

### Mariposa Branch

#### November, 2015

INCIDE THIS ISSUE



# Sierra Outpost



--Dawn Johnson

We have TEN enthusiastic girls ready to man (er, woman) our AAUW booth at the November 14<sup>th</sup> TED<sup>x</sup> event at MCHS. We are focusing on Tech Trek and, during the breaks between speakers at 11:00 a.m. and 12:45 p.m., the students will be demonstrating neat experiments that they learned at camp in a special area called *Innovation* Alley. Tentatively, we'll dazzle the audience with things like geopanes, robotics and fractal demonstrations. If you don't know what fractal demonstrations are, come and see!

Each demo table with have 3-4

# TEDX YO

YOSEMITE

**Saturday** 

**November 14** 

9:00 am

Richard D. Fiester Auditorium

**Mariposa County High School** 

Tech Trek graduates showcasing what they learned and sharing their enthusiasm. Naoko Kada, Dawna Hunter and Dawn Johnson are monitoring the three tables and wrangling the girls and Debbie Peters is handling setup and admin. It promises to be a great showcase for AAUW and the impact of our programs, but also a fascinating and stimulating day for our community. Be sure to put TED<sup>x</sup> on your calendar. For more information and tickets, visit the TED<sup>x</sup> Yosemite website.

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AAUW: We Open Eyes

# **Co-Presidents' Corner**

### Thoughts from Dawn and Sandi

Hooray for us!

Each month, your leadership team receives a communication called B2B (Board to Board) from the California state organization. Look what they said last month:

A Member's Story:

My daughter, a University Graduate, (was looking for) a way to meet like-minded women, make friends of her own and become involved in the community. So, we looked at <u>Find A Branch</u> on the AAUW-CA website to see which branch in her area (there were 4) might be the best fit for her.

One didn't have a website so we had no way to contact them except to send an email to Membership.

The second did have a website but no pictures, no information about activities except date of next board meeting.

A third had a link to a website that had been disabled.

The fourth had a website that included information about projects and activities, a calendar, newsletter, pictures showing a diverse membership, open invitation to a new members event, lots of information about interest groups & when they meet, a membership form to print and send in and an online one too.

Which one do you think she wants to investigate?

We keep saying that we need to attract new younger, diverse members. This demographic has lots of choices and will naturally be attracted to an organization that looks lively, energetic, mission based and welcoming. Check



out these branch websites 
<u>Healdsburg</u>, <u>Laguna</u>

<u>Beach</u>, <u>Mariposa</u>, <u>Palos Verdes</u>

<u>Peninsula</u>, <u>Morgan Hill</u>. No website, an outdated website or one that

doesn't really offer an invitation is a real turnoff.

Did you see which website was listed as exemplar? OURS! Out of 140 branches!

That deserves some recognition to Sandi Gabe, who is forever behind the scenes updating our site with fresh information, great graphics and intriguing text. And it also deserves a tip of the hat to all of you members who make those things happen! It is YOU who makes us energetic, mission-based, active, interesting and welcoming.

But sometimes things don't always come out the way we hoped. In spite of our strong team's efforts writing an excellent application to bring the "Tech Savvy" STEM event to our branch, we were not selected for one of the twenty \$5,000 startup grants from the national office. It's just a little setback. Thanks to all the research and preparation by Marilyn Saunders, Maddie Brown and Sandi Gabe, we have the groundwork for another attempt next year.

Sandi and I look forward to seeing you dressed in your outback garb for the "On Safari" Fashion Show Adventure fundraiser. We expect to hear the trumpeting of elephants, the roaring of lions AND your excited yelps when you win an auction item. Go wild! Sell tickets. Donate an auction item. Bid big.

See you on the savannah.





# Membership

--Carolyn Baker

### Do you have the newest Membership Directory?

I have a few 2015-2016 AAUW Directories that Need a Good Home!

Unfortunately a few of our awesome members have not received their wonderful **2015-2016 AAUW Directory** yet. I will be attending an AAUW Board Meeting at the Mariposa Library meeting room on Monday, November 2nd at 4 PM. If this is

convenient for you, please drop by anytime between 4-5 PM and I will have your directory there for YOU. If this time does not work for you, please email me-baker-sacre@sti.net and we can set up a time and place that does work.



3333333333333

# **AAUW Holiday Bash**

Sunday, December 13th, 4:00 - 7:00pm

Home of Jill Rowney: 4131 Silver Bar Road

Want to enjoy a Sunday evening with festive munchies and drinks, AND have a chance to visit with friends—all BEFORE the hectic holiday season gets into full swing? Set this date aside and be ready for a relaxing evening. Spouses welcome and encouraged to come!

## **Mariposa AAUW Calendar**

#### November

- 2 Board Meeting: 4pm Library
- SIG: Reading Group- 4:30pm
- 7 SIG: Art Group, Fresno, 8pm
- 7 SIG: Hiking Group
- 9 SIG: International Study Group, 5pm
- 14 Tech Trek event at TEDx- 11 am MCHS
- 15 SIG: Craft Group- Wreath Making 1-4pm
- 21 AAUW Safari- A Fashion Show Adventure 3pm Fairgrounds Bldg A

(SIG = Special Interest Group)

#### December

- 1 SIG: Book Group
- 7 Board Meeting: 4pm-Library
- 13 AAUW Holiday Party

(See Master Calendar on page 13 for a more complete schedule)



Inspire Life-Long Learning

## **Fashion Show 2015**

--Sandi Gabe

# AAUW SAFARI- FASHION SHOW ADVENTURE



## Live on the wild side!

There's still time to get involved in our upcoming fundraiser: On Safari with AAUW – A Fashion Show Adventure.

By now you should have received two tickets in the mail. We hope that you'll be able to find someone to sell them to. Perhaps you've been looking for that perfect birthday present or something to do with out of town visitors. This year's event promises to be a grand one with great models and fashions (of course), scrumptious food and drink and a new treat this year- a costume contest! Dig out that Safari outfit you've had lurking the in back of your closet and dust it off. It just might win a prize and will certainly help you look the part.

Here are a few ways you can help make the safari a success. Please contact me if you are interested.

#### Let's borrow a tent.

Do you have a canvas tent

we can borrow to help transform that big box of a room into a savannah?

#### Donate an auction item.

Have you put together your donation for the auction? We're looking for experiences to share. I have some ideas if you're plumb out of ideas; host a murder mystery (I have the kit), host a game night, host a dinner party, provide tickets to an event, host a jeep tour, host a craft class. The possibilities are endless.

#### Volunteer.

We can always use volunteers the day of the event.

#### Sell Tickets.

Let me know if you need more.

#### Post Flyers.

I will get them to you.

Make it a family event and bring friends!

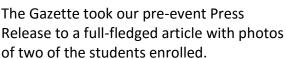


## **Dinner with a Scientist**

--Marilyn Saunders

# Once again DWS provides meaningful experience for local high school girls

Dinner With a Scientist was popular once again. We increased our high school student attendance by more than 20 girls for a total of 55 attendees. (Last year we included 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls.) UC Merced featured the event in their online newsletter.



Trish Gilger of MyIP (Mariposa Youth Impact Project) and Monica Sozinho of the UCMerced School of Natural Sciences recruited scientists and other career women of the highest caliber. MCHS (Mariposa Co. High School) Counselor Dr. Lori Ritter was personally involved in supporting student sign-ups. AAUW member Lori Tierney stepped forward to coordinate a carpool for chaperones. Carolyn Baker and Cathy Owens shopped for snacks and cake for dessert, then followed up with a yeoman's job of serving and cleanup after. KUDOS! Many kudos! Naoko Kada put together a wellreceived lab visit program for twenty girls (included in the 55 above) that coordinated with the dinner. Co-Presidents Sandi and Dawn involved themselves with Sandi designing and printing materials: the DWS fobs, applications, programs and more. Sharon Enrico and Dawna Hunter took part as their time permitted.

The students gave the event high marks with many commenting that the event needed



"no change" or was "perfect." Many have come regularly. One lament from a Senior read, "I have come for three years. Alas, this will be my last year." One poignant comment emerged: "Learning everyone makes mistakes yet you can accomplish goals with hard work..." Although not

all the girls articulate what they learned, we can spot their learning during the dinner. For many of them this is their first visit to a university campus. They ask for more indepth visits to UCM and visits to other campuses as well.

MCUSD Superintendent and AAUW member Robin Hopper stopped in. Branch member Maddie Brown participated as a scientist as did CHP Commander Becky Hagen. Thanks go to chaperones Pam Gingold, Jill Harry, Dina Lambert, Debbie Peters, and again, Lori Tierney. Rebecca Dormer represented MCHS for the Lab Tours.

The DWS team will meet in November to deconstruct this year's event and provide preliminary guidance for next year. Dr. Ritter pointed out that there are 200 girls at MCHS. The fifty-five students reflect a good portion of the female student body. The general agreement is that we should offer the program every year.

Several members have expressed a desire to serve on the team or as chaperones. Please let Marilyn Saunders know about your interest so we can let you know our next steps.

# Photos from Dinner with a Scientist- September 30, 2015



Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential

# **Programs**

--Dawn Johnson

# October's Program, Fighting Fire in the Sierra National Forest, timely and informative

Karen Smith, our VP of Programs, organized a very timely presentation by author and educator Marcia Penner Freedman on firefighting in the Sierra National Forest. In fact, it was so timely that the Mariposa Gazette's editor attended and wrote a lengthy article for the Oct 15<sup>th</sup> edition. Here are some excerpts from his article:

Penner Freedman shared that, while it is common for us to blame our current fire situation on the shortcomings of past land managers, it is often the needs and values of society that are the driving force of past policies, and that those needs and values have changed. She explained that the nation's early fire strategies were shaped by Manifest Destiny, a Laissez-Faire attitude a voracious appetite for lumber, a fear of repeating the devastating fires of the early part of the century and the environmental preservation efforts

mounted by Teddy Roosevelt.

But one point Penner Freedman drove home is that fire is good for forests, rejuvenating them, bringing fresh nutrients to the soil and burning away "duff," the debris found below the forest's trees. Now forest managers are trying to bring back conditions as they were in the early 1900s. The modern approach is fire management as opposed to fire suppression. Penner Freedman described the new fire behavior assessment teams and how they collect real-time fire behavior data on wildland fires. Their goal is to bring back a "healthy, resilient condition" by allowing forests to burn naturally in coordination with suppression.

The audience was small, but interested, particularly since the speaker was from Oakhurst and had a great deal of information about the recent Rough Fire and other incidents close to home.

## Send some good vibrations

--Sandi Gabe

We send well wishes to Bruce and Anne Richardson who are spending some time *Down Under* as Bruce recovers from some unexpected health issues and they both recover from moving to a beautiful new house. They expect to be back in the swing of things in the US early next year.





# In the Community

--Sandi Gabe

## Opportunities available to make a difference

When possible, our branch likes to partner with other community organizations that are pursing similar goals. In October the Board of Directors met with two organizations that fit that bill; One Mariposa and Mariposa Safe Families. Here are their stories:

# This may be the only hour in a week that the student gets individual attention.

We want to make a difference. Sometimes we think that we have to have lots of time or a special skill in order to have an impact. In October, Nancy Martin met with our Board and challenged that concept. She has seen that, in as little as one hour a week, you can make a difference. Nancy shared stories of children who have been touched through her concept of "One Mariposa" where she has the goal of identifying 200 volunteers to assist students in our local schools. Imagine the strength of a group that large! And the best part is that the commitment can be as small as an hour a week. She's up to 55 volunteers. Can we add to her list? Opportunities are available at four schools:

Greely Hill – Mondays Woodland – Tuesdays 3:15 – 4:15 MES – Wednesdays 3:30 -5:00 Mariposa High School – Thursdays 3:00 – 4:00 Participation will involve a couple of safety steps on your part, a LiveScan and a TB test.

If you are interested, please contact
Nancy at: nancyblueoaks@yahoo.com or 630740-7111 and she'll talk with you about how to get involved.

#### Living in your car or couch surfing?

That's how several Mariposa families are coping. Picture what a day is like for a student who has no home to return to. Mariposa Safe Families is also looking for volunteers to help families get back on their feet and chart a course to become more independent. While the commitment is still only one hour per week, Mariposa Safe Families would like to have consistency in the family partners and requests a six month promise. Currently their ability to support the community is limited based on staffing. With your assistance, together you can help more families get on their feet. Training is provided for the family mentoring program. The staff at Mariposa Safe Families works with the families initially to determine their needs and helps to establish the relationship and you can meet at their offices. If you are interested, contact Mariah Lord at 966-2211.



### Interest Groups- International Study

Contact Peggy Shainberg: 209.966.2076

## Study Group explores history and politics of Brazil





The members of the International Study Group held their second meeting on Brazil. Flora Burlingame presented its history and Peggy Shainberg, the politics

---Peggy Shainberg

of this interesting and varied country.

At our next meeting we will delve into traditions, food and celebrations.

#### Interest Groups- Art

Contact Margaret Brandenburg: 559.760.1431



--Anita Bothwell

The weekend of October 2nd-4th, Art Club members on their own, hopped on the Sierra Art Trail, an open studio tour

for local artists. This self-guided tour stretches along Highway 41 from Yosemite Lakes Park to Bass Lake, in Eastern Madera County, Highway 49 through Mariposa County to town, up Highway 140 to Midpines and off side streets and dirt roads in between. Sierra Art Trails is an opportunity to meet artists, watch demonstrations, appreciate and purchase art and fine crafts from local artists. And my favorite part--to catch a glimpse of the artists' studios, which range from tables set up in corners to refurbished barns with views of the valley. If you can, save the date for next year (first weekend in October) and be ready to enjoy an adventure of your own!

TRASHIQUE 2015! Say what? Art Club's next event will be TRASHIQUE, where art + trash = fashion. A runway fashion show to benefit Fresno Art Museum, with an after party till 1am! (Music, appetizers, and "exotic drinks")

When: Saturday, November 7, 2015 at 8pm



Above: Marissa Guerrero (L) holding one of her beautiful mosaics and Sharon Moore (R) showing off her new purchase.

Go to: <a href="http://www.fresnoartmuseum.org/">http://www.fresnoartmuseum.org/</a></a>
<a href="mailto:events/trashique/">events/trashique/</a>
for additional information and ticket purchase.

## Interest Groups- Hiking

Contact Mary Ripma: 831-334-2223



### Hikers trek to Lewis Creek-- in the rain!

I am sitting in our car at the trailhead waiting for Mark and Reva and our collie

Kyah. We split the group so that some of us could drive back to our cars with Bill Fiske. He had the brilliant idea about 30 minutes in to hike back to his car and move it to the end of the trail. That was before the rain began so it was truly an inspiration. Mark, Reva and Kyah decided to make the full round trip despite being soaked to the bone! 'Twas a great adventure that included some backtracking to retrieve one of the dogs that went astray but was perfectly fine, to our mutual great relief.

It is now 2 hours since our 8:30am start. A Saturday morning well-spent. Our next



Above: Mark, Reva, Helene, Smiley, Sara, Lori and four dogs taking a break along the trail just before the downpour began. Photo by Mary Ripma

hike is slated to be Saturday, 11/7/15 in a location TBD. Suggestions welcome! (December will be a hiatus- So mark 1/23/16 as the hike date to follow November's.)

## Interest Groups- Garden

Contact Micki Finney: 209.966.4644



The garden group is still in a holding pattern, implementing water saving features, planning for winter/spring gardens, and waiting for rain. If you or someone you know has a great system in place or a fabulous drought tolerant plant please share the

We are always looking for new ideas! For those interested in native plants and seeds check out the sale at the fairgrounds agricultural building this Saturday, Oct. 31 from 8am to noon. Happy gardening!

## Interest Groups- Craft

Contact Joan Lee: 209.966.2505

Look for photos of their Photo Transfer Project that Kathy Delaney taught on October 29 in the December issue.

To Page 1

## **Sponsor Community Forums**

#### Interest Groups- Wine

Contact Kathy Sutherland: 209-742-6131



## **Tasting the California red blends:**

## Bewitching wine and spooky décor

--Carolyn Baker

On Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, the Corks and Forks wine tasting group gathered at the home of Dennis and Carolyn Baker. Their home was decked out with a gigantic pool playing tarantula, as well as a motorized flying bat and additional Halloween delights. We had a lovely array of tempting appetizers as well as hearty chicken meal prepared by Chef Jeff. In addition, Saralynn Nusbaum kept alive the spooky theme with

"scrambled brains" appetizer.

After devouring the various delectable offerings and **much** socializing, we finally settled into the task of selecting our favorite California Red Blend out of the nine wines contending for the honor. It was a difficult but enjoyable task and once we had completed our ballots, we were rewarded with the opportunity to sample the Scary Black Cat cake while the ballots were being tabulated. Of the wines vying for top honors, we selected as #3 a 2012 Trefethen Vineyard "Double T" (Napa Valley). Our 2nd choice was 2013 Robert Hall "Cuvee de Robles", and the winning honors just happened to be the Bakers' favorite wine- 2013 "Menage a Trois".

Above: Dennis Baker pours a sampling, Below L: Choices from left to right, R: Sandi Gabe and Marilyn Saunders enjoy a word.



Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential

#### Interest Groups- Reading

Contact Saralynn Nusbaum: 510.913.6994



#### Our next meeting will be

Tuesday, November 3

at 4:30 pm

at Helen Fiske's home on 4975 6th Street

where we will discuss.



All the Light We
Cannot See

-Anthony Doerr

#### **Discussion Review**

On October 20, a small group of us sat around Jill Rowney's dining room table and enjoyed coffee and scones while putting together suggestions for a reading list for the coming year. Since our meeting, several of you have made additional recommendations.

This year we will be meeting on the first Tuesday of every month at 4:30PM at Helene's home unless otherwise notified.

We'll begin with:

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

This was on last year's book list but we never read it together as a group. Over the summer, several of us did read and enjoy it. The story takes place largely in France and I was fortunate to read while traveling there. Margaret Erhart will facilitate our discussion.

Here's the list. Readers, please take a few minutes to peruse the list. As you can see we've got 17 selections so we'll need to discuss paring down at our November 3

Behind the Beautiful Forevers

Katherine Boo

Big Magic

meeting.

Elizabeth Gilbert

Blue Jasmine

Kashmira Sheth

Bobbed Hair and Bathtub Gin

Marion Meade

Flight Behavior

Barbara Kingsolver

In The Kingdom of Ice

**Hampton Sides** 

**Invention of Wings** 

Sue Monk Kidd

The Goddess Pose

Michelle Goldberg

The Husband's Secret

Liane Moriarty

The Senator Next Door

Amy Klobuchar

The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet

David Mitchell

Whiplash

**Catherine Coulter** 

The Children's Crusade

Ann Packer

Between You & Me

Mary Norris

Wild

Cheryl Strayed

Rosemary: The Hidden Kennedy Daughter

Kate Clifford Larsen

Plenty Ladylike

Claire McCaskill



#### 2015-2016 Calendar

- 04 Independence Day
- 26 Board Planning Mtg

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- 04 Board Meeting
- 14 Program Miner's Inn
- 18 M.L. King Day

- 04 Birthday Card Project (HS Voter Registration)
- 11 Back Pack Fill
- 13 Half the Sky Movie
- 17 Board Meeting

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- 01 Board Meeting
- 15 Presidents' Day
- 18 Program Miner's Inn
- 23/24 Speech Trek
- 23 AAUW Regional Mtg

- 07 Labor Day
- 10 Member Mixer
- 18/19 Yard Sale
- 22 AAUW Regional Mtg
- 28 Board Mtg
- 30 Dinner with a Scientist

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- 07 Board Meeting
- 10 Program Miner's Inn
- 27 Ea ster Sunday

- 07 Program Miner's Inn 7pm
- 12 Columbus Day
- 31 Halloween

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- 04 Board Meeting 15-17 AAUW State C onvention

- 02 Board Meeting
- 11 Veterans Day
- 14 TEDx Event
- 21 Fashion Show
- 26 Thanksgiving Day

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- 02 Board Meeting
- 08 Mother's Day
- 14 Home Tour
- 22 Brunch 2 -4 pm30 Memorial Day

- 07 Board Meeting
- 13 Holiday Party
- 25 Christmas Day

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Updated 11/1/15



## Board Action-October, 2015



The Board of Directors' meetings are typically the first Monday of the month at 4:00 at the library. As always, everyone is invited to attend and see what we do! If you would like to be on the agenda at any time, please let Dawn or Sandi know. If you have any questions, would like to have a copy of the minutes or more information on any Board actions, contact Dawn or Sandi.

#### Now Let's Get Down to Business.....or perhaps not just yet....

There was no Board meeting in October due to the rescheduling of the September meeting to late in the month. For highlights of the Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> meeting, please see the October newsletter.

The next Board meeting will take place on its regular schedule: Monday, November 2 at 4:00 pm at the library. Highlights of Board action will be published in the December newsletter.

# In the Community

-- Dawn Johnson

## **Cupcakes and caring from our members**



Calories can be good! Several of our members baked and donated yummy cupcakes to support CASA's annual fundraising dinner last month. CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) provides volunteer advocacy services to local neglected and abused children. It is rewarding to help them do such

good work.

We provided over 150 cupcakes for their dinner's dessert table. CASA graciously acknowledged AAUW on all its promotional material, so we received recognition as well as good vibrations.

Many thanks to our volunteers, who baked, decorated and delivered the treats:

Carol Hart

Carolyn Baker

Lori Tierney

Marcele Price

Georgia Gallagher

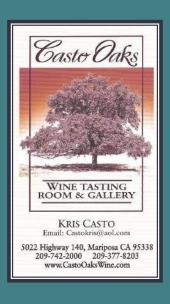
Rebecca Swisher

I told them it was okay to lick the bowl for a good cause.





209-966-3631, x 233 or 244 ~ FAX # 209-966-2972



#### **AAUW- Mariposa**

www.aauwmariposa.com

#### **Project Chairs/Coordinators**

Board of 0	Officers- 2015-2016	Advertising	Sharon Enrico
Co-Presidents	Dawn Johnson	Back Pack Project	Anita Starchman Bryant
CO 1 residents	dawnandjay.johnson@gmail.com		Cathy Owens
	Sandi Gabe	Dinner With a Scientist	Marilyn Saunders
	sandi.gabe@hotmail.com	Historian	Gussie Kidd
VP Membership	Carolyn Baker	HS Voter Education	Jetty Uebner
vr Weilibership	bakersacre@sti.net	Member Support Cards	Anne Dolchanczyk
VD Dragrams	Karen Smith	Membership Liaison	Bonnie Little
VP Programs		Newsletter Editor	Jill Rowney
D 11 C 1	smithandmartin@sti.net	Publicity	Cindy Harp
Recording Secretary	Saralynn Nusbaum	Speech Trek	Jill Harry
	saralynn@rodagroup.com	Tech Trek	Naoko Kada
Finance Officer	Dina Lambert		Debbie Peters
	<u>lambert@sti.net</u>	Website	Sandi Gabe

The Sierra Outpost, newsletter of the Mariposa Branch of AAUW, is 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

