

Mariposa Branch

July, 2017







Sierra Outpost

Keeping the books straight

Seeking Finance Officer

Our branch is in need of a Finance Officer (Treasurer) for 2017-2018. This is one of the mandated roles we must have filled! Tasks the Finance Officer handles include general finance, such as making deposits and writing checks I n addition to working with the Membership VP for dues collection and preparing simple tax





forms. If you are good with funds, have good attention to detail, have a penchant for budgeting and spread sheeting your own household expenses, or are eager to learn and participate in a new way, please contact Maddie or Rebecca. We could really use your help!

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Don't be left out!

2017-2018 Membership Renewal Dues are due by July 15th. Renew online here or mail \$84 to Dina Lambert (check Directory for USPS address).

AAUW: We Open Eyes

Co-Presidents' Corner

AAUW Action doesn't stop at dawn of summer

Summer is an interesting time for the branch. We may be seeing less of each other, but the hive is still buzzing! We've got the Backpack Project starting up. Have you visited the Gift Registry website? Items can be picked up from local stores and dropped off in town, or if you have kids or grandkids, you may even have some items on hand already. Email distribution lists are being finalized, and you have until July 15th to get your dues renewed and then officially be included on said lists! The Yard Sale is all set for mid-October, so that vintage lamp that just doesn't go anywhere in your home? Yup! Donate it to the Yard Sale! We will have more information out as we get closer

to October for when you will be able to drop your items off. Special Interest Groups are being refreshed, so be sure to complete the <u>survey</u> that was

emailed to you to be added to which ever groups you would like to participate in.



This is a great time to get in on the ground level for the year. Share your ideas at the Brain Storm session, step in to our Finance Office Role (we need ya!), or set your own goals for what you are hoping to get out of the branch for the year- maybe getting to know three new friends, join a new SIG, or have a positive impact on high schoolers in our community by chairing Speech Trek (we're hiring!).



2017-18 Calendar

July 8 Summer Brain Storm Session: 9:00am,

JC Fremont Hospital Board Room

July 13 SIG Reading: 4:30pm, home of Helene Fiske

August 7 **Board Meeting:** 4:00pm, Mariposa Library

August 10 **Backpack stuffing:** 5:30pm, Mariposa Elementary School (see pg.3)

August 22 **SIG International Study:** Potluck planning luncheon

October 5 Dinner With a Scientist: UC Merced

October 13-14 **Yard Sale**



Project: Backpacks

-- Cathy Owens, Karen Rust

Donations fill students' needs for success

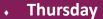
Mariposa AAUW is once again hard at work preparing backpacks filled with school supplies for designated middle school students who need assistance throughout our county. Students without appropriate resources may not have the necessary supplies or pack to carry them in. Each year AAUW volunteers work with the schools to determine the necessary school supplies for the packs. The items include the usual supplies such as binders, folders, rulers, pencil sharpener, markers, highlighters, colored pencils, crayons, and scissors and a backpack or other case to hold them. In recent years, technology support such as flash drives and ear phones have been added.

You can help us out by purchasing school supplies for the packs. To find out what is needed, please go to our <u>registry</u>. You will be able to choose the items you would like to donate. All of the instructions for where to deliver the school supplies are also at the site. The website will be open for the month of July. There are several options for accessing the website. You can





Fill Day:







Mariposa Elementary
 School Multi-Purpose
 Room

use a variety of internet browser options, such as Internet Explorer, Chrome, or Firefox, as well as access the site on devices such as iPhones, Androids, iPads, or other devices. Whichever option works best for you! If you have any questions about using the site, feel free to reach out to <u>Cathy</u> or <u>Karen</u>.

We could also use cash donations to help pay for the backpacks, which we purchase in bulk. Please send donations of any amount to Cathy Owens 5780 Clouds Rest, Mariposa 95338 or go to the Mariposa AAUW website and donate there.

Save the date! Backpack "Fill Day" brings volunteers together to assemble the backpacks and supplies. August 10, 5:30, MES Multipurpose Room. All are invited to come lend a hand!

Photo on left is from last year's stuffing.

Welcome to our FOUR new honorary members

-- Dawn Johnson

Each year, we select a few members of our community to receive a complimentary membership in our branch because they support our ideals and contribute to our efforts. Lucky for us, we had some great candidates for 2017-2018!

Welcome aboard to Rosemary Caballero, Matt Johnson, Marty Kudela and Lupita Montero.

So, who are they?

Well, Rosemary has been seen many times squirreled away in the kitchen during AAUW fundraising events schlepping trays and heating stuffed mush rooms. We're glad that she finally agreed to step out of the kitchen and into our membership! Rosemary studied Liberal Arts at Merced College and has worked as a secretary and volunteer. She lives in Mariposa. Her phone is (209) 742-6037; email is rory@sti.net.

Matt's name should be familiar from his Mariposa Gazette bylines. As the Education and Sports reporter, he has often written about AAUW and we love him for it! Matt recently graduated from Brigham Young with degrees in Communication and Sports Management and is obviously putting them to good use. Matt's phone is (605) 715-8888 and email is

matt@mariposagazette.com.

Our final two new members represent Tavis Corporation, one of our most generous and loyal sponsors of *Dinner with a Scientist*. As a local engineering company, Tavis supports STEM education for women and we are lucky to have them as a partner.

Marty Kudela is the President of Tavis Corp and seems to know a lot about manufacturing Variable Reluctance pressure transducers, whatever those are.:-) Marty's contact info is (209) 966-6575 and hi s email is

marty3636@gmail.com.

Our last new member also represents Tavis. Lupita Montero is an electronics engineer who recently graduated from UC, San Diego. She's a great STEM career role model and proved it by sharing her story with the girls attending *Dinner with a Scientist*. Lupita lives down the road a piece in Mendota. Her phone is (559) 232 -5957 and her email is

gamontero90@gmail.com.

Great group, huh?

Please update your directories with this information. I know they're getting dogeared from use, but you'll get brand spanking new ones in September.

Planning Session

--Maddie Brown

Let it rain, let the ideas pour!!

Brain Storming and Planning Session:

A basket full of little doggies with puppy breath, burning pumpkin spice candles, a crisp morning in Yosemite, and a kitchen with fresh baked cookies...These are all some of the best types of air in life.

107 degrees and humid? Not the best type of air. Yuck.

Come enjoy some cool air conditioning, a cup of coffee, and a delicious breakfast pastry while we brain storm ideas for our branch.

On July 8th, we will be holding a Brain Storming session at the Board Room at John C. Fremont Hospital.

Our hope is that during this open session, members will be able to share what they are interested in, identify areas for growth within the branch, collaborate with others over shared interests, and create engaging dialogue on a variety of branch related topics. The event will begin at 9am at the JCF Board Room (located near the Admin building, look for AAUW signs!) with coffee and breakfast pastries. We will

- Saturday,July 8
- JC Fremont HospitalBoard Room

have an hour and a half for this event, formally running from 9:15 to 10:45. Following the Brain Storming session, the board and extended leadership team will gather for a closed session meeting to wrap up 2016-2017 with a handful of formalities. Once the formalities are taken care of (such as approving the year's finances), we will look to 2017-2018, and see how we can incorporate themes from the Brain Storm session.

We look forward to hearing branch member interests and ideas. If you have thoughts you'd like to share and are unable to make it, please email Maddie or Rebecca.



AAUW National Convention

--Sandi Gabe

Below: Delegation from California

900 strong!



900 was the tally of attendees at the AAUW national convention in June. I attended on behalf of the Mariposa Branch and as an AAUW State Director. For me, it was a time of reflection about the work that AAUW does, a time to get reenergized and an opportunity to look for cool new things we can do. I was not disappointed! Here are a few of the highlights.

There were the typical speaker sessions,

My favorite quotes that highlight why AAUW needs to continue to focus on pay equity:

- Women get paid less to watch kids than men get paid to watch cars.
- Women have to fight for things that men already have.

educational sessions, time for socializing and meeting the candidates for AAUW National office – and so much more. The National Election concluded on the second day of the event. Neither bylaws amendment related to membership (eliminate the degree requirement and create a separate category of members) passed. Both required a 2/3 vote. The full results can be found on the <u>California</u> website.

Kim Churches, our new CEO of only two weeks, led several meetings. She is dynamic with a strong background in fundraising and focused on assuring that the organization can continue to grow. She has high expectations that we can increase our membership from one to two million members, diversify our income by engaging corporate donors and reduce the gap between expenditures and income. Currently, we are outspending our revenue however this year's budget is nearly balanced.

The 2019 convention is postponed until

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We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential



AAUW National Convention

--Sandi Gabe

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2020 to coincide with the 100 year anniversary of Women's right to vote.

Armed with a packet that National prepared for each district, the voting record and background for each representative, I participated in Lobby Day where almost all of the 900 convention attendees stormed *the hill*. Most states met with their senators followed by meetings with district representatives.

The California delegation met with legislative aides from Senator Diane Feinstein and Kamala Harris. The group was so large we had to meet in the atrium of the office building. Both senators have 100% voting record for the issues about which AAUW is concerned.

I accompanied 3 other district members to Tom McClintock's office where we met with one of his legislative aides and delivered a packet of information about AAUW and inquired about his positions on AAUW issues. The aide was unfamiliar with his position on most other than the fact that he's for school choice.

The Speakers were captivating

Dr. Tererai Trent

received the AAUW Alumnae Award. She was the most vibrant speaker who drew the connection between the work we set out to do and some results. Dr. Trent, Oprah Winfrey's "all-time favorite guest", is from Zimbabwe. She received a fellowship from

AAUW and believes that education is the pathway out of poverty.

Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor

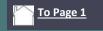
I think this amazing woman may have touched physically and emotionally more than 50% of the attendees as she wound her way through the crowd simultaneously answering questions, shaking hands and hugging the attendees. It gave me goosebumps and I was one of those who got to shake her hand. It was inspiring! She



Above: Justice Sonia Sotomayor

believes that we have a responsibility to take action and create laws to protect women's rights. She's involved in iciv-ics.org. She was captivating to listen to and down to earth. I was embarrassed to have not read her book yet. My Beloved World is

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AAUW National Convention

--Sandi Gabe



Above: Sandi Gabe (center) with Sue Miller (left-Public Policy Committee Chair)

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on my list now.

We also met with two pollsters, **Linda DiVall** – 1st Republican female pollster and Democratic **Celinda Lake** (D)

This was a fascinating session. They shared some interesting facts from their polling. You would also be amazed. During the 2016 election Celinda was involved in activities to educate women that they do not need to vote the way that their spouses do. When asked, 73% of men say that their wives vote consistent with them. Only 43% of the women agree. AARP Study of women <50 reveal:

- 61% are worried that prices are rising faster than income.
- 31% have a care giving responsibility.
 This is probably understated since most women don't use the term "caregiver" but expect that it's a part of being a mother, daughter etc.
- They want to change social security so that there is a credit for working in the

home.

- Are concerned about pharmacy prices.
- Want to stay in the home after retirement (don't want to be institutionalized)
- Women are running for office in record numbers – but it's still a small number
- The number of women <55 who voted declined in the last election.
- Millennials are not voting. They think that regular social media activity is adequate not realizing that electing the right person has a longer lasting and larger impact.

College debt is the #1 area of growing debt. AAUW just released a study titled: Deeper in Debt.

- Grandparents are now paying for their grandchildren's education and their school debt.
- Women make up 51% of the college participants.
- More women are in debt than men when they graduate and have a larger debt.
- 10% of the college community is homeless or have food insecurity.
- The pay gap means that women who graduate with debt take longer to pay off their debt.

While our next national convention will not be until 2020, the next AAUW California state convention will be held April 27-29, 2018. Save the date! You too can be inspired, engaged and motivated! The Mariposa branch typically sets aside funds to assist convention attendees with expenses so you can make it a reality

Fundraising

--Sandi Gabe







Got lemons? Make lemoncello!

--Sharon Enrico



When life gives you lemons, make lemoncello! That's what Larry Enrico's t-shirt said and that's the lesson he gave. Pat and Greg Mayer invited their friends Sharon and Bill from Idaho, along with neighbors Rich and Peggy Keller, to join them in learning how to make this tasty Italian aperitif.

The Enricos started the session with a light blueberry lemoncello drink and appetizers before handing the peelers around for everyone to take turns at taking the skins off of almost 40 lemons. Once the peels and the vodka were put in jars and relegated to a closet, we celebrated with Prosecco and lemoncello and shrimp sautéed with lemoncello.

The couples left with baskets that held a set of glasses, the lemoncello instructions and a set of recipes for drinks to make using lemoncello. And we get to meet again to finish the process by adding sugar water and bottling the lovely yellow liquid!



and Pat Looking at all those lemons! Left: Larry, sporting his special T-shirt, pours a taste Right: Greg, Pat, Sharon and Bill toasting the day.

Above right: Rich, Larry





Fundraising

--Sandi Gabe



Mexican fare- Oaxacan style

--Jill Harry





Jill Harry (right), husband, Jon, and friends enjoyed a delicious authentic Oaxaca fourcourse chicken mole dinner at the home of Karen Smith and Michael Martin, What a

great auction prize from AAUW's "An Evening in Paris" fundraising event. The hosts even included cute gift bags filled with goodies from their latest trip to Mexico.

Delicious dinner delivered to front door!

--Joan Lee -- Cindy Harp

Max & Joan Lee and their guests enjoyed a delicious home-delivered "Portofino Dinner". Cindy and Lynn Harp showed up at the Lees' ranch, 3+ miles beyond the end of the pavement (!) and met their delightful guests: a long-time family friend, her daughter and son-in-law, and their two delightful, well-behaved children. From Cindy: It was a wonderful evening full of great food (my opinion, of course!), and wine (we brought two bottles and the Lees' guests added a couple more wonderful wines from the Lodi area), interesting and amusing



conversation, and none of us could believe it was 10:00 by the time we left them, we felt like family!



Fundraising

--Sandi Gabe



Chocolate, chocolate, chocolate!

--Sandi Gabe

One of my favorite foods and vices, chocolate, has a special place in my heart. So, I offered a "Chocolate Addict Club" membership as an auction item at the Evening in Paris event because I thought it might make someone else happy AND it gave me

an excuse to dabble with new recipes. Here's a picture of the latest installment, Rocky Road Bar. It's my new favorite. Lucky for me, I had to give it all away since I could have eaten the entire pan by myself!



Interest Groups - Wine

Contact Kathy Sutherland



Summer solstice sauvignions

-Marilyn Saunders

Corks and Forks met for the summer solstice and tasted Sauvignon Blanc, a good white wine for the season. The Clos du Bois rated number one with a wide range between the several wineries represented. We had thought to be outside, however the heat wave drove us indoors where the conversation was nonstop. This crew looks forward to July, hoping we'll have temperatures just a bit lower!



Above: Sharon & Dave Moore, Lynn Harp.



Left: Jeanne MacDonald greeting us all. Lots of conversation--nothing boring!



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We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential

Interest Groups - International Study

Contact Peggy Shainberg or Carolyn Baker

Belly dance lesson at last meeting

-- Peggy Shainberg



The International Study group ended on a high note of Turkish music and belly dancing. Naoko had music and Wendy Carmen had us all up learning how to shimmy and play the finger cymbals. A fun evening. We will have a lunch potluck on August 22 to plan our next country of study. If you are interested in joining, be sure to complete the Special Interest Group signup that was emailed to you.







Interest Groups - Garden

Contact Cindy Harp



Finney's "villa": a taste of gardening in town

--Jill Rowney

The garden group gathered at Micki Finney's home on Thursday, June 15. Her exquisite gardens have been works in progress for over thirty years. Her home, on the Mueller tract overlooking Mariposa town, sits on less than an acre. Every part of the "yard" is tended, inviting one

to sit and enjoy the outdoors in several different shaded areas. Their latest addition was the river rock "waterless" feature that lined both sides of the brick walkway as you enter the yard. Micki's philosophy has been one of "going with the flow". During the drought years, when the water was NOT flowing (they are on metered water from town, rather than an individual well, as so many of us have), she would pull out plants that died and replace with ones more drought tolerant. Her raised beds on the pool side have so many plants there is no room for weeds (see photo above)!



Did you know there is a seed file in the library? Micki reminded us of it. There is a file cabinet facing the checkout desk (near the adult book section) that is dedicated to housing seeds- top drawer for vegetables, the bottom for flowers. Clearly marked folders are filled with enve-

lopes of seeds- how many seeds does one use from an envelope in a season? People bring their half-full envelopes and donate them to the gardening cause and help themselves to seeds they'd like to try. What a great service-and it's free!



We Value Education



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Interest Groups- Reading



Contact Saralynn Nusbaum

Our next meeting will be

Tuesday, June 6, 2017 at 4:30 pm

at the home of Hélène Fiske. We will be discussing

Fates and the Furies by Lauren Groff.

August's discussion will be on A Man Called Ove by Fredrick Backman



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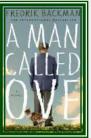
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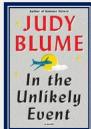
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Book List for 2017

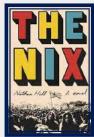
A Man Called Ove
by Fredrick Backman
In the Unlikely Event
by Judy Blume
The Nix
by Nathan Hill

Go Set a Watchman by Harper Lee









Discussion Review The following comments from Jill Rowney:

A Spool of Blue Thread by Anne Tyler Book Review

By Carolyn Baker

Ann Tyler's book, A Spool of Blue Thread, is a story of a middle class family living in Baltimore. Junior Whitshank, the "founder" of the family was definitely an interesting character. He was chased by a 13 year old seductress, Linnie, who bides her time and eventually gets her man. However, the "true love" of Junior's life is actually the house that he is building for a client. He boldly tricks the client into thinking that the home is in an unsafe neighborhood and thus Junior is able to acquire the home of his dreams. Junior and Linnie live here with their two children, Redcliff and Merrick.

Now a grown man, Redcliff has changed his name to Red, taken

Though it was a work of fiction, *A Spool of Blue Thread* did not depict a "story" from beginning to end. It was rather a glimpse into a family's life and relationships with one another. The group did not include this book on its "must read" list, but did appreciate the development of believable

over the family construction business, and lives in the Whitshank family home with his wife, Abby. Three of their grown children live nearby except for Denny (the prodigal son). They have no idea where Denny lives or what he might do for a living. His parents and siblings feel the pain of his sporadic visits. However, the bulk of the story revolves around the children's concerns for their aging parents. Abby's brain starts to "jump the track" and Red starts going deaf and then has a

characters. Author Ann Tylers' focal concept was that of endurance: how families cope in everyday situations; how much is left unspoken, how misunderstandings are spawned, how assumptions affect behavior and attitudes.

heart attack.



AAUW Mariposa Branch Board Meeting Minutes

Library, June 5, 2017

CALL TO ORDER: at 4:15 by Co-President Maddie Brown

MEMBERS PRESENT: Becky Mock, Dawn Johnson, Rebecca Swisher, Maddie Brown, Dina Lambert, and Saralynn Nusbaum

Officers, as noted below, were elected at the May 7 annual meeting:

Maddie Brown & Rebecca Swisher - Co-Presidents

Molly Wilson - Director at Large

Bernadette Davis - Recording Secretary

Becky Mock - Program VP

Dina Lambert - Membership VP

Cindy Harp - Publicity, Cindy would like to transition and is looking for a member to mentor in the roll

Treasurer - open, Dina is willing to mentor

Director at Large - open

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

PROJECT UPDATES:

Tech Trek: Maddie

Tech Trek starts on June 11. Visitors' day is June 15th; all AAUW members and families are invited to attend.

Yard Sale

The yard sale is scheduled for the weekend of October 13/14 and will be held at the home of Helene Fiske. We will follow up with Sharon as to when donations can begin to be delivered to the Fiske home.

Backpack Project: Maddie/Rebecca

Cathy Owens and Karen Rust will be co-chairing this year. A media blitz will go out in June advising members how to purchase supplies for the backpacks or make cash donations. Backpack fill day is scheduled for August 10 at 5:30PM at the MES multipurpose room. Anita Starchman Bryant will begin accepting supply donations at her office in July.

REPORTS:

Membership: Dawn /Dina

Dina and Dawn met for a transition meeting. Dawn will update all files and hand off as of June 30. Special interest group surveys will be sent to the membership to re-<u>enroll</u>. The survey will be sent in the fall once we have finalized membership for the 2017/18 year.

We are entitled to five honorary members this year. Progress is being made on the selection of candidates. Our branch needs to submit the names of honorary members to AAUW national by June 30, 2017.

Our membership renewal campaign is underway for the 2017/18 year. 30% of our membership has not yet renewed. The deadline for renewal is July 15. Dawn suggested a robocall but we'll hold off until we get closer to the cutoff.

Programs:

Becky Mock is our new VP of programs. She and Maddie met to discuss the transition. Dina will show Becky how to use the sign-in form. Leslie Bernacchi suggested that we ask the Miner's Roadhouse 140 to bill us to assure that we always pay the same rate. Dina will check to see if they will accept prepayment. Becky suggested surveying members on topics they would like to see presented. AAUW National would like to see programs focused on our mission of empowering women and girls.

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Treasurer's Report: Dina

A \$200 donation toward our Backpack Project was received from Soroptomists. Saralynn will acknowledge with a thank you note. Dina will purchase stamps for mailing membership reminders to those members who do not use email. \$100 will be provided to cover food for our July 8 brainstorming and planning session. Our cash balance as of 5/31/17 was \$15,009. Dawn made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and Rebecca seconded.

NEW BUSINESS:

Our annual brainstorming and planning session has been scheduled for July 8; the venue is yet to be determined. We'll begin the meeting with a discussion of what members are interested in. We'll then walk through the calendar and work on the budget. Unless we have a new project to support, we may not need to have a fundraiser during the 2017/18 year.

Assignment of Branch Buzz:

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

July - Rebecca

August - Maddie

Upcoming Events:

July 8 - Brainstorm Session and Planning Session

August 10 - Backpack Stuff

October 5 - Dinner with a Scientist

October 13 & 14 - Yard Sale

The meeting was adjourned by Co-President Maddie Brown at 5:05PM. Dina moved and Rebecca seconded the motion.





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AAUW- Mariposa

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VP Programs

Becky Mock

Recording Secretary

Bernadette Falany-

Davis

Finance Officer

OPEN

Director at Large

Molly Wilson

Director at Large

OPEN

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

Project Chairs/Coordinators

Advertising

Back Pack Project

Karen Rust

Dinner With a Scientist

Fundraising

Good Will Ambassador

HS Voter Education

Newsletter Editor

Publicity

Speech Trek

Social Media

Tech Trek

Yard Sale Website

Sharon Enrico

Cathy Owens

Marilyn Saunders

Sandi Gabe **Margaret Brandenburg**

Jetty Uebner

Jill Rowney

Cindy Harp

OPEN

Maddie Brown

Cathy Owens

Barbara Silva

Sharon Enrico Sandi Gabe

Maddie Brown

