



## *The Branch*

October 2024  
Vol 75. Issue 2



### **Branch Meeting Saturday, October 5**

#### **Food Security in Humboldt County, Food Bank's Mission, and What Does the Future Hold?"**

Lower level of the Wharfinger Building,  
One Marina Way, Eureka

9:30 a.m. Social  
10:00 a.m. Brunch

Food and Beverage- Apple themed potluck, coffee/tea, apple juice \$10.00  
Coffee/Tea Only- \$8.00

Members are encouraged to bring their favorite apple dish or snack, homemade or bought for the potluck. Examples apple & cheese plate, apple salads or slaws, apple & cheese quesadilla, apple muffins/cookies/bread, apple butter & bread. Cost includes room rental, clean-up, supplies, food &/or beverages.

Please make your reservation by clicking [here](#) by Wednesday, September 30, you may also make a reservation by calling Carolyn Miller at 707-798-1503

### **October Speaker**

Carly Robbins is the Executive Director For Food for People, the Food Bank for Humboldt County. She has



worked at Food for People for nearly a decade serving as the Development Director before moving into the Executive Director role in 2023. A former Performing Arts Theatre Manager with a BA in Critical and Visual Studies from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn New York, she brings a wide range of management, funding, and communications experience to the role. She is passionately committed to creating a healthy community in which everyone has an opportunity to grow and thrive with dignity.

## President's Message

Welcome back after a busy summer!

At our September meeting we had the pleasure of hearing from two of our Tech Trek participants and about each of the AAUW Humboldt Interest Groups. This month, under the leadership of Alex Stillman, the program committee has invited Carly Robbins to speak about Food for People and food security.



There are many of you who I have not had the opportunity to speak to, so I thought it might be nice to more fully introduce myself and why AAUW. As a history major with a focus on late 19th and early 20th century women's history, I knew about AAUW. But I didn't think it was for me. In my mind, AAUW was for women like my mother and mother-in-law. Women for whom post-secondary education was a dream that was difficult to realize. My mother-in-law was denied an education while being expected to work and help support her brothers through their post-secondary educations. My mother did not see college as an open avenue after high school graduation. She began a nursing program, got married, dropped out, had babies—lots of them—got divorced and finally got her education, walking in ceremonies for her Masters' degree alongside one daughter and completing her PhD only after her youngest child graduated from UC Riverside.

I, on the other hand, sort of fell into my education. There was never any question that I would go to college—other than if there would be sufficient funds. But that was pretty much a given too. I kept my grades up and qualified for Cal Grant to cover my tuition. With 4 older siblings and a mother in college I was a shoo in for the predecessor of the Pell Grant. I only needed to work 20 hours a week to make up the difference. It didn't seem onerous. After college, I was surrounded with other educated men and women both at work and socially. And I participated in organizations that fed me professionally and mentally. What did I need AAUW for?

Well, that was until I moved from Moorpark, California to Bracebridge, Ontario a town 2 hours north of Toronto with a population of about 10,000 where most of the residents fed the summer vacation industry. While my husband had his work and my children had school, I struggled to find a niche for myself until the exercise class instructor asked a wizened member of the class to take me to her next meeting—the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW), a sister organization. There, like at AAUW Humboldt, I found women of all ages who accepted me, encouraged me and challenged me. I also found a place to promote and advocate for education, social justice, and environmental justice. I "drank the KoolAid" and got into CFUW leadership. All of which led me back to AAUW—where I have served as a branch president, state president, chair of a national committee and member of the board of directors.

I'm so happy to have come back to the US and settled in Humboldt. And I'm happy that AAUWHumboldt is part of my growing circle of friends and activities. I look forward to serving you in the coming year and hope to see you at the October meeting.





## Tech Trek Students Report on Summer Camp Experiences

Attendees at the September 7 meeting were treated to reports by two of the seven girls our branch sponsored to attend the Tech Trek science camp this summer. Ruby Chaussee, from Pacific Union Middle School in

Arcata, reported that the camp was the perfect mix between education and fun. She took chemistry as her core class, and really appreciated that each lesson centered on applied learning instead of having someone just talking at her. She particularly enjoyed an experiment testing which brands of sunscreen offered the most protection and said, "I made a lot of new friends and so many great memories, and I hope to go back as a junior counsellor in the future."

Kabella Zamboni, also from Pacific Union, studied natural science topics including climate change. On Finance Night, Kabella was partnered with a camper from a different part of the state. The pair had a budget and had to make choices about getting a car, supplies for a child, new clothes, while watching their "money" disappear. "We really didn't agree on anything," she said. "My partner wanted to buy new clothes, but I'm from Humboldt, we love garage sales!"

In all, we were able to support seven girls attending Tech Trek this summer. Presentations from some of the other students will take place at the February meeting. Thanks to all our members who have supported this program!!

If you are interested in learning more, check out the AAUW webpage ([www.aauw-ca.org/tech-trek](http://www.aauw-ca.org/tech-trek)). Tech Trek originated in California in 1998, inspiring nearly 15,000 girls over the past 26 years to get excited about STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math). Member Gail Freeman provided some history for us, noting that she and others organized the Humboldt chapter's participation in memory of her daughter Susan Freeman, who had been a leading STEM educator in the county.

### Photo #1: Local Middle School Students Attending Tech Trek Science Camp

Top row (left to right): Ruby Chaussee, Kabella Zamboni, Chloe Simon, Emma Cahoon and Emmalina Hurd-Mattos

Bottom row (left to right): Hazel Ray, Maliyah Johnson

**Photo #2:** Tech Trek participants **Kabella Zamboni**, left, and **Ruby Chaussee** pictured after their presentations to the AAUW-Humboldt Branch meeting





## 2024 Ballot Propositions - Support AAUW California Public Policy Priorities

By Amy Hom and Missy Maceyko, Co-Chairs, AAUW California Public Policy Committee

This November, California voters will decide the fate of 10 statewide ballot propositions. While we encourage members to support additional propositions that may capture the spirit of AAUW California's Public Policy Priorities (PPPs), we suggest that four of the propositions on the ballot in 2024 deserve a YES vote from our members for their explicit alignment with AAUW California's PPPs.

**Proposition 2**, Public Education Facilities Bond Measure (2024), proposes issuing \$10 billion in bonds to fund construction and modernization of California's public education facilities. \$8.5 billion would be allocated to K-12 schools and \$1.5 billion would support improvements at community colleges. Many school facilities are over 50 years old and require significant upgrades to meet current technological and education needs. Research shows that modernized school facilities correlate with better test scores, higher attendance, and improved teacher retention rates. The last time districts received state funding for infrastructure improvements was in 2016, when Prop 51 authorized \$9 billion in bonds. That money has now run out, and Prop 2 would help fund school projects totaling \$3.5 billion that have already been approved and are awaiting funding.

**AAUW California supports “Adequate and equitable funding at all educational levels, including pre-school and post-secondary”, and we support a YES vote on Proposition 2.**

**Proposition 3**, Constitutional Right to Marriage, would amend the California Constitution to recognize the fundamental right to marry, and would remove the language banning same-sex marriage, passed by voters in 2008, from the state constitution. In practice, the ban has been nullified since a Supreme Court ruling in 2013 which allowed same-sex marriages to resume in California. Proposition 3 will enshrine the fundamental right to marry and protect against any potential future changes to federal marriage protections.

**AAUW California supports “Guarantee of civil and constitutional rights for all, including all forms of gender identity and expression, and all family structures”, and we support a YES vote on Proposition 3.**

**Proposition 4**, Parks, Environment, Energy, and Water Bond Measure, would allocate the state to issue \$10 billion in bonds to fund various environmental, energy, and water projects. While there are a range of projects that ballot measure would fund that would benefit all Californians who are confronted with the impacts of sea-level rise, extreme heat, wildfire dangers, and air/water pollution, proposition 4 would also require that 40% of the bond revenue be used to fund activities that benefit communities with lower incomes or that are affected by environmental changes or disasters. Also, as AAUW California's Public Policy Committee has pointed out in the past, addressing climate issues and advancing gender equity is directly related to environmental sustainability, and vice versa.

**AAUW California supports “Social and racial justice for all members of society, including equal access to quality affordable healthcare, housing and a healthy environment,” and we support a YES vote on Proposition 4.**

**Proposition 32**, Raises Minimum Wage, would raise California's current minimum wage of \$16 per hour. Employers with 26 or more employees would pay \$18 per hour beginning in 2025. Employers with 25 or fewer employees would pay \$17 per hour in 2025 and \$18 per hour in 2026. California has a high cost of living and our current \$16 minimum wage is well below the estimated living wage needed to support a household's basic needs. Women and communities of color bear the burden of low-wage jobs. The California Civil Rights Department (CRD) released data showing that in 2021, roughly half of all Latino, Black, and Native American workers earned \$32,329 or less - \$10,000 less than the state's



per capita income. 54 percent of all workers in California earning \$32,239 or less were women.  
A minimum wage of \$18 will reduce income inequality and improve the standard of living for millions of California workers, especially women and people of color.

**AAUW California supports “Economic Security for All Women”, and we support a YES vote on Proposition 32.**

For guidance on additional ballot measures that are adjacent to, but not directly within, the scope of AAUW California’s PPPs, please see this excellent guide provided by [the League of Women Voters of California](#).



## **AAUW Re-Entry Women Scholarships**

The 2024-25 academic year at Cal Poly Humboldt has begun and the Scholarship Committee is excited about receiving applications and selecting awardees for our scholarships. This year, thanks to the amazing generosity of our members, we have over \$9,500 available to award.

The past two years we received as many as 30 applications each year illustrating the increased need among older students for financial assistance

and see no reason to think this need will decrease. So, as we work with faculty and administration to promote our scholarships on campus and online, check out the scholarship info and application on our website and know that the committee is planning on a busy October and November. As we receive and review applications and interview students, we look forward to introducing our awardees at the December Gala. If any member is interested in knowing more about our selection process or in working with us, please contact me. Again, thank you for your ongoing support.

*Margaret Wallace, Chair of AAUW Re-Entry Women Scholarship Committee*



## **READ WITH US!**

### **Monday Morning Book Group (Please come join us!)**

The Monday Morning Book Group meets every third Monday of the month at 10:00 a.m. via **Zoom**. Yes, that is correct, you just need to grab that cup of coffee or favorite beverage and sit at your lap top and join us for a lively discussion on our latest book. This upcoming meeting (October 21st) we will be discussing *Apples Never Fall* by Liane Moriarty. In November (11/18/2024), we will be discussing *Killers of the Flower Moon, The Osage Murders* by David Grann. This a story about the beginnings of the FBI during the 1920’s and 1930’s. If you would like to join us, please contact Sara Hines at her email [sarahines42@yahoo.com](mailto:sarahines42@yahoo.com) or text her at 707-407-5996. She will send you the zoom link. You must download the zoom link to your computer or phone

### **Evening Book Group**

Hello Everyone! I hope that everyone had a wonderful summer! Mine was very busy with visiting family from across the country and world. Now that things have calmed down, I'm ready for some serious reading! We are discussing *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver at our first meeting on the 23rd of Sept. If you read a classic or any other book that you would like to discuss, please bring that to the meeting too.

Please note that this is a NEW LINK and passcode!! Do not try to use the old link; you'll be waiting in a no-man's land for someone else to show up. I think I've set the new link up so that we won't need a waiting room but we'll have to see how it goes. I have a new laptop I'm playing with and zoom keeps updating their site, so anything is possible!

I'll send a reminder email out a couple of days before the meeting. I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the general meeting next Saturday. Take care, Chris Stenlund

Topic: AAUW Evening Book Club

Time: Sep 23, 2024 06:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Every month on the Fourth Mon, 10 occurrence(s)

Sep 23, 2024 06:30 PM

Oct 28, 2024 06:30 PM

Nov 25, 2024 06:30 PM

Dec 23, 2024 06:30 PM



## Women Lead the Way On Booker Prize Nominations

For the first time in the literary awards' history, 5 or the 6 nominated novels are by female writers.

First awarded in 1969, the Booker Prize is one of the most coveted literary awards, to a novel each year, written in English and published in England or Ireland.

Over the years the prize has created literary sensations and capped lifetime careers. Sara Collins, a novelist and a judge, described this as "a gratifying and thrilling moment." The judges will now reread the books on the short list and will announce the winner at a ceremony in London on November 12.

The short list is

- |                       |                              |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| • Percival Everett    | <i>James</i>                 |
| • Samantha Harvey     | <i>Orbital</i>               |
| • Rachel Kushner      | <i>Creation Lake</i>         |
| • Anne Michaels       | <i>Held</i>                  |
| • Yael van der Wansen | <i>The Safekeep</i>          |
| • Charlotte Wood      | <i>Stone Yard Devotional</i> |

Thank you to Jean Guthrie for this article.

*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](mailto:shelleydmitchell@gmail.com).

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