



The Branch

April 2025
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***Supporting the Futures of our Local Students--an update
on what our community is doing to recover from the
pandemic and ensure equity for all***

Angela Shull, Executive Director for the Redwood Coast K-16 Collaborative

April Branch Meeting

Saturday, April 5

9:30 a.m. Social

10:00 a.m. Brunch

Menu is meat and cheese platters with sliced baguettes, coffee or tea- \$12.00

Coffee or tea only- \$8.00

10: 30 a.m. Speaker: Angela Shull, Executive Director, Redwood Coast K-16 Collaborative

Please make your reservation by clicking [here](#) or calling Carolyn Miller at 707-798-1503. Reservation deadline either online or by phone call is March 31st. Please make your reservation by the deadline. Late reservations cannot be guaranteed seating or food/beverage.

If you have any questions, please email me or text 925-788-6361.

Thanks,
Sylvia

Angela Shull has 23 years experience as a K-12 teacher and administrator and is currently serving as the



Executive Director for the Redwood Coast K-16 Collaborative. Ms. Shull earned her teaching credential from Humboldt State University (now Cal Poly Humboldt) and her Administrative Services Credential and Masters in Education from Simpson College in Redding, CA. Throughout her tenure in public education, Ms. Shull has served in communities with high percentages of historically underserved and underrepresented students and communities. She

recognized significant equity issues and consistent barriers to accessibility of services and worked with community and educational partners to support student and family needs.

As the Executive Director of the Redwood Coast K-16 Collaborative, Ms. Shull and her team strive to strengthen relationships between K-12 school districts in the region, institutes of higher education, and workforce partners to create stronger and more transparent career pathways for students' educational journeys. The team's primary focus is to support collaborative work between educational institutions, workforce partners, and community groups to more effectively provide robust and meaningful offerings, mechanisms early on that support college and career interest, as well as academic and essential skill development. As a first generation college student, Ms. Shull is keenly aware of the importance of creating highly transparent journey maps for students and supporting acts that demonstrate equity for all.

Ms. Shull makes her home as a third generation resident of Humboldt county alongside her husband, Jeromy and her daughter, Daisy where they enjoy spending time at the rivers and beaches with their dogs.

Women's History Month Honorees

In a tradition our organization began way in 1986, we celebrated Women's History Month by using the March meeting to honor three local residents making a difference in the county. Those of you who were unable to attend the March 1 Tea, you missed truly inspirational talks by the three winners, as well as the wonderful conversations that took place at each of the beautifully-appointed tables. Each of the three women offered great insights on ways to live your life and endow it with meaning, how they are continuing to find what is important to them and underscoring the importance of family and community. The wonderful contributions of the three honorees was even picked up by Redwood News, in a Newsmakers segment with Ross Rowley on March 4.

Highlights from the honorees heart-felt presentations include:

- **Judge Abby Abananti**, the first California tribal woman to be admitted to the State Bar of California, is such a role model as Chief Judge for the Yurok Tribal Court, fighting for families, women, and tribal justice. She stressed the importance of teaching values and giving second chances.
- Our own member **Rosemarie Weaver**, a Ferndale booster extraordinaire, is always looking for ways to create community. She has such a positive, inclusive, and can-do approach to tackling community needs, and is always warm and welcoming, especially to children in need,
- **Dr. Peggy Grossman**, a physician based in Arcata, has practiced here for more than 30 years, including the past 15 in a solo practice. Her patients appreciate her personal touch. The close, multigenerational bonds she has created with her family, her staff, and her patients came across in her comments where she touched on personal interactions and even offered inspirational, positive messages from Rumi.

Abby Abananti, Yurok Chief Judge, is an enrolled Yurok Tribal member. Tribal members found a



scholarship for her, but had to twist her arm into attending law school. In spite of her resistance, she translated her education into a platform from which to influence her community's well-being. She was the first California tribal woman to be admitted to the State Bar of California and worked as a State Judicial Officer for the San Francisco Superior Court for over 17 years. Her work as a Yurok Tribal Court Judge began in 1997. She has reshaped the way the Tribal Court

functions, systematically creating a court that serves like a family, helping reconnect people to their culture, infusing a strong sense of values, and belief in second chances.

Dr. Peggy Grossman took her childhood love of reading and science with her all the way to medical school. A physician based in Arcata, she has practiced there for more than 30 years, the past 15 in a solo practice. Her patients appreciate her personal touch, and may sing her praises by her side, as when she is not working, she is often found singing with a choral group. Peggy describes her greatest challenges as getting along with her friends and family, always thinking about whether she is a good enough doctor, mother, sister, colleague, and friend. Dr. Grossman stressed the importance to her of finding joy, acting with compassion, and developing strong family and community ties.



Rosemarie Weaver is a Ferndale booster. As a member of the Ferndale Village Club, she seeks every opportunity to bring together community members, share information, and support local causes. The Ferndale club's fundraising has helped the Ferndale Elementary School, Museum, Volunteer Fire Department, and Library, as well as the Community Chest, creek cleanups, and projects for families and individual community members in need. Rosemarie is also an important member of AAUW Humboldt,

including chairing the Women's History Month event for several years. She was selected as an honoree for the grace and determination she has displayed in helping others – always positive, inclusive, and helpful.

HOORAY FOR OUR TEA HOSTESSES! Our March Women's History Tea looked beautiful in the Great Room at the Wharfinger Center. We couldn't have done it without all the hard work of our gracious hostesses Winifred Creamer, Kay Escarda, Sharon Ferrett, Beth Haynes (and her sister Kay Latonia), Mary Lou Lowry, Carolyn Miller, and (in absentia due to Coast Guard deployment) Natalie Arroyo. Thank you, ladies!



Defending Equity: Strengthening Our Collective Impact Series

Amid growing attacks on diversity, equity, and inclusion, AAUW is taking action. This series equips members with key policy updates, advocacy strategies, and tools to strengthen our impact. Join one or all sessions to stay informed and take action!

Building A Stronger AAUW April 1 | 7:00 p.m. ET [Register here](#)

Strong fundraising fuels AAUW's impact. This session, led by AAUW National's Advancement Committee, will provide strategies for successful branch fundraising. Learn about AAUW's budget, the Greatest Needs Fund, and hear directly from branches with

proven fundraising success. Walk away with tools and resources to help your branch grow its financial support.

AAUW Advocacy Strategies for In-District Meetings

April 8 | 7:00 p.m. ET [Register Here](#)

Face-to-face advocacy can drive real change. This session will guide members on how to set up in-district meetings with members of Congress, maximize town hall participation, and effectively use key talking points during the upcoming April congressional recess. Learn how to make your voice heard.

Funding Futures: Understanding Changes to Sex and Gender-Based Scholarship Programs

April 15 | 7:00 p.m. ET [Register Here](#)

Navigating legal changes to sex-based scholarships can be complex. This session will provide guidance for AAUW branches on how to administer scholarships in compliance with evolving regulations while staying true to our mission of advancing education for women and girls.



Prepare for Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April

by Claire Noonan, AAUW CA Public Policy Committee

Sexual assault violence prevention calls for the creation of safer communities. Addressing the root causes of this kind of violence is difficult as it involves a multipronged approach, including

improving street and housing conditions, providing education, and offering support services. We should work to advance policies at workplaces and schools, discuss sexual assault and its consequences with friends and family, and prioritize prevention in our communities.

Official channels for raising awareness about sexual assault violence and creating and implementing the policies needed for prevention has a long history in the United States; however, given the current administration's attack on "DEI," much of this work is now under threat of being dismantled.

Violence awareness began officially when the [Family Violence Prevention and Services Act \(FVPSA\)](#) became law in 1984, providing the primary federal funding for domestic violence victims and their children via emergency shelters and related assistance. The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), [passed by Congress in 1994](#), is comprehensive federal legislation to end violence against women. In 2001, the National Sexual Violence Resource Center coordinated the first national [Sexual Assault Awareness Month](#) (SAAM), building on years of advocacy and awareness-building. In 2009, President Barack Obama [officially declared April](#) to be Sexual Assault Awareness Month, which presidents have proclaimed by every year since then.

As part of this wider federal push, awareness-raising and prevention efforts around sexual assault violence have been more firmly embedded in core policies and practices. For instance, the Department of Defense has been trying to create a culture to eliminate sexual assault, requiring a personal commitment from all Service members. Educational institutions have benefitted as well: the final Title IX revisions in April 2024 by President Joe Biden reflected the stronger shift to prevent assault actions on school campuses. These revisions also sought to protect more people, expanding the definition of "sex-based harassment" to include harassment based on sex characteristics, sexual orientation, gender identity, sex stereotypes, and

pregnancy. At the state level, In September 2024 Governor Newsom signed eight bills on domestic violence. The legislation created a new victims' services fund using penalties from white-collar crimes and expanded the ability of victims to access restraining orders.

While all of this movement has been positive, by the second week of President Donald Trump's current administration, the Office of Management and Budget had ordered a freeze of all federal financial assistance in all agencies including those that oversee government programs and funding for organizations that provide domestic violence and sexual assault services, such as Health and Human Services, Center for Disease Control, and the Department of Justice. [Multiple court orders have blocked the freezes from taking effect](#), but in some cases funds haven't been received for programs aimed at preventing sexual violence.

In addition, the current Administration has attacked the Office of Family Violence Prevention and Services and the Office on Violence Against Women, who must now disclose information that may further eliminate funding and resources, such as whether grants are being used to support "removable or illegal aliens or immigrants;" to "promote gender ideology;" or to advance "illegal DEI" programs—although at the time of writing, early challenges have signaled that enforcement of these provisions and [denial of funding may be unconstitutional](#).

As individuals and non-profit organizations, we can contact our Congressmembers and state officials to back efforts to get the money flowing to relevant organizations and programs that raise awareness of and prevent sexual assault violence.

We can also act in our local communities to reduce sexual assault violence. We can ask to improve lighting to make streets and other public spaces safer. We can make sure our city, county, and public health officials promote policies for families and children, address economic security, and provide access to safe, stable housing. We can collaborate with community-led organizations that coordinate resources and services that help with trauma, mental health and substance use, all of which lead to sexual abuse. (from [CDC-Violence Prevention](#))

Overall, we can all work to [support the organizations country-wide](#) that are on the front lines of dealing with sexual assault violence. [Click here](#) for downloadable free materials to share from the Domestic Violence Awareness Project.

What Can You Do?

- contact Congressmembers and state officials to back efforts to get the money flowing to relevant organizations and programs that raise awareness of and prevent sexual assault violence;
- [act in our local communities](#) to reduce sexual assault violence through improving lighting, promoting policies for families and children, address economic security, and help coordinate trauma resources
- [support the organizations country-wide](#) that are on the front lines of dealing with sexual assault violence
- share resources from the [Domestic Violence Awareness Project](#)

**WELL-BEHAVED WOMEN RARELY
MAKE HISTORY**

Shaking it Up, The Life and Times of Liz Carpenter, A PBS documentary for Women's History Month was co-directed by Christy Carpenter, Liz's daughter. Christy describes her mom, Liz Carpenter, a journalist and political maven, as a "larger-than-life personality, very funny, and bold". Liz raised women to the National Press Club, though Nikita Krushchev years ago. She was the executive assistant to Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson and wrote the speech he made after John f, Kennedy's assassination. She was also the press secretary for Lady Bird Johnson. She was a strategist who pushed to integrate women into the male-only National Press club. During the Cold War Carpenter considered the Soviet Union leader Krushchev to insist that female reporters be included for his speech.



Christy Carpenter says that "There was no way that the National Press Corp was going to give up on having Krushchev speak, even if it meant the horror of having women on the floor and asking questions along with the men."

Thank you to Jean Guthrie for this clipping from *TV Guide Magazine*

The Branch is published eight times a year by the Humboldt Branch of AAUW. Submissions of articles, news items and photos from members are welcome. Submit them by the 20th of each month to shelleydmitchell@gmail.com.

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