in pastels on this wall. A wide photo of the town in the French Pyrenees, Pau, shows where Claire’s grandparents originally lived. Tom and Claire are planning a trip to meet relatives and find the old family home. At the top of the stairs, an old mantle from a bakery displays Tom’s rock collection.

The upstairs master bedroom suite was transformed under the guidance of Barron’s store designer, Brenda Ristrom. The changes began with creative painting—subtle wide stripes painted on the walls and faux painting of the closet doors to look like stained wood. Jeff Hipp, local painting contractor, used his skills to “fool the eye.” Tom Wait built the bookcases on each side of the bedroom front window. New furniture, antique pieces and linens in browns and blues with tassel trims are the finishing touches to the bedroom retreat.

Other rooms offer more decorating ideas. The upstairs bath has countertops that have magically become “marble” and wallpaper border used in an unusual manner. The laundry room has an interesting “window.” The guest room doubles as an office with the use of cabinets that close to conceal a desk.

These are only the highlights of the Waits’ Mill Street home. There are many other interesting collections and features for you to discover on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

*Continued on Page 5*

The following is one of a series of articles featuring community organizations in Amador County:

The **Amador County Library** is a service oriented network of community libraries with a main library, branches, and outreach services providing books, information and other resources for people of all ages in our diverse communities. You can help by volunteering or becoming a member of Friends of the Amador County Library. Applications are at all libraries or online at: <http://www.co.amador.ca.us/index.aspx?page=347>



Active AAUW members who are also officers or board members of Friends of the Amador County Library are Susan Staggs, Janet Caccia, Sarah Hart, Nancy and Kim Street, and Ruth Jackson.

And of course, in January, our **Interfaith food Bank** has been depleted by the holidays; please continue donating everything you possibly can to build their stores for hungry Amador County residents this winter!

~Judy Regnier, Community Representative

#### Public Service Announcement

#### BOOK DRIVES

Benefiting the Amador County Library

#### Upcountry Book Drive – Pine Grove

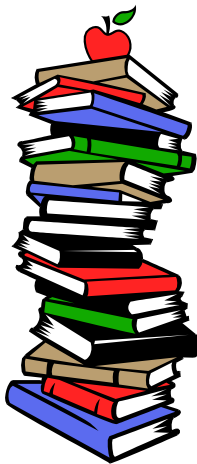
Saturday, February 5, 10 am – 2 pm  
Finesse Carpet One  
20005 Hwy. 88 # C (next to Curves)

#### Jackson Book Drive

Saturday, February 26, 10 am – 2 pm  
FACL Book Storage Building  
42A Summit Street (behind old Court House)

We accept gently read books and audio-visual materials in good condition; please no magazines, manuals or damaged materials. For information, call (209) 267-0855.

The Friends of the Amador County Library is a non-profit organization, Tax ID #942374918. All donations are tax deductible



#### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

**BEST WISHES TO . . .**

**Pat Houghton**  
**Shirley Snell**  
**Nancy Schuster**



#### WOMEN'S HEALTH FORUM—NEW DATE

The 16th Annual Women's Health Forum, "Be Your Best at Every Age: Fitness, Nutrition and Living," will be held on Saturday, May 21 (note date change). More information to come. Any questions, contact Judy Lerner-Liston at [dandjl@suttercreek.com](mailto:dandjl@suttercreek.com).



#### AAUW-CA CONVENTION 2011

Have you always wanted to get away to Irvine, California? This coming April 8-10, the state convention will be held at the Irvine Marriott. Those who have attended in the past say the trip is well worth it. There is money budgeted that will cover some of the costs.

Information regarding the convention and the workshops and other activities are on line at [aauw-ca.org](http://aauw-ca.org). If you find the idea enticing, please contact Sandy Campbell for additional details.

The Sunshine Chair, **Lynne Brumit**, will send a note or card on behalf of AAUW to any member who needs some sunshine (for illness, condolences or simply "thinking of you") or should be congratulated on a marriage or birth of a child. If you know of a member who should receive any of the above, please contact Lynne by telephone. If information for recipient is not in the AAUW Directory, please provide it.



*Continued from Page 3*

## **Home of Alan and Helen Bierce**

Alan and Helen Bierce purchased their home in 1995 as a weekend getaway in 1995. Alan Bierce was born in Sutter Creek, grew up in Jackson, and had the desire to reconnect with the area while living in the Bay Area.

The original structure on this site dates from about 1904. Records show that in 1920, Steve and Angie Perovich, who owned the Palace Saloon at that time, purchased the property. The home was owned and occupied by the family until Alan and Helen Bierce purchased it in 1995 from Phil and Marie Bowman, Marie being a daughter of Angie and her second husband, Luca M. Nicolich.

In 2007, they began construction to renovate the house and add living space because, after Alan's retirement, it was to become their fulltime home. Working with architect Doron Dreksler and building contractor Esa Kirjola, they now have an almost new "farmhouse" with the interior space doubled.

Take your time touring through this home because there are many things to discover. Throughout the home, historic details and personally designed features were incorporated in the remodel. The bedroom closets are built into the wall with lower drawers for shoes and high cabinets for bulky seasonal linens and bedding. The custom cabinets, designed by Helen for her office, display her Delft porcelain collection and special family photo albums. Her designing also created special features in the new kitchen, from a countertop knife block to the black glass cooktop that disappears into dark granite. Interior transom windows are a nod to historic styles. For an authentic replacement of the great room floor, Douglas fir wood was reclaimed and milled from the beams of a burned Oregon sawmill. The floor was stained to match the original Douglas fir flooring of the front bedroom.

The door to Alan's office presents us the first clue to his college affiliation. The Campanile of UC Berkeley is etched in the glass panel of the door. Many family memories are found in this working office such as the 30s floor radio clock that was used by his brother to hide inside. Numerous antiques are found throughout the home. The very first owner of the home, Mr. Betsy, crafted the large Victorian mirror that hangs in the master bedroom. A rare Japanese Goldfish vase intermingles with other antiques in the hallway cabinets. The antique English mahogany bar chest is from Helen's family.

The focal point in the great room is the large landscape painting by local artist and personal friend, Robert Richard. Sadly, the artist died recently. This painting hangs above the antique mahogany buffet. The Bierces commissioned this painting based upon a 1910 photograph showing this home, the Mahoney mine and stamp mill, and the surrounding hillsides. There are three other Robert Richards paintings and an original lithograph to be seen in the house. Other paintings by local Amador artists Alice Duke and Maxine Dalben are also seen.

A new spiral staircase from the great room now gives access to the game room and guest bedrooms on the lower level. Many years ago, the lower level housed a large redwood vat for wine making and was reached by outside stairs. The game room was designed to accommodate the 20' long circa 1964 shuffleboard table, which came from an old bar in Wilseyville. The large movie posters displayed in the game room are from their son-in-law, Chris Lebenzon, who is an Academy Award nominated film editor.

Guests will exit from the game room to the lovely backyard where the Amador Branch of AAUW will offer wine tasting.



## 2010-2011 AAUW AMADOR BOARD

President	Sandra Campbell	Home Tour Chair	Sandra Campbell
President Elect	TBD	Hospitality	Judy Lerner-Liston
Program V.P.	Carol Campbell		Kathy Guletz
Co-Membership V.P.	Susan Tigner	International Relations	Bernice Honeychurch
	Lynne Brumit	Newsletter	Sandra Campbell
Co-AAUW Funds/LAF	Sandi Baracco	Directory	Lani Chapman
	Bonnie Krupp	Phone Tree	Lani Chapman
Secretary	Beverly York	Public Relations	Bernice Honeychurch
Treasurer	Nancy Schuster	Historian	Margie Guletz
By-Laws	Sarah Hart	Scholarship:	
Community Representative	Judy Regnier	Comm College	Marge Chisholm
Public Policy/Ed Equity	Myrna-Kay Robison	Upper Div/Grad/Re-Entry	Nancy Street
		Tech Trek	Gretchen Carlson
Nominating Committee	Sandi Baracco	Sunshine	Lynne Brumit
	Mary Thorpe	Web Editor	Bobbie Brubaker
	Lani Chapman		

### The Emergency Food Assistance Program and Interfaith Food Bank

The food bank always needs volunteers and donations of food especially after the holidays. Drop off donations at . . .

The Interfaith Food Bank, 12181 Airport Road in Jackson (between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.)

Contact Judy Regnier, Community Representative, at [woodsangel@volcano.net](mailto:woodsangel@volcano.net) for additional information.

AAUW	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
<p><b>MISSION STATEMENT:</b> AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.</p> <p><b>DIVERSITY STATEMENT:</b> In principle and in practice, 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, or disability.</p>	<p><b><i>Information for the March Gold Filings should be sent to me no later than February 15.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Please send articles via email or USPS. Sorry, I cannot accept telephoned information.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Sandra Campbell, Editor</i></b> <b><i>skcampbell@volcano.net</i></b></p>

# SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)

## AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

Chair: Judy Venckus, venckus@aol.com

We meet on the 2nd Monday of each month at 2 p.m. Ben Hur by Lew Wallace is the subject of February's meeting. We will be at Iris Aparcio's home on February 14. Please RSVP to Iris at joeiris@volcano.net.



## BOOK LOVERS AND PAGE TURNERS

Chair: Sue Harrington, susanlh@volcano.net

On February 21, we will meet at Mary Thorpe's home at 2 p.m. to discuss The Anansi Boys by Neil Gaiman. Please RSVP to Mary at wetwo@volcano.net .



## GARDEN GROUPIES

Chair: Claire Wait, clairesc@sbcglobal.net

Garden Groupies are resuming activities after a short winter break. On February 16, we will drive to Micke Grove Regional Park in San Joaquin County to view the Japanese Garden with cherry blossoms (we hope) and the Camellia Garden. We will carpool, so call Claire if you are interested in joining us.



## CORK & FORK

Chair: Bobbie Brubaker dbbrubaker@softcom.net

Our group meets odd months, with significant others, in members' homes for appetizers and wine tasting. Contact Bobbie for information.



## SUPPER CLUB

Chair: Claire Wait, clairesc@sbcglobal.net

The eight couples in Supper Club will meet in March to share a delicious dinner featuring recipes from Celebrity Italian Chefs. The Chapmans and the Faggs will be hosts. In the spring, the Waits and the Krupps will take their turns preparing a Party Thai menu. Please call Claire Wait if you would like to join our remaining two events: Party Thai and Summer BBQ.



## LUNCH BUNCH

Chair: Floy Goulart, f80@volcano.net

Meet on February 10 at 11:30 a.m. at Denny's, 200 S. Highway 49, Jackson. Surprise! It's GOOD!. Contact Bernice Honeychurch at honeybb@dishmail.net.



## ART IN ACTION

Chair: Charlene Unger, cux2@volcano.net

We are a group that enjoys drawing and painting at various indoor and outdoor locations. We meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. Beginners are welcome. Contact Charlene for information.



## COMPUTER GROUP

Chair: Pat Houghton, path244@gmail.com

Contact Pat for information.



## WALKING/STROLLING GROUP

Chair: Sheila Berg, sberg@volcano.net

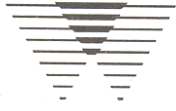
Contact Sheila for information.



**The deadline for the March Gold Filings is February 15.**



**AMADOR BRANCH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN**



***GOLD FILINGS***

**AAUW**

**P. O. Box 611**

**Sutter Creek, CA 95685-0611**

**Website: [aauwamador.org](http://aauwamador.org)**



## **Event of the Month**

**February 23, 2011**

**Dessert Social**

**2:00—4:00 p.m.**

**Sutter Creek United Methodist Church**