

Mariposa Branch

May, 2017







Sierra Outpost

2016-17 AAUW Program series-

"We Are Mariposa"



Sierra Foothill Conservancy

--Leslie Bernacchi



Executive Director Bridget Fithian and Program and Membership Coordinator, Nancy Fluharty, will represent the Sierra Foothill Conservancy in our May 11 program. Come hear of the important work the

conservancy does for us and the county in which we live. Did you know that Sierra Foothill Conservancy is the reason there are hiking/biking trails around the Mariposa Reservoir? Come find out about their latest projects and the next hike they sponsor!

... ensuring that present and future generations will continue to experience and enjoy the land in this region.

> **Thursday** May 11 4:30 p.m.

Miner's Roadhouse 140

This whole year has been a focus on Mariposa. We hope folks will be able to attend this last program in this year's series of events focusing on Mariposa.

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AAUW: We Open Eyes

Co-Presidents' Corner

A little spring in our step...

We recently had the privilege of sitting down with Matt Johnson, reporter for the Mariposa Gazette, to share a bit about who AAUW is and what AAUW does. One of the phrases mentioned, and regularly used by so many of us in our "elevator speeches," was that we are a group of like-minded individuals.

Pardon the cliché approach here by using a dictionary reference, but for our purposes today, we'll use the definition of being *like-minded* as "having similar tastes or opinions." When we stop to think about the many different tastes and opinions in our branch, the variety we have is impressive. We can probably agree that tastes and opinions are driven by personal experiences in life.

We cover the full spectrum of scholarly backgrounds- education, nutrition, literature, social sciences, biology etc. etc. We have a range of religious and non-religious backgrounds- Christian, Jewish, agnostics, skeptics etc. We have a variety of ethnicities, cultures, languages, and ages. We even have both genders in our membership (Shout out to Gary!). We were raised in single parent homes, traditional nuclear families, multi-generational homes, sibling or grandparent guardians, foster care, and adoptive homes. How is it that we are a

group of such *like-minded* members with such a wide variety of experiences and backgrounds? Our collective similarities of wanting to empower women, promote education, contribute to the well-being of our community are even driven by differences! We differ in the experiences that taught us that those are important values in our lives.

Our like minds don't need an explanation of who, what, when, or how we got to these similarities- just that we act on them! So whether it's taking on a board role at the Annual Meeting on May 7th, putting a topic in for discussion at Coffee and Convos on May 21st, or listening in over the phone to the recurring State study group to learn about how alike we are to Eleanor Roosevelt through the Leadership: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow on May 23rd, continuing to take action will be one more similarity that we all do in our own diverse ways.

We are glad to be similar to so many different people!



2016-17 Calendar SIG- Reading Group: 4:30pm, home of Helene Fiske May 2 May 7 **Annual Meeting & Member Gathering:** 3-5:30pm, Darrah School House, corner of Darrah and Triangle Roads May 6 **SIG- Garden Group:** 9-11am, home of Cindy Harp May 8 **SIG- International Study:** Contact Peggy Shainberg **May 11 Program- Sierra Foothill Conservancy:** 4:30pm, Miner's Roadhouse 140 May 20 **SIG- Corks and Forks:** 5:00pm, home of Cindy Harp **May 21** Coffee and Convos: 9:00am, Slim's Koffee Shak, Mariposa June 5 **Board Meeting:** 4:00pm, Mariposa Library June 11-17 Tech Trek: CSU Fresno June 14-17 AAUW National Convention- Washington DC

Board for 2017-18: Nominations still open

Nominations are accepted day-of at the Annual Meeting, so if you have been thinking about participating in a Board role, you still have a bit of time to decide!

For those interested in non-elected roles please contact Maddie or Rebecca. Additionally, we have several members interested in participating in a supporting role to the official title holders, and would like to encourage other members to reach out if there is a role they would like to learn more about or shadow throughout the next year.

Slate of Nominees for 2017-18

Elected Roles:

- (Co)Presidents: Maddie Brown and Rebecca Swisher
- VP Programs: Becky Mock
- VP Membership: Dina Lambert
- Recording Secretary: Bernadette Falaney-Davis
- Finance Officer (Treasurer): OPEN

Appointed and voting members:

- Director at Large: Molly Wilson
- Director at Large: OPEN



Another member to welcome!

--Dawn Johnson

Please welcome aboard our newest member, Jody Sergienko. She apparently fell victim to Marilyn Saunders' tireless advocacy for AAUW and we are so glad.

Jody is a retired RN who hails from the Bootjack area. She comes to us with a long list of college degrees culminating in an

MSN from Regis University.

Jody's phone is (209) 742-4361 and her email is jodyserg@gmail.com. Please update your directories with this information.

Please be sure to give Jody a very warm welcome when you see her.

Your AAUW Summer Camp Packing List

Our AAUW year is coming to a close and we've earned a vacation at summer camp!

Pack your s'more stick for this year's spring Member Gathering and Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 7th from 3 – 5:30 pm at the Darrah School House Park (at Darrah and Triangle).

We'll nosh on casual campfire fare-hot dogs and such--and mingle with friends, review the year, elect 2017-2018 officers, meet our plethora of new members, and tell some campfire tales.

It is not necessary to label your underwear, but it is necessary to pack a few things...

Don't forget... 1. Your annual renewal check for \$84 (ONLY if you do not intend to renew online! You should have already received an email with instructions and a link to renew quickly and easily online with a credit card). 2. Your best smile if you want a

- photo taken for the directory.
- 3. A campfire tale to share (watch your email for details on that!).
- 4. A buddy you want to introduce to AAUW (or just if you're afraid of the dark).

Cocktails and Convos

The event began with a rowdy (albeit good-natured) discussion of the Oxford comma, over Port and pretzels, as any

great AAUW conversation should commence. Once the discussion officially began, we wasted zero time in jumping into our first major conversational piece: If you had a million dollars to donate, what organization would you donate to, and why? In an economy that is increasingly reliant on private funding of organizations, we acceded immediately that one million dollars doesn't stretch quite as far as it used to. However, a million dollars is still a pretty

chunk of change, so factoring out a few thousand to cover, say, personal debts, we landed on a few notable ways to spread the cash. A tragically relevant choice would be to donate the money to cancer research; we remarked on the incredible advances in cancer research in such a short span of time, but lamented how far science still needs to go before we eradicate the disease from humanity. Another suggestion was to disperse the funds to a few organizations by making donations in a loved one's name; lastly, we brought up the ways that an organization like Planned Parenthood could use that money to provide preventative and

--Molly Wilson

often life-saving health care to millions of women.

A successful bar is a crowded bar, so we transitioned from the inside of the Alley to their gorgeous outdoor seating for a more intimate setting (translation: we could all hear each other again!). The next question pulled from the glass bowl touched on an issue that seemingly affects many, I dare say, most women: What is something you hear at work on a regular basis that you would like to stop, and how would you go about addressing it? The personal backstory included an older male colleague who liked to refer to women as "sweetie", regardless of the fact that the man was not a familial relation, or even a close friend. Everyone in the group murmured sympathetically that they, too, had experienced moments of discomfort because of the comments of a male coworker. But we all seemed to intuitively understand why most women do not speak up: we don't want to be labeled as



Serious business: Maddie chooses the first topic.

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"sensitive" or "unable to take a joke" – we've all heard the adage regarding unprofessional flirtation: "take it as a compliment" or "he meant well". The intentions of the speaker do not negate our feelings of unease at being addressed in an improper manner. We also recognized the power shifts that are often at play during these interactions: a boss and a subordinate, or an older coworker with a younger coworker. We noticed that typically, when we try to correct that behavior, it's only if we feel supported by either our own age or experience, or an understanding supervisor or human resources department. Instead

of bemoaning a seemingly gloomy aspect of being female, we tried our hand at a third question, which inadvertently gave us hope for the second! *How do* you promote equality with younger generations? Well, we want to empower and embolden

them. As the AAUW mission statement affirms, we are an organization that "[Advances] equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research"; part of that education includes

teaching young women to



Cheers! Ellen Jones and Monica Ritter raise their glasses and join in the conversation when we moved to outside.

command a presence in the work force where they will not feel bullied, belittled, or dismissed because of their gender. We can teach them positive conflict/resolution skills, along with a firm grasp of their right to feel comfortable in a work environment. As Queen Beyonce' says: Who runs the world? GIRLS.

Interspersed between these questions was the running theme of "community", and the importance of having a stable network of peers to give and glean regular, emotional support. We noticed the difference in support groups between generations, and fielded ideas of how younger women



Maddie Brown, Rebecca Swisher, Dawn Johnson, Molly Wilson, Kathy Chappell. (Jill Rowney is behind the camera lens).

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can effectively feel they are a part of a community (step 1: Join AAUW, obviously!). Like all taskoriented groups, we wanted to end on a pressing question that affects all local and national members of AAUW: Should the organization remove the college-degree requirement? Decidedly split on the issue, we deliberated the idea of allowing all women who support the advancement of women through higher education into the American Association of University Women. After a brief foray into the history of the club (17 likeminded women forming a

community - sound familiar!?), two important stances emerged: first, that we allow all women into the group, understanding that not every woman was afforded the privilege of earning a college degree; second, that we retain the membership requirement of a college degree, not as a statement of elitism, but rather an acknowledgement that people who join AAUW can trust that they will meet with similarlyexperienced peers. In the same way that, to join a biker or yacht club, you would need a motorcycle or large sailing vessel, so, too, can we securely assume that women who join AAUW will have some background in higher education.

The evening flashed by, as all friendly gatherings are known to do, and the women at "Cocktails and Convos" parted ways, perhaps a bit more connected and informed, with important points of discussion to mull over in time for our next event (which happens to be "Coffee and Convos" on May 21 at 9:00am at Slim's Koffee Shak, if you are more of a connoisseur of coffee and/or tea and want to join the conversation).



National AAUW

Take the Capital by storm! AAUW National Convention in Washington D.C.

--Dawn Johnson

Want more AAUW? It's not too late to register for the national convention June 14-17. Be surrounded by more than 1,000 passionate, accomplished women who walk the talk of AAUW. Learn about and be inspired by the bigger picture of this organization. There will be a plethora of workshops, notable speakers, roundtables and

plenaries, film screenings and chances to wear your grownup clothes. Check out all the details here.

Financial assistance may be available from our branch. Contact Maddie or Rebecca if you are interested.

We Inspire Life-Long Learning



To Page 1

Project: Tech Trek

--Debbie Peters & Naoko Kada

Ice cream and cookies before trekking off to

camp

--Debbie Peters & Naoko Kada

The seven Tech Trek campers and their parents gathered at Marilyn Saunders' home on Sunday, April 30, for an orientation meeting. Three campers from last year (Rylee, Jasmine and Ava) and all of the Tech Trek committee members were in attendance. Over ice cream and cookies, the three ex-campers offered many helpful tips and encouragement to the seven girls,

who all showed a lot of enthusiasm and curiosity. Debbie's daughter Shelby, who recently graduated from UC Davis, also joined and shared her experience as a Biological Science major. Both the girls and parents were having such a good time that it was hard to end the gathering. Thank you, Marilyn, for being such a wonderful hostess yet again!





Fundraising

--Sandi Gabe



--Jetty Uebner

On March 9th and 30th, Margaret Brandenburg, Anne Mahle and Laura Smith participated in the "Textured Plate Making" workshops at the pottery studio of Jetty and Rick Uebner. They rolled, they pressed, they cut, they molded, they stained, they glazed! And the results were amazing! This was a donation from Jetty in the 2017 "Evening in Paris" fund raiser.





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, to share any news that we should know about and we'll take it from there.

Interest Groups - Wine

Contact Kathy Sutherland



300 Wineries in Paso Robles?

--Sandi Gabe

With over 300 wineries to "consider", the trip to Paso Robles was filled with decisions! The Hunters, Gabes, Bakers, Rusts and Marilyn Saunders headed down on a sunny Friday afternoon. We gathered at one of the houses we rented for overthe-top appetizers, an amazing dinner and fire pit experience in a backyard filled with tiki torches and frogs. It was beautiful and melodious. After dinner we strategized our game plan conceding that 300 wineries might be too many to tackle in one weekend – although most of us were game! The evening ended with several rousing games of pool. Who



Jeff and Sandi Gabe



L-R: Willy Rust, Marilyn Saunders, Jeff Gabe, Dennis & Carolyn Baker, Karen Rust

knew that Dawna was a pool shark?!?

After breakfast on Saturday we headed out to the far end of Adelaida road and worked our way back. Halter Winery was notable for its wines (some pretty yummy cabs), vista, and outdoor seating area. Dau Winery was our lunch stop complete with rack of lamb, ceviche, and steak tartare. The vistas at Dau were worth the trip alone. The wine was tasty, although more than we wanted to spend. After a bit

more tasting and a walk, we ate downtown at Buena Tavola, recommended by Saralynn. More yummy!

We ended the evening laughing ourselves silly over Catch Phrase.

As we left on Sunday we agreed that the wine tasting was lovely but the best part of the weekend was spending time together and getting to know each other a bit better. I foresee another trip on the horizon!

Interest Groups - Hiking

--Mary Ripma



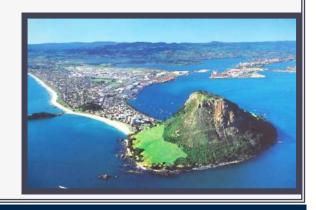
Hello from New Zealand

--Mary Ripma

Hello from sunny New Zealand where we are going into winter but have a nice day today.

I hope the walking group will continue with an event despite my absence.
Getting lots of walking in here.

Right: The top of Mount Maunganui affords a beautiful view of the ocean.



Interest Groups - Craft

Contact Joan Lee or Sandi Gabe

Photographs on wood- Kathy Delaney shares her magic techniques

Another glorious day of craftiness led by Kathy Delaney. Elaine, Margaret, and Joan transformed photos into works of art by --Sandi Gabe



transferring them to pieces of wood that

Kathy carefully prepared. The craft group is now on hiatus until the fall when Annie Mahle will begin leading the group! Thank

> you to Annie for stepping forward to organize things and to Margaret Brandenburg for convincing her that we need her talents!



L-R: Elaine Keeley, Margaret Brandenburg, Joan Lee proudly display their creative handiwork.

Interest Groups - International Study

Contact Peggy Shainberg or Carolyn Baker

The Must-See Sights of Turkey And

Sailing the Turquoise Coast

1

-- Dawn Johnson

This month, the International Studies Group got a two-fer-one.

We met at Dawn Johnson's house to nibble on the usual fine array of treats and hear two presentations on traveling to Turkey. Dawn distributed "Wish You were Here" postcards to the group and then took people on an imaginary trip across Turkey to see and learn

about each of the places and sights on the cards. We learned about everything from the harem quarters at the Sultans' palaces to the famous hotel where Agatha Christie wrote *Murder on the Orient Express* in room #411. Then Jeanne MacDonald "picked us up" on the Turquoise Coast for the fascinating story of her adventures as the skipper(!)

of a barefoot sailboat.
Everyone loved her colorful real life stories of dislodged anchors, smoking diesel engines and vomiting crew members. Both presentations were done in Powerpoint with plenty of photos to display on a big TV, so we all felt like we were really there!

Interest Groups - Garden



Attention Garden Goddesses! Yes, you of the black, green, or brown thumbs, this message is for you! The Garden SIG is back--if you want it to be. We have been taking a break, but with Spring and all the rain this winter, exciting things are



going on in the garden--or at least, the anticipation of exciting things to come!

I am inviting all who are interested to come to my



Contact Cindy Harp

-- Cindy Harp

home for the first meeting of the season on Saturday, May 6th from 9:00-11:00am. Let's take a deep breath and agree to be fearlessly honest about the condition of our gardens and yards, share our dreams for the coming year, and make plans to bring our visions into reality! We will all learn from and be inspired by each other!

Interest Groups- Reading



Contact Saralynn Nusbaum

Our next meeting will be

Tuesday, May 2, 2017 at 4:30 pm

at the home of Hélène Fiske. We will be discussing

We Are Unprepared by Meg Little Reilly.

June's discussion will be on A Spool of Blue Thread by Ann Tyler.



Book List for 2017

A Man Called Ove by Fredrick Backman

In the Unlikely Event by Judy Blume

Fates and Furies

by Lauren Groff

The Nix

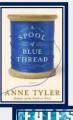
by Nathan Hill

Go Set a Watchman

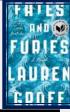
by Harper Lee

A Spool of Blue Thread

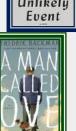
by Ann Tyler

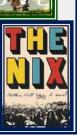












Brain on Fire By Susanna Cahalon Discussion Review

By Dawn Johnson

Brain on Fire had us on fire!

Brain on Fire: My Month of Madness initiated some good discussion about the state of modern medicine and the power of a loving support group. Written by a young journalist who was a rising star at the New York Post, this book is a memoir of her sudden fall into the darkness of what looked like mental illness. She spent a month in the hospital for seizures, violent psychotic episodes and a steady slide into a catatonic state. After many misdiagnoses (some preposterous), she was found to have a rare disorder that no one in the Book Group could even pronounce. Since she had no memory of her lost month of madness, the book chronicles her struggle through clinical notes, hospital video-



tapes, interviews with physicians and family and her own cryptic messages to herself. The group discussed the book by holding up Thumbs Up or Thumbs Down cards to answer questions like: "Is the book a good read?" "Was this a positive picture of modern medicine?" "Were there any heroes?" "Is this a hopeful story?" and "Would you recommend it?" Most questions rated Thumbs Up cards although some thought the author was too detached and the story too clinical. The biggest takeaways were that modern medicine is fallible and we all need advocates for our health care!

AAUW Mariposa Branch Board Meeting Minutes Library, April 3, 2017

CALL TO ORDER: at 4:07 by Co-President Rebecca Swisher

MEMBERS PRESENT: Maddie Brown, Dawn Johnson, Rebecca Swisher, Saralynn Nusbaum, Dina Lambert, Nancy Martin, Dawn Johnson, and Cindy Harp

Approval of Minutes from March 2017 board meeting: Minutes were submitted, reviewed, corrected, and approved via email, and will be published in the April newsletter.

TUTORING OPPORTUNITIES: Special Guest Nancy Martin

Nancy, three years ago, saw an opportunity for tutoring Mariposa school children. She is asking AAUW to take over management of this program. Through this program, tutoring is provided at Mariposa Elementary (MES), Mariposa High School, and Greeley Hills. Peer to peer tutoring is taking place at Mariposa High School. The program at Woodland School has been disbanded and those tutors are now at MES. As background, Nancy provided some data on the population at the schools. At MES 65% of the students receive free or reduced price lunches and 10-15% of the parents are ex-offenders. At Greeley Hills, two students/week ask for duct tape for their shoes; socks are a luxury. Nancy, on her own purchased 90 pairs of shoes and socks from used clothing stores to provide to the students. Our local Rotary club will be taking over this shoe and sock program. Currently two AAUW members are tutoring but more are needed; the time requirement is 1-1/2 hours per week. Tutors do not work with the same students each session. Nancy estimates that 3-4 hours per month would be required for the person who would take over management of the program; she suggests that the program coordinator try to visit or participate in a tutoring session every two weeks. Nancy will work with the person taking over the program during the transition year. Nancy's purpose in asking AAUW to take over management of the tutoring program is so that she can focus on starting a new program to ensure that families are able to provide food for their school age children during the summer break. Nancy will, however, continue to manage the tutoring program if she is unable to find a replacement. She has solicited Soroptomists along with AAUW.

Follow up board discussion:

Rebecca will be in touch with Nancy and will invite her to make a presentation at the May 7 annual meeting. It was suggested that we circulate a signup sheet at that meeting.

PROJECT UPDATES:

Speech Trek:Maddie/Rebecca

Jill Harry will not chair Speech Trek in 2018. We are looking for a replacement and Jill will assist in training her successor. Our Speech Trek candidate did not make it to the state round.

Tech Trek Maddie

A meet and greet for Tech Trek campers and parents will be held at Marilyn Saunder's home on April 30. Our branch will cover the cost of the treats.

Dinner with a Scientist: Maddie

This year lab tours will be organized by Mariposa Youth Impact Project (MyIP) in conjunction with UC Merced. Our DWS program has been submitted to AAUW state for program recognition.

Cocktails/Coffee and Convos

Our first event will be held on April 28 at the Alley and all members are welcome. This is just an opportunity to "hang out" and in a casual atmosphere, get to know fellow AAUW members. The second event will be held on May 21 at Slim's Coffee Shack.

FUNDRAISER UPDATES: - None

REPORTS:

Membership: Dawn Johnson

Our annual meeting is scheduled for May 7, 3 – 5:30PM, will be held at Darrah Park; the theme is "Summer Camp". Pop-ups will be used to provide shade. Our branch will provide a \$150 budget for the food and it will be cook out style. Food ideas discussed

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were hot dogs, chips, corn on the cob, and possibly stuffed baked potatoes as a vegetarian option. As we have insurance and have reserved the site, we are allowed to serve alcohol; we are considering serving hard cider, wine, and/or lemonade and ice tea. For dessert or snacks we'll provide a trail mix bar and pre-made smores. Our co-presidents will do a "Ranger Talk" wherein they will review the year's accomplishments. A member photographer will be on hand to take photos for our directory. The election of officers will take place and membership pins will be distributed. Dina will send out a membership renewal email two weeks ahead of the annual meeting; payment can be made on-line.

Publicity: Cindy Harp

The Gazette, chamber of commerce, goldrushcam.org, and Sierra News On-line have been contacted to promote our April 13 program featuring Cara Goger, executive director of the Mariposa County Arts Council.

Programs: Maddie

As mentioned above, the featured speaker for our April 13 program will be Cara Goger. She will be discussing Mariposa Arts Council's role in the community. Cost for the Miner's Inn has doubled from \$25 - \$50. We discussed more informal interactive programs such as a trivia night or a game night. We discussed revisiting the financial program and possibly integrating AAUW Start Smart and AAUW Work Smart programs into the discussion. We considered making the responsibility of organizing programs one for a committee rather than a single contributor.

Treasurer's Report: Dina Lambert

A check was received from STRIPE for \$30 which could not be identified. Post board meeting it was determined that this was probably related to the online auction for the Evening in Paris event. The online auction uses a payment service called Stripe. Dina gave us an overview of sales tax and the applicability to our fund raising activities. Revenue for the month of March was \$362, expenses \$6,764, and ending cash balance \$14,746. A copy of the financial statements is available from the board secretary. Maddie moved to approved the treasurer's report and Dawn seconded.

ACTION ITEMS

By-laws updates - our by-laws were extensively updated last year. Our by-laws should reflect current operations and should there be any divergence an update should be made. Rebecca is reviewing; the deadline for updates is June 1.

Board nomination:

The slate hasn't yet been submitted in the newsletter. Open positions are as follows:

Publicity – Cindy but she would like to mentor someone to assume the responsibility

Finance

Programs – open, possibly a committee approach

Recording Secretary – Saralynn prefers to step down but will continue on if a replacement can't be found.

We are required to publish a slate 30 days ahead of our annual meeting. Nominations can be taken from the floor.

Assignment of Branch Buzz:

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

May - Bonnie

June - Saralynn

The meeting was adjourned by Co-President Rebecca Swisher at 6:23PM. Maddie moved and Cindy seconded the motion.









H&R BLOCK

Marilyn Saunders Master Tax Advisor Enrolled Agent

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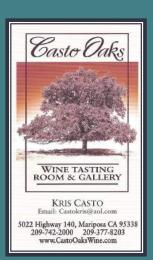
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AAUW- Mariposa

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Advertising Sharon Enrico

Back Pack Project <u>Anita Bryant</u>

Cathy Owens

Dinner With a Scientist Marilyn Saunders

Fundraising Sandi Gabe

Good Will Ambassador Margaret Brandenburg

HS Voter Education

Newsletter Editor

Publicity

Speech Trek

Jetty Uebner

Jill Rowney

Cindy Harp

Jill Harry

Social Media Maddie Brown

Tech Trek Naoko Kada

Debbie Peters

Website <u>Sandi Gabe</u>

Maddie Brown

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

