

Sierra Outpost

Film: "Half the Sky"

Thursday

August 13

6:00 pm

Sonora Tacos

5:00 on site

Board of Supervisors'
Chambers

August Program: "Half the Sky" Film Screening

Turning Oppression into Opportunity
for Women Worldwide

--Dawn Johnson

An old adage states that women *hold up half the sky*. Unfortunately, they also comprise the majority of the world's poor and often suffer the deadly effects of gender inequality.

countries in Asia and Africa to hear the stories of courageous individuals who are working to bring about change for women and girls. The film squarely addresses gritty

Mark your calendars to see this compelling documentary

This is something we should know about, think about and talk about.

AAUW Mariposa is partnering with Mariposa's **Mountain Crisis Services** to screen this award-winning PBS film based on the book of the same name by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn.

You will join Kristof and celebrity activists as they travel to several

realities of the global oppression of women, including trafficking and gender-based violence. It also explores meaningful solutions which are being fashioned through healthcare, education, and economic empowerment for women and girls.

There will be an opportunity for discussion with a panel of local

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experts who work with **Mountain Crisis Services** following the screening. They will highlight the film's relevance to OUR community and explore what actions we as individuals can take.

No need to worry about dinner first! *Sonora Tacos* will be on site at 5:00 pm selling refreshments prior to the film.

Co-Presidents' Corner

Thoughts from Dawn and Sandi

Grab hold of your seats! Here we go! Since Dawn and I are co-chairing the presidency role, we've decided to alternate our newsletter messages to you each month. Since Dawn just completed a whole year of articles, I'm leading off this year. We also agreed to keep them short. That will be a challenge!

Sunday we held a planning session with the board members, project chairs and several interest group chairs to plot our course for the upcoming year. Fueled by a great lunch, our passions came alive as we gave shape to where we should focus this year. We reviewed projects, fundraisers, and our



financial performance; ending the day by preparing our budget and a yearly calendar ([see page 10](#)).

Key to our discussion was the feedback that 60% of you provided through the Member Survey (an amazing participation rate!). You can find a summary of the feedback on [pages 8-9](#). We're in the process of summarizing our plans and will review that with the Board at our August 17th board meeting and publish them in the September newsletter.

Ciao (guess where I'm going this fall...),



Sandi

Dinner With a Scientist

--Marilyn Saunders

Dinner with a Scientist at UC Merced is back for its third year! We expect about 75 girls to attend the dinner and meet with professionals in scientific careers on **September 30**.



We are changing it up a bit to keep things interesting for our Mariposa students. We plan to take about 20 of the girls for visits to laboratories on campus in the afternoon.

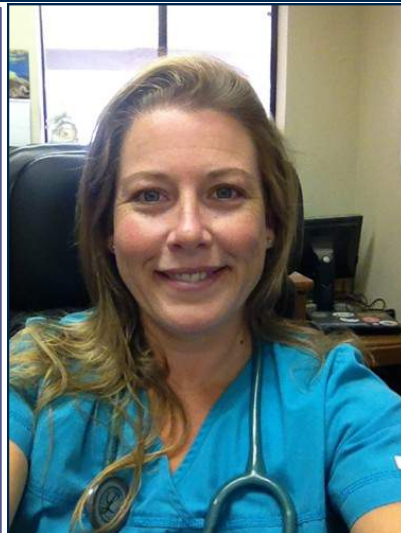
(They will join the others for dinner and meeting with scientists.) Lab visit sign ups will be on a first come first serve basis with priority given to Juniors. Why this priority? Juniors are in the process of making decisions for their college careers. The opportunity to visit labs may help them refine their goals and choices.

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Value Education

Membership

--Carolyn Baker



A very warm welcome to our three newest members.



← Angelina Brouillette

Danielle Grate →

Below: The many faces of Jeanne MacDonald



Mariposa AAUW Calendar

August

- 4 Book Group: *Girls of Atomic City*
- 4 Birthday Packet Decorating/Stuffing
- 10 International Study Group
- 11 Filling of the Backpacks
- 13 Film screening of "Half the Sky" documentary
- 17 Board meeting: 4:00 pm @ library
- 20 Bacchus Buddies/Corks & Forks
- 25 Garden Group



September

- 14 Board meeting: 4:00 pm @ library
- 18-19 Yard Sale
- 30 Dinner With a Scientist

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Backpack Project

--Cathy Owens



Time to Fill Those Backpacks!

We have had a tremendous response to our request for school supplies. Thank you to the many members who went shopping for

us and delivered the assortment of necessary supplies to Anita Starchman-Bryant's office. Thanks also to the 13 members who donated money which totaled \$465.00 and was used to help purchase the backpacks.

Although we have finished acquiring supplies for the packs, we are still accepting donations for the classroom teachers' supply cupboards. They have requested four items – Kleenex, sets of dry erase markers, baby wipes, and hand sanitizer. These may be delivered to Anita's office up until Tuesday, August 11.

The Backpack Fill Party is coming up soon on Tuesday, August 11, at 4:30. Join us at the Tavis Corporation Office, 3636 Hwy 49 S. Please send a response to your invite if you plan to help out or call 742-6111 for more information.

The backpacks and school supplies will be delivered to MES, Woodland and Catheys Valley prior to the first day of school. Recipients of the backpacks are determined by the school principal, counselors, and teachers with the student's confidentiality in mind.

The Backpack Project is one of our branch's most beloved projects and we will continue to explore ways to expand this program in the future. Thanks again to everyone who has helped out!



half the sky movement

Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide

Thursday, August 13th, 6:00 p.m.

Board of Supervisors' Chambers



Send Girls to Science/Math Camp

Speech Trek

--Dawn Johnson

Four Score and Seven Years Ago...

We didn't need a *Speech Trek* Coordinator.

But for the past four years, our branch has organized a *Speech Trek* event. This is a state-wide speech contest for both girls and boys in high school. They must research, write and deliver a compelling 4-6 minute speech on a topic that is chosen by AAUW's state board.



So, what's up with *Speech Trek* this year?

We have the dynamic support of MCHS teacher Bryan Starchman, who has unfailingly supported and embellished the event every year. The 2015-16 topic is gender inequality. The tentative date is Feb 23 or 24 (TBD).

What we don't have is a *Speech Trek* Project Coordinator.

Could it be you? Could it be you and a friend?

You would work with your Board Liaison (read: lots of help from Dawn) and other volunteers to:

- ◆ Promote the contest at school.
- ◆ Handle the students' applications.
- ◆ Recruit AAUW volunteers as speech coaches.
- ◆ Be sure our Publicity Chair has information for the paper.
- ◆ Arrange an orientation/training meeting for the students and coaches.
- ◆ Secure judges and AAUW volunteers for the night of the event.
- ◆ Hand out MONEY to the winners!

You don't have to re-invent the wheel. We have done *Speech Trek* before. We have done it well. We have a thorough, detailed plan and timeline. We have written all the materials.

What's in it for you? You'll work with funny, smart, dedicated students and funny, smart, dedicated AAUW members. You'll be proud.

Here's the truth: Your board is taxed already. We will guide and help, but can't do it alone. If no one is available to be Coordinator(s), we will consider skipping the event this year and see if there is interest next year.

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Yard Sale

-Sharon Enrico

Good Stuff for Awesome Prices!

This year we are adding Friday afternoon to our annual AAUW Yard Sale to make it even bigger and better!

- ◆ **Set up :**
Friday, 9/18 , 8 - noon
- ◆ **Sale:**
Friday, 9/18, 1 - 5
Saturday, 9/19, 8 - 2

Helene Fiske continues to honor us with the use of her garage at the fabulous location on the corner of 6th and Jones. If you have not already received an email regarding helping out at this event and would like to join us, please contact Sharon Enrico.

We need lots of great items to sell, so gather those articles together that you have been saving all year and be ready to deliver them to Helene Fiske's home at



Friday-Saturday
September 18-19

4975 6th Street any time during the week before the yard sale.

If you bring items that have a specific price which would be appropriate, please feel free to mark them ahead of time. There are many people pricing and not all of us know what the going rate is for everything (we make up a lot!).

Don't donate anything that is broken, missing parts, or doesn't function correctly. Having items that are clean makes them more attractive to the buyer, too. If you need help getting items to the yard sale, call Sharon Enrico (966-3062) and we will find a way to get your donations delivered!

Remember this is a money maker for our branch- so donate a lot, spend a lot, talk it up a lot, and have fun a lot!

Get the word out with a newsletter ad

--Sharon Enrico

Putting an ad in our very own AAUW newsletter is a great way to reach nearly 100 people every month. For a mere \$50 a year, your ad will be seen by highly motivated women and friends. Besides (or in addition to) advertising a business you can put in a one-time ad for \$10/month and

announce to all the birthday celebration of a member, an upcoming anniversary, a new grandbaby, a graduation milestone. Be creative and share good news! Call or email Sharon Enrico for more information (966-3062, slenrico@sti.net).

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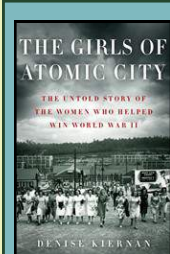
Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential

Interest Groups



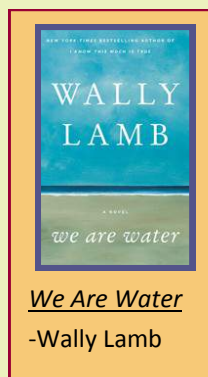
Contact Saralynn Nusbaum
510.913.6994.

Our next meeting will be
Tuesday, August 4 at 4:30
at Saralynn Nusbaum's home.

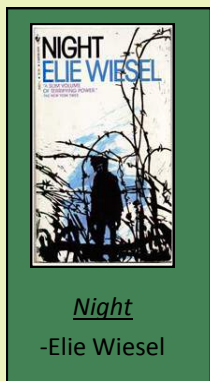


We'll be discussing
The Girls of Atomic City
By Denise Kiernan.

Remaining titles selected for 2015:



We Are Water
-Wally Lamb



Night
-Elie Wiesel



All the Light We Cannot See
-Anthony Doerr



Garden Group

will meet on August 25 at Georgia Gallegher's home to discuss gray-water collection and irrigation systems .

Contact Micki Finney: 209.966.4644.



International Study Group

will meet on August 10 at Carolyn Baker's home to discuss and select the focus of this year's study.

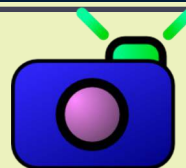
Contact Peggy Shainberg: 209.966.2076



Wine Groups

will meet on August 20 at Saralynn Nusbaum's home to compare the pairing of desserts and wines.

Contact Kathy Sutherland:
209.742.6131.



Click and Sip

If you don't pay attention, opportunities might pass you by! These members (left) grabbed the appointed afternoon to join Sandi and her camera at The Alley. They'll have new photos for the Membership Directory AND enjoyed the camaraderie.



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Membership Survey

--Sandi Gabe

Background Information

In an effort to gauge member satisfaction, 96 surveys were distributed via Survey Monkey on June 30, 2015. 58 (60%) were returned by the closing date of July 17th.

Members who did not complete the survey were sent 2 reminders. The overall response rate was good and most members expressed a positive perception of the



organization, leadership and their own engagement. 3 people requested to be contacted about their responses.

Survey Summary			
Length of membership	Sent	Returned	% Returned
0-3	45	24	53%
3-10	16	11	69%
>10	35	23	66%
Total	96	58	60%

Key Outcomes

- ✓ Good survey participation
- ✓ We meet the mission through our programs, projects and actions
- ✓ Our communication is good and members feel welcome and appreciated
- ✓ People like our meeting topics and schedule
- ✓ The newsletter meets the need in the current state
- ✓ Our members are busy – and that impacts their participation and feeling of engagement

■ Meeting the Mission

94% of respondents felt they *had a clear understanding of our branch mission and goals* and 98% felt our *projects* such as Tech Trek *were effective in pursuing the mission*. When members were asked to rank their *top three projects*; Tech Trek, Dinner with a Scientist and the Backpack project were ranked the highest.

(Continued on page 9)

▪ Communication

96% of respondents feel we *keep them in the loop* and almost $\frac{1}{2}$ look to the newsletter first for information. 84% indicated that they *read the entire newsletter* always or most of the time. 75% suggest we *continue* with the newsletter *monthly* and 80% like the *format* we currently use. 18 people said they don't read it regularly because it's either too long, not useful, they don't use the computer or get the info elsewhere. 60 (62%) of members *opened* the *June Newsletter* email and 40 (42%) *clicked through to the newsletter*.

90% of respondents indicated that we do a good job *of communicating our volunteer opportunities*.

▪ Meetings

75% of respondents indicated that they *might attend a monthly meeting*. Weekday afternoons or evenings were the preference and there was flexibility to continue our meetings at Miners' Inn or try a member's home or local restaurant.

▪ Programs

85% felt we should keep the *same frequency and openness* to the public. 80% liked the topics. The reasons for not attending were primarily due to time availability (inconvenient or had other plans).

▪ Special Interest Groups

International group and the Wine Groups were the best attended. 60% of those who are not attending a group indicate that they don't have time to participate.

▪ Member Engagement and Satisfaction

Showed some mixed results. *Most members indicated that they were either slightly engaged or not as engaged as they would like to be*. Time availability appears to be the largest factor impacting participation.

98% of respondents *feel welcomed by branch leaders* and members. 78% are satisfied with their membership. 2 indicated that they were somewhat disappointed and one member said she tells people that she's disappointed in the branch as the first thing she says about AAUW. 84% of members feel their contributions are valued.




2015-2016 CALENDAR

<p>04 Independence Day 26 Board Planning Mtg</p>	<p>JULY 2015</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		<p>JANUARY 2016</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							<p>04 Board Meeting 18 M.L. King Day 14 Program – Miner's Inn</p>
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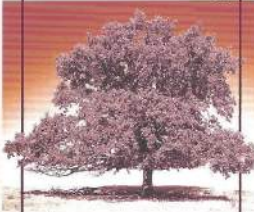
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