



Sierra Outpost

January's program:



A new year's toast to our health- our financial health

--Maddie Brown

"Four Important Questions for Your Financial Future: Finances for Women (and Men!)" was the title of our January program.

A panel of four local experts in finance and legal matters addressed topics such as :

- " What If...?!" (Financial Transparency)
- Financial Building Blocks
- Banking in the Digital Age
- Planning for your Financial Future

They offered insight to a variety of ideas, including things you

may not have thought of or encountered in your financial past!

Oops! Did you miss this informative program? We will continue to offer valuable programs like this throughout the year. Watch for news of the next one.

-This event was **free** and open to the public! You are always welcome to bring a friend or two!

January/February, 2017

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Paris scenery taking shape for gala event February 11.

See [page 8](#) for details.

Co-Presidents' Corner

Those annual resolutions...

*****Happy New Year!*****

This month of January is full, and we mean "turkey-stuffed, overflowing, bursting-at-the-seams" full, of all things, New Year's Resolutions. Posts here, articles there, texts from mom asking what yours are, co-workers around the coffee pot...you can't get away from them! And we would be amiss to not hop on the Resolution bandwagon here as well! Just like starting a new workout regimen at the beginning of the year, the best way to succeed in your resolution is by finding a way to incorporate what you already love.

If one of your Resolutions is to try something new (always a classic!), we've got an idea for you!

- ◆ Our new fundraiser *An Evening in Paris* is coming up and our ever popular Experience Auction will be the talk of the branch, if not the town! We are trying something new and incorporating something we love to help it succeed!
- ◆ If you'd like to try something new and get involved in a different way, you can donate your time and expertise (of something you love) to the auction. We have members who love speaking French who are going to donate their time in the form of conversational French lessons. We have members who love entertaining who are donating their lovely outdoor spaces for a variety of activities (zip lining anyone?!). We have members and their significant others with skills to offer such as guided hiking and fishing trips! Some of them aren't even members but still

want to try something new and share what they love and we sure won't try to stop them! Spend a few days thinking about what you absolutely love, if you'd like to share it, and how you'd like to share it, then send Sandi an email. You will be impressed by the wide variety of talents our branch members have!

- ◆ Another way to get involved in something new to start off 2017 is coaching for Speech Trek. Do you love public speaking or mentoring teens? Maybe you're not sure if you do but would like to give it a shot. We're also looking for members who'd like to greet attendees, make snacks, and take pictures the night of, amongst other roles. The full breakdown of details is available via email (sent 01/07/17). Contact Jill Harry if you're interested in participating in any capacity. We've got lots of great information and activities coming down the wire to start the year off, and we look forward to seeing you all soon!



*Rebecca
&
Maddie*

2016-17 Calendar



<i>Jan 10</i>	<i>SIG: Reading Group, 4:30 pm</i>
<i>Jan 11</i>	<i>Speech Trek (coaches) 5:30 pm MCHS, Rm 1</i>
<i>Jan 12</i>	<i>Program, 4:30 pm, Miner's Roadhouse Inn</i>
<i>Jan 18</i>	<i>Speech Trek (coaches and students)</i> <i>3:00 pm, MCHS Rm 1</i>
Jan 20	SIG: Corks & Forks, 5:30 pm (Jeanne MacDonald's, Bootjack)
Jan 21-22	SIG: Hiking Group (Ahwahnee Regional Park)
Jan 23	SIG: International Study Group, 5:00 pm
Feb 7	SIG: Reading Group, 4:30 pm
Feb 11	An Evening in Paris - Fundraiser
Feb 22	Speech Trek Main Event
Feb 24	SIG: Hiking group- Badger Pass snowshoeing
Mar 7	Women's History Month Proclamation
Feb/Mar	Tech Trek Interviews
May 7	Annual Meeting
May 20	Home Tour
May TBD	Tech Trek Ice Cream Social
June TBD	Tech Trek

Check the above calendar so that you can plan accordingly!

Membership

--Dawn Johnson



Who doesn't love a bargain?



Do you know someone who might like to join us and loves a good sale?

New members can join for **50% off the national dues** from January 1 through March 15. That means a total of \$59.50 to be a member until June 30, 2017 (\$24.50 for national + \$20 for state+ \$15 for branch dues).

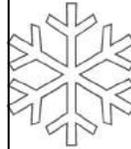
But wait, there's more!

If they join at a public AAUW event (check our calendar), they can take **an additional 25% off national dues** for a total of only \$47.25 to be a member until June 30, 2017 (\$12.25 national +

\$20 for state + \$15 for branch dues.)

For those who love price comparisons, those are great discounts from the usual \$84.00 annual membership. But best of all, they'll be a part of an impactful and interesting group of women: US!

As always, contact Dawn at dawnand-jay.johnson@gmail.com if you have any leads.



Good Will Ambassador

Please tell us.....

When one of our members could use some "good will."

Sometimes a member needs a note of support when something troubling has happened or a shout out when it's something great.

Margaret Brandenburg is our **Good Will Ambassador** and will send appropriate cards to our AAUW family. But this support system only works if YOU tell us who could use a boost or a pat on the back.



Please contact Dawn, Membership VP, at dawnand-jay.johnson@gmail.com to share any news that we should know about and we'll take it from there.

We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp



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Membership

--Dawn Johnson



AAUW got into the holiday spirit



The "Coats and Canapes" AAUW holiday party on December 11th was full of joy and jokes. Nearly 50 merrymakers squeezed into the Johnson kitchen to sip holiday spirits, then spread into the dining room to devour extraordinary hors d'oeuvres and ultimately ended up around the fire pit on a beautiful winter's eve.



Bonnie Little and Micki Finney worked harder than Santa's elves to keep everything running smoothly. And that Fireball whiskey punch that mixologist Bonnie concocted warmed everybody's throats and spirits. It was fun to add so many spouses to the mix; they contributed sparkling conversation starters such as stump grinding and building permits.



But the party was about a lot more than fellowship and Fireball. Everyone who came donated used clothing or new toiletries to Mariposa Heritage House, which serves the needy of our community. Kathy Delaney departed with a sleighful of useful, quality donations. Thanks go to Kathy and Sandi Gabe for organizing this opportunity for all of us to help make someone else's holidays as merry as our own.

It was wonderful to see what an interesting and fun-loving group we are and the night ushered in a warm and giving holiday season.



Above: Top- Cathy Chappell, Kris Casto, Yummy punch, Dawna Hunter, Cathy Owens. Bottom: Margaret Erhart, Gary & Reva Colliver, Kathy Delaney, Sharon Enrico, Micki Finney, Jill Rowney, Doug Chappell.

Project: Speech Trek

--Jill Harry



Students will once again take the stage on Wednesday, February 22 and deliver a 5-6 minute speech, this time about the Equal Rights Amendment. We have five students participating this year. Coaches are beginning to work with their designated

students to assist them in their delivery.

Can you help? In addition to showing up the night of the event (please do!), might you also be willing to

- Bring refreshments for the evening (extra points for homemade treats)
- Help me (Jill Harry) take photos (I can take most, but cannot take them at the same time I am onstage as the MC- you can use my camera)
- Be a back-up videographer. We will have a student from the high school taking video, but if you could take a back-up video on your phone, that would ease stress levels.

**Wednesday
February 22
6:00 pm
MCHS Fiester Auditorium**

Please contact Sharon Enrico (slenrico@sti.net) if you can help with the refreshment table and me ([Jill Harry](#)) if you can help with photos or video.

Thanks to all who have already volunteered for all the other tasks that go into Speech Trek!

Here's to another successful Speech Trek event, empowering our young people with the extremely useful tool of public speaking.

[Jill Harry](#), Speech Trek Coordinator
209-374-3392.



Above: Speech Trek Coordinator, Jill Harry, with the contestants in 2016. Local first-place winner Claire Gorham (second from left) went on to win third place at the state level competition. She gave her speech at the AAUW convention in the Bay Area last April.

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We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential

Project: Tech Trek

--Naoko Kada & Debbie Peters

Wheels in motion for another week of Tech Trekin'

--Maddie Brown

Every year AAUW Mariposa has the opportunity to dramatically and positively impact the lives of several young women



in Mariposa County by sending them to Tech Trek - AAUW's own STEM based week long summer camp. Some of these well deserving young ladies may not otherwise have the opportunity to attend an enriching

application and its accompanying essay. The dedicated amount of time needed to score applications and essays will vary by how many girls apply. Reviewers may meet in person to finalize scores and select the girls to ensure anonymity. Scores will be given using rubrics crafted and annually updated by our Tech Trek committee for both the

...The positive impact we as AAUW members can have on the lives of these young women is profound ..."

event like summer camp, and it is our privilege to provide this opportunity for them.

Our dedicated Tech Trek co-chairs have this year's events set in motion and have put out the call for members who may be interested in participating as an application review team member and/or a member of the interview panel.

The positive impact we as AAUW members can have on the lives of these young women is profound and surely an opportunity for us to enrich our own lives by participating.

Responsibilities:

Application reviewers will read and score applications with the girls' names obscured

who will then be interviewed. (Last year there were 8 applicants, with 3-4 pages per application - brief Q & A, plus essay. However, since there is no Washington DC trip planned for this summer, there may be up to 30 girls applying!)

Interview panel members will meet either on March 4 or March 11 (tbd) to interview the girls in person and also give scores based on rubrics from our branch. This is a nearly full day commitment.

If you are interested in participating in the Tech Trek application and interview process, please reach out to Debbie Peters at debbiep@stcg.net.

We're looking forward to another great round of Tech Trekin'!

Fundraising

--Sandi Gabe

An Evening in



Mediterranean and Seafood Dinners, French lessons for travelers, and a nutritional consultation are just a few of the silent auction items you'll find at our Evening in Paris fundraiser on February 11th at the fairgrounds. You will be able to take a picture next to the Eiffel Tower and enjoy a romantic evening of fun while listening to a live singer and accompanist and eating yummy appetizers and desserts. Kathy Sutherland is in charge of the food, so you know it's going to be a feast!

We are working hard to transform the fairgrounds into a French Bistro and Marketplace. Please contact

Sandi.Gabe@hotmail.com if you can provide any support. Specifically we need these items. We promise to return them when we're done!

- White Christmas lights (50 more strands)
- Card tables (20 more)
- Sun umbrellas in stands (30 more)
- White flat sheets or white sheer curtains (16)

Save the date and grab a friend or two or four! You won't want to miss this fun event.

An Evening in Paris!
Saturday, February 11, 2017
Mariposa Fairgrounds
4:00 pm

Proceeds Benefit AAUW Community Projects



California AAUW

Sacramento: Women to join in march for human rights



Saturday
January 21

"...The rhetoric of the past election cycle has insulted, demonized, and threatened many of us. ...We are confronted with the question of how to move forward in the face of national and international concern and fear.

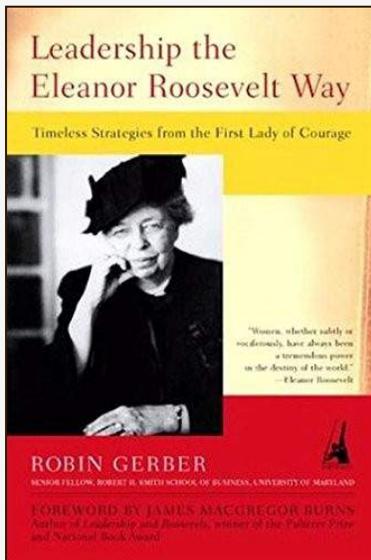
In the spirit of democracy, and honoring the champions of human rights, dignity, and justice who have come before us, we join in solidarity to show that our presence in numbers is too great to ignore. The Women's March on Washington, the Women's March on Sacramento and sister marches across the country and around the world, will send a bold message to our new administration on their first day in office, and to the world, that women's rights are human rights. We stand together, recognizing that defending the most marginalized among us is defending all of us..."

<http://www.aauw-ca.org/womens-march-sacramento/>

California AAUW

--Dawn Johnson

Participate in a state-wide "virtual" book club



AAUW-CA is trying something new and different and YOU can participate. It's a state-wide initiative to study the concept of **Leadership: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow**.

What's different?

It's a "virtual" book club. One book will be selected each year to cover the three topics. Year One covers yesterday's leadership, examined through the remarkable Eleanor Roosevelt.

The next meeting is Tuesday, January 24 at 7 pm. We'll be discussing Chapters 4 and 5. (You do not have to have read the previous chapters in order to participate.)

Dial in: 1-877-885-3221 Passcode: 7770040

Contact [Dawn Johnson](#) with any questions.

We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp

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National AAUW

More opportunities for AAUW members at the national level

AAUW Art Contest

Calling all AAUW artists! Showcase your artwork and get a chance to be featured on our spring note cards! Submit your art online in January, vote in February, and see the winning submissions in March.



"Floral"

By Carol Zerbe

Are you participating in the ¡Adelante! Book of the Month Club?



As many of you know, book clubs are a great way to meet people, learn new things, and have fun! Many AAUW members share a love of reading, and that's why the ¡Adelante! Book of the Month Club began. Using the reading list and online author discussions, we're learning, having meaningful conversations, spotlighting engrossing stories, and supporting female authors, who are much less likely than male authors to have their books reviewed in major publications like the *New York Times* and *Harper's Magazine*. Get involved by checking out this year's reading list, starting your own ¡Adelante! book club group, RSVPing for an upcoming author discussion, or signing up to be the first to know about future events!

Discussion on
February 9

Introducing HotelStorm: A New Member Benefit!

AAUW is excited to announce that we've launched our own members-only hotel booking website to bring you the lowest prices on hotels all over the world. In our private portal on HotelStorm's website, you'll find thousands of hotels at your fingertips, 24/7 customer service support, and discounts of **10–55 percent** on hotel rooms. Unlock savings here by entering the passcode MEMBERPERK.



We Sponsor Community Forums

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Interest Groups - Hiking

Contact [Mary Ripma](#)

AAUW hikers ready to explore trails at Ahwahnee Regional Park

Happy New Year! It is pouring rain at the moment but, assuming the weather permits, we'll plan on hitting the trails.



Address: 43469 Highway 49
 Hours: 8 a.m. - dusk Weds - Sun
 Size: 400 acres
 Elevation: 2400 feet
 Pedestrian Trails: 5 miles
 More info: <http://www.ahwahneepark.org/>

If you missed the January 14/15 hike in the Ahwahee Regional Park, mark your calendars for:

- Friday, 2/24 Snowshow in the former Badger Pass. A weekday...does that work for anyone? We could switch to one of the weekend days 2/25 or 2/26 weekend of March 4/5. (Let [Mary Ripma](#) know which dates best suit your schedule).

(Note: Mary and her husband, Mark, will be in Auckland for 3 months and would like to fit in a hike before they leave Mariposa on the 3rd weekend of March, returning to the USA in June.)

- Since Mary will be gone, are there any volunteers willing to organize a hike for April and/or May? Let Mary know (before she leaves)

Interest Groups - Wine

Contact [Kathy Sutherland](#)

Interest Groups - Craft

Contact [Joan Lee](#) or [Sandi Gabe](#)

Interest Groups - International Study

Contact [Peggy Shainberg](#) or [Carolyn Baker](#)

Look for more news of our other Special Interest Groups next month.



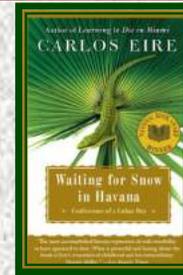
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Interest Groups- **Reading**



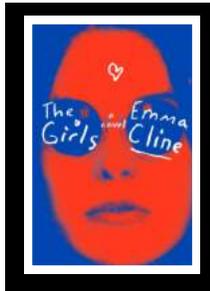
Contact [Saralynn Nusbaum](#)

Our next meeting will be
 Tuesday, February 7, 2017 at 4:30 pm
 at the home of Hélène Fiske. We will be discussing
Waiting for Snow in Havana by Carlos Eire.



Book List for 2017

- A Man Called Ove**
by Fredrick Backman
- In the Unlikely Event**
by Judy Blume
- Brain on Fire**
by Susanna Cahalan
- Waiting for Snow in Havana**
by Carlos Eire
- Fates and Furies**
by Lauren Groff
- The Nix**
by Nathan Hill
- Go Set a Watchman**
by Harper Lee
- All the Missing Girls**
by Megan Moranda
- We are Unprepared**
by Meg Little Riley
- A Spool of Blue Thread**
by Ann Tyler



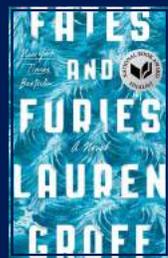
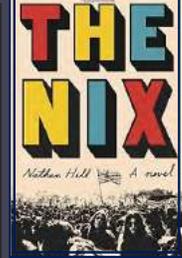
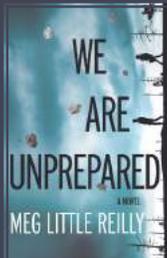
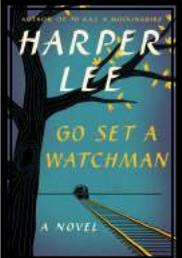
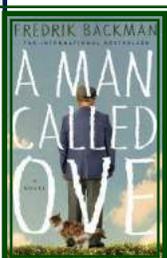
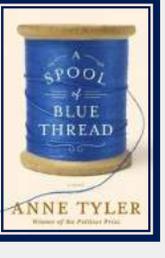
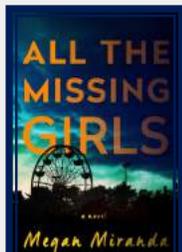
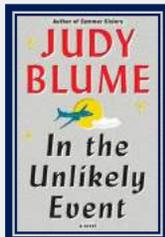
Discussion Review

The Girls By Emma Cline

--Saralynn Nusbaum

Our book group met on December 6, at the home of Helene Fiske, to discuss (the not-so-holiday-light book) “The Girls” by Emma Cline. This was Emma Cline’s debut novel and is loosely based on the Manson murders. It wasn’t about Manson at all but about the women around him and what attracted them to that life. The novel follows a fourteen year old girl, from an affluent yet dysfunctional family, who is trying to understand who she is or in another sense, waiting to be told who she is. We all agreed that Cline’s writing was beautiful though somewhat over wrought. As one of the book’s critics said, every phrase gets a brush of lacquer; hilarity is not just hilarity but a “spill of hilarity.” The book was not so much about the Manson cult and murders but more about the innocence of a teenage girl on the cusp of adulthood and what it means to be a girl in the world. There were, to be sure, disturbing passages in the book, but most of us agreed that we would recommend.

Quite a contrast for January’s discussion, was *Summer at Tiffany* by Marjorie Hart. (See page 13 for review).



Interest Groups- Reading



Contact [Saralynn Nusbaum](#)

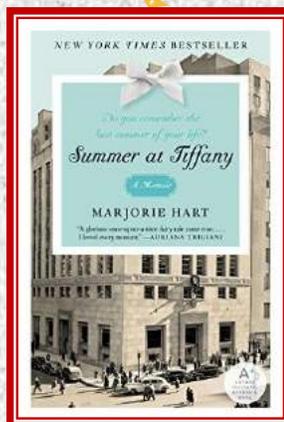
Discussion Review

Summer at Tiffany

By Marjorie Hart

--by Trish Darcy

The AAUW Book Club met Tuesday, January 10th at the home of Helene Fiske to discuss the book *Summer at Tiffany* by Marjorie Hart. We had decided to pick a light, easy read for the month of December and light it was! It was a memoir of the author's summer job during college working as a page at Tiffany in 1944, the first women page at Tiffany! Although there was not much sub-



stance to the book, it led to great discussions about how far women have come. We were able to also use it as a jumping off place to discuss changes in the country, both positive and negative. Even though the book did not have much substance, it allowed for interesting conversation and sharing.

Next month, February 7th, we will be discussing *Waiting for Snow in Havana* by Carlos Eire.

AAUW Mariposa Branch Board Meeting Minutes Library, January 2, 2017

CALL TO ORDER: at 4:10 by Co-President Maddie Brown

MEMBERS PRESENT: Maddie Brown, Dawn Johnson, Rebecca Swisher, Saralynn Nusbaum, Bonnie Little, Marilyn Saunders, Dina Lambert, Leslie Bernacchi, and Cindy Harp

Approval of Minutes from December 2016 board meeting: Minutes were submitted, reviewed, corrected, and approved via email, and will be published in the January/February newsletter. Saralynn will not be present at the February and March board meetings; Maddie will record the minutes for February and Dawn for March.

PROJECT UPDATES:

Speech Trek: Maddie/Rebecca

Twelve students have shown interest in participating; applications are due on January 11. Five members have volunteered for coaching with two additional possible. The solicitation for coaching in the newsletter did not yield any volunteers; a request for coaches will be included in the January Branch Buzz. A facilities use agreement is in progress. Jill Harry will not chair Speech Trek in 2018

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(Continued from page 13)

but will assist to train her successor.

Tech Trek: Maddie/Dawn/Rebecca

The second planning meeting will be held on January 3. Barbara Silva and Cathy Owens will be this year's project chairs. Dawn has updated the forms.

Women's History Month Proclamation: Marilyn Saunders

March is "Women's History Month". The proclamation has been submitted to Rene LaRoche, clerk of the board of supervisors, for inclusion in the March agenda. Rene has asked that we advise who from AAUW will accept on behalf of our branch. An email was sent to our membership and several responses were received nominating members to receive the proclamation. It was suggested that we randomly select from the nominees put forward and inform the others that they were nominated and encourage them to attend BOS meeting.

FUNDRAISER UPDATES:

An Evening in Paris: Sandi Gabe (Presented by Dawn Johnson and Maddie Brown)

The event has been scheduled for February 11, 4-7PM. The third planning meeting was held today, prior to the board meeting. Experience auction items are needed. Kathy Sutherland is coordinating food; volunteers are needed to prepare appetizers and desserts. Pop ups, white Christmas lights, card tables, and umbrellas are needed for décor. It was suggested that members partner up to offer an experience auction item. Tickets have been distributed to members and Sandi sent an email to members promoting tickets as Christmas gifts.

REPORTS:

Membership: Dawn Johnson

The holiday party was held at Dawn Johnson's home on December 11; there were 50 attendees. The Mariposa Heritage House coat and toiletry drive was successful.

Marilyn Saunders mentioned that Nan Oswald, a past member, may be interested in rejoining. Saralynn mentioned that Angie Heiss may also be interested in rejoining.

Publicity: Cindy Harp

Information for the January program has been requested. Articles need to be submitted to the Gazette 3-4 weeks ahead of the requested publish date, in a pinch, 2 weeks.

Programs: Leslie Bernacchi

The topic for our January 12 will be "Finance for Women", four questions for our financial future. The topics and speakers are as follows:

estate planning – possibly Anita Bryant

on-line banking – Matt Foraker of Yosemite Bank

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

financial transparency – Cindy Harp

financial building blocks – Dina Lambert

Maddie mentioned that we need to state that we are not endorsing the businesses represented by any of these presenters. Bonnie will handle the membership table in case Dawn cannot attend. Maddie will bring the nametags and membership materials to the event. Leslie will provide the membership list. Maddie will send a reminder email to members and Dawn will make a robocall.

Treasurer's Report: Dina Lambert

Dawn submitted expense reimbursements for the holiday party, Speech Trek pizza, and mailing directories. The December financial statements were circulated. Cindy Harp absorbed the cost, \$12.50, for a yard sale want ad placed in the Gazette. The ending cash balance as of December 31 was \$12,539.38. Net income for the month was \$95. Copies of the financial statements are available from the board secretary. Bonnie moved to accept the treasurer's report and Leslie seconded the motion.

ACTION ITEMS – none

NEW BUSINESS

Jeanne MacDonald sent information to the board regarding tuition-free wilderness expeditions for young girls. As we have done in the past, we will send the information to a counselor at the high school. Marilyn volunteered to contact the school and to respond to Jeanne.

Gary Colliver proposed that AAUW become involved in the community-based group on climate change. One possibility might be the screening of a climate change documentary produced by Leonardo DiCaprio for one of our programs. We will invite Gary to our next board meeting to discuss further. Leslie Bernacchi will contact him to discuss an environmental program for our series.

Assignment of Branch Buzz:

In the branch buzz email, please encourage SIG coordinators to reference the online calendar to avoid scheduling conflicts.

February - Dawn

March - Dina

The meeting was adjourned by Co-President Maddie Brown at 5:00PM. Leslie moved and Bonnie seconded the motion.



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 Class Owner

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WINE TASTING ROOM & GALLERY

KRIS CASTO
 Email: Castokris@aol.com

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www.CastoOaksWine.com

AAUW- Mariposa

www.aauwmariposa.com
 Board Officers— 2016-2017

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	Rebecca Swisher beccaswish@yahoo.com
VP Membership	Dawn Johnson jay.johnson@gmail.com
VP Programs	Leslie Bernacchi lesiann77@gmail.com
Recording Secretary	Saralynn Nusbaum saralynn@italiancreekdesigns.com
Finance Officer	Dina Lambert dinallambert@gmail.com
Directors at Large	Cindy Harp cindy_harp@earthlink.net
	Bonnie Little mbmslittle@sti.net

Project Chairs/Coordinators

Advertising	Sharon Enrico
Back Pack Project	Anita Bryant Cathy Owens
Dinner With a Scientist	Marilyn Saunders
Fundraising	Sandi Gabe
Good Will Ambassador	Margaret Brandenburg
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The *Sierra Outpost*, newsletter of the Mariposa Branch of AAUW, is usually published on the 1st of each month. It is available online in pdf format. If you cannot access the on-line copy please contact Jill Rowney. Deadline for submissions is the 25th of the month. Send information/questions to editor: jillrowney@yahoo.com