



## Sierra Outpost

### Take a Trip to the Panama Canal!



If a trip to the Panama Canal has been on your bucket list, you can cross it off and just come hear AAUW member Marilyn Saunder's recap of her recent trip there instead. The canal is an epic man-made structure that took 10 years to build, cost 10,000

#### Program Presentation

##### When:

**Thursday  
January 8th  
4:30 p.m.**

##### Where:

**Miner's Inn 140 Restaurant**

lives and changed history. Marilyn's talk will entertain lovers of travelers and history alike. As always, light refreshments will be served. Bring a friend but not your passport.



*The 21st century Panama City from Old Town tower.*

### December-January, 2014-15

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#### UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

[Click here for full calendar](#)

Jan 5	Board Meeting
Jan 8	AAUW -Program
Jan 24	New Member Coffee
Jan 29	Home/Ranch Tour Fundraiser Planning Meeting
Jan 31	Scavenger Hunt Winners' Recognition Party
Feb 2	Board Meeting
Feb 12	AAUW Program
Mar 2	Board Meeting
Mar 14	Bunco Tournament
Apr 6	Board Meeting
May 4	Board Meeting
May 16	Home Tour
June 7	Annual Brunch/Picnic

## Dawn's Corner

*The Amazon boxes have been stacked by the garbage can with care,*

*In hopes that the dump run soon will be dared.*

I, like most of you, have been digging out from Christmas Present (or should I say Christmas Presents) after sadly waving goodbye to family and hectic happy holidays. I hope yours were as joyfully chaotic and memorable as mine.

Now that you've finished off all the leftovers and repacked

CASA, the Boots and Bling Runway Show, Christmas Bell Ringing and enrichment programs like "Cap and Town."

It's amazing what we can do together. Why stop now?

With the New Year come new opportunities to be a part of things. If you have ever said, "They should do.....," remember that "they is us." There are plenty of chances to get in on the ground floor for planning the second half of our AAUW year. We are already

Welcome aboard to our SIX new members! This newsletter and our website (new and improved thanks to Sandi Gabe) will keep you up to speed on AAUW "busyness." We look forward to getting to know you and helping you navigate the organization at the casual Coffee & Convo get together that Carolyn Baker and I are hosting for new members in January. I hope to see all of our members at our next program on January 8 when Marilyn Saunders will regale lovers of travel and

### "...Remember that 'they' is us..."

that rascally ornament that you found behind the chair, it's time to get back on the AAUW horse and trot off toward 2015. We finished off 2014 with a stellar list of accomplishments in the fall, including wrapping up the Backpack Project and the Scavenger Hunt, holding mixers and parties, keeping interest alive with Interest Groups, orchestrating Dinner with a Scientist, Speech Trek, the H.S. Birthday Card Project, the Yard Sale, Cupcakes for

gearing up for Tech Trek and our Bunco and Home Tour fundraisers. Many hands make light work, so contact Margaret Brandenburg or Sandi Gabe respectively to see what small job you might do to help make theirs smaller. Speaking of jobs, I want to welcome Kathy Chappell to the Board and thank her for volunteering to accept the position of Secretary to replace Henrietta DeGroot who had to resign due to work demands.

history alike with the tales of her expedition to the legendary Panama Canal.

I know I'll see you at some AAUW event at some place in our community at some time in 2015. So let the games begin!

Happy New Year,



*Dawn*

## AAUW Partners with the Community

Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential

## Fashion Show Fundraiser

--Sandi Gabe



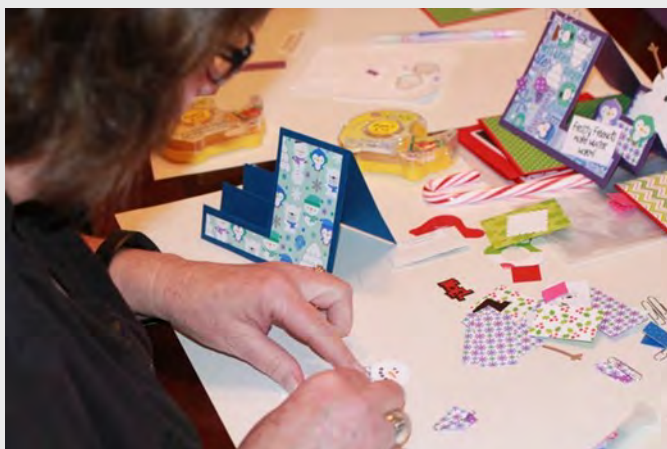
### Keeping the Bling Alive



By now you've heard that the Boots and Bling Fashion Show was a smashing success,

**raising \$6,000.00**

for the Tech Trek program! Many of you are either delivering on your auction items or redeeming them yourselves. There has been a flurry of activity with a Holiday Concert by the Isosceles Trio, Christmas card making class, and scarves delivered. You can keep the spirit alive by snapping some pictures when you redeem or deliver your item. Send them to me or post them on our Facebook page.



A heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to our success by donating an auction item, selling or buying tickets, bringing a friend, cooking, cleaning, or running around picking up things. We couldn't have done it without you!

We'll be back next year and we want to hear what you have to say. What did you like? What didn't you like? How can we make it bigger and better?



*Above: Anne Richardson receives her custom-made scarf from Joan Lee.*

*Left: beautiful cards were crafted at Dawna Hunter's card-making class.*

**Click here:**

### **Boots & Bling Photos**

To re-visit **Boots & Bling** and recall this amazing event, click on the link above. There was so much happening, you just might see things you missed while you were there in person: the Saloon, the Auction, the long tables decorated with the tempting Silent Auction items (and those facing the dilemma of which items to bid on), the Models, the preparations, the tables laden with delicious food. It was truly an afternoon of camaraderie and fun. Hats off to all!



# Speech Trek Project

--Dawn Johnson

## Speech Contest Nets a Winner

Mariposa County High School student, Claire Gorham, earned First Place and \$150 in the 2014 "Speech Trek" contest hosted by AAUW (American Association of University Women) on Thursday, November 13, at the high school. Claire received top scores for her polished and well-researched 5-minute address on the thought-provoking topic, "*College: Is It Worth the Time and Expense?*" Ms. Gorham will advance to the state semi-finals for consideration as a finalist at the state-wide competition in San Diego, California in April.

The Second Place winner, Leah Lafata, took home \$100 and the Third Place award of \$50 was handed to Natalie



Marquez-Solorzano, both of Mariposa County High School. The three top scorers, pictured above, were among ten impressive contestants who participated in this annual event, which was organized by the Mariposa branch of AAUW with the invaluable support of Mr. Bryan Starchman, MCHS's English/Drama teacher.

The contest was judged by an exceptional panel of community members: Mr. Mike Fagalde, newly-elected Supe-



rior Court Judge of Mariposa County, Mr. F. Dana Walton, sitting Superior Court Judge and Mr. Terry Selk, Executive Director of the Yosemite/Mariposa County Tourism Bureau. Several volunteer AAUW members also gave their time and talent to coach the contestants during their preparations. Special thanks go to Cindy Harp, Sharon Enrico, Noel Morrison, Jeff Gabe, Debra LaNotte, Dawn Johnson, Barbara Silva, Cathy Owens, Jill Rowney, Mary Bass, and Anne Richardson for helping prepare these fine students for this special event.



Value Education

## Another Interest Group?

--Sandi Gabe

### Is TED in Your Future?

**A Special Interest Group with a twist.....**

**Do you:**

- Like book groups, but don't have time to read the books?
- Enjoy hearing about new ideas?
- Have an attention span limitation and short powerful talks that last 18 minutes or less are appealing?
- Believe passionately in the power of ideas to change attitudes, lives and, ultimately, the world?

If you like any of these things then TED talks might be just the thing you're looking for. We had a preview in 2014 and the response was fantastic. Interesting ideas and an opportunity for conversation with people who care.



What's the twist???? Unlike other Special Interest Groups, you don't need to "join". When we hold our events, they will be open to all branch members. We'll have a small organizing group to decide where we will meet (a house with a big screen? Road-house 140?), how we choose the topics, and how we will know we have enough space (i.e. the first x number who RSVP can attend) etc. If you want to help determine how it will work, contact [Sandi Gabe](#).

## Boots, Bling and..... Bach!

--Dawn Johnson

I was the lucky winner of the *Boots and Bling* auction item of an in-home



concert by our very own Jill Rowney (horn) and her fellow musicians Gay Dunn (cello) and Peter Lindstrom (horn) comprising the *Isosceles Trio*. I couldn't believe that they were willing to trek out to my place two days before Christmas to help my family and friends celebrate my daughter's engagement (FINALLY) and our annual Faux Christmas Eve party. We had so much fun listening to the trio's

wonderful musical arrangements, learning about their instruments, singing a few carols, shedding a tear to the strains of "Danny Boy" and toasting the holidays with such fun and passionate people. Thank you to all of them for a magical evening and to Sandi Gabe and her crew for finding a way to showcase the amazing talents within our own group.

Send Girls to Science/Math Camp

## Fundraiser:

--Sandi Gabe

### Bunco Madness!

Save the date! March 14<sup>th</sup>, 3pm at the Mariposa County Fairgrounds is the location for our next Bunco event! As you are looking at your Bunco Group schedule for 2015 maybe you could consider making the Bunco Tournament one of your event days. We are in the early planning phase so let me know if you would like to help plan the event.



## Public Policy-

--Marilyn Saunders

### Equal Pay Day, April 14, 2015

Is there something we can do about equal pay for women in Mariposa County? Do you think this isn't an issue here? True, incomes in the county tend to be on the lower end of the scale for California as a whole. Just the same, the gender gap in Senator McClintock's District is greater than that of the state overall. That is: in 2013 median earnings for men in California were \$50,268 compared to women's median earnings of \$42,199 – an earnings ratio of just 84%. For McClintock's District the ratio drops to 78%.

This 78% ratio compares to the median earnings for U.S. women working full time, year-



round compared the median for men. According to AAUW, "Progress to close the gap has stalled during the last decade and the gap is even larger for women of color and for moms." You can check out the AAUW research report, "Graduating to a Pay Gap." Again from AAUW, "After controlling for hours worked, occupation, college major, employment sector, and other factors associated with pay, the gap shrinks but does not disappear. About 7 percent of the gap

cannot be explained by these factors commonly understood to affect earnings."

A beginning step for the Branch to address this issue might be to ask the Board of Supervisors to declare April 14, 2015 Equal Pay Day. What do you think? Please let me know by January 31, 2015 via email: [mwsaunders@earthlink.net](mailto:mwsaunders@earthlink.net). We can take the idea to the AAUW Board of Directors to create and submit a request for a proclamation for the day.

Bonnie Newman  
Imaging Supervisor & Mammographer

John C. Fremont Healthcare District



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Teach Women to Manage Their Money

## Project: Tech Trek

--Margaret Brandenburg



## Girls Who Went to Tech Trek... Where Are They and What Are They Up to?

Naquoia attended Tech Trek in 2012. She is 15 and a sophomore at MCHS. This year she's taking geometry and biology. She hasn't gone out for any sports but is active in Spanish Club, Club Live, and trying to

students for college and career opportunities in the restaurant and hospitality industry. When talking about the future, Naquoia says she plans to go to Paris and study at Le Cordon Bleu.

been afraid, but once she got out on the river, it was a lot of fun.

For Naquoia, Tech Trek has had a lasting effect, both academically and socially. She admitted that before going she wasn't

**"...Tech Trek- the best decision I ever made!..."**

fit volunteering into her busy schedule.

She has also become interested in nutrition and gourmet cooking. For her sophomore project, Naquoia is working to bring cooking classes to MCHS. In her research she has found that there are several programs that focus on bringing food awareness back into the schools. With the support of her teacher, Mrs. Hays, she's applying for a grant from the Jaime Oliver Foundation or the Julia Child Foundation. One program is called Careers through Culinary Arts. C-CAP works with public schools across the country to prepare underserved high school



Looking back just two short years ago to Tech Trek Fresno, Naquoia says that she especially liked the Motion Coasters class where they had an opportunity to test Newton's Law by building a roller coaster track for a marble, but her most memorable experience was going canoeing. She said that initially she had

"that much into school," but now she realizes its importance. She takes her classes more seriously and doesn't settle for "mediocre." At Tech Trek she learned the importance of teamwork. The rocket building project taught her about role responsibility and the importance of each member doing her part.

What is Naquoia's message to the 7<sup>th</sup> graders nominated for Tech Trek? "Don't be afraid to apply. It was the best decision I ever made!"

Send Girls to Science/Math Camp



## Welcome to New Members



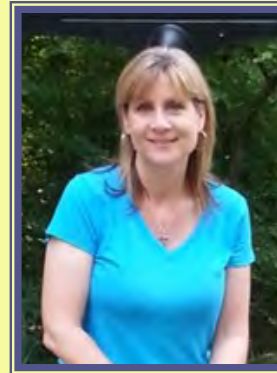
Kendra Atkins  
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Debbie Peters  
[deb@sti.net](mailto:deb@sti.net)



Jane MacLean  
[jsmac-lean@yahoo.com](mailto:jsmac-lean@yahoo.com)

Not pictured: Kay Sarnoff-Wilson  
[wilsar@sti.net](mailto:wilsar@sti.net)

## Interest Groups



**International Study Group-** Emily Archer



**Garden Group-** Micki Finney



**Art Appreciation Group-** Anita Bothwell



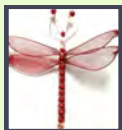
**Wine Groups-**

**Corks & Forks:** Saralynn Nusbaum

**Bacchus Buddies:** Carolyn Baker



**Hiking Group-** Dawna Hunter



**Craft Group-** Joan Lee



**Card-making Group-** Anne Dolchanczyk

### Bird Watching Group

needs a coordinator...



Most of the Interest Groups were on hiatus for the winter holidays and will gear up for more activity as the New Year gets under way.



## Interest Groups



--Emily Archer

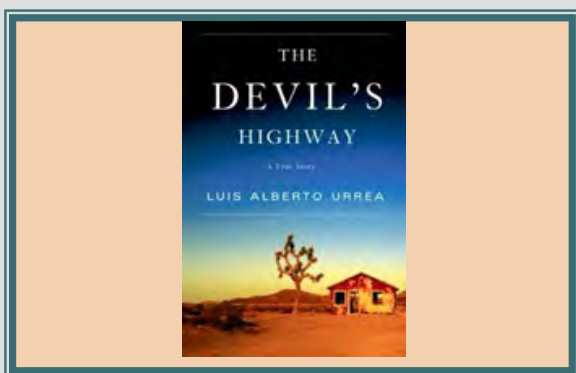
We had a wonderful discussion on **The Elephant Whisperer** led by Jill Rowney. Thank you for your selection. Our ***next meeting will be***

***Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:15.***

We will be discussing

**The Devil's Highway**

*By Luis Alberto Urrea*



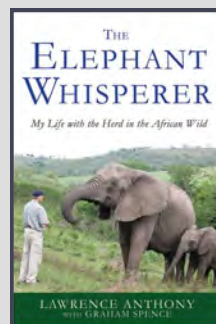
and Janet Kottman will be our discussion leader. We will meet at the home of Alicia Vila-Chaponot (5200 Montano del Oro).

### The Elephant Whisperer

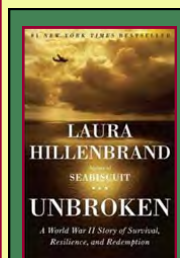
By Lawrence Anthony

--Review by Jill Rowney

Everyone in the group enjoyed reading this heartwarming account of Lawrence Anthony and his dedication to save a herd of rogue elephants; all of whom were destined to be killed if they couldn't be contained. Set in Anthony's game reserve, Thula Thula, in Zululand, this is his story of creating a bond with these huge creatures, gaining their trust and being accepted into their family. His bond was so strong that when he died (2012) at the young age of 62, two herds of elephants journeyed about 12 hours to the homestead on the reserve and "...hung around for about two days before making their way back into the bush." Anthony had said, "...perhaps the most important lesson I learned is that there are no walls between humans and the elephants except those we put up ourselves, and that until we allow not only elephants, but all living creatures their place in the sun, we can never be whole ourselves..."



### Titles selected for 2015 (order of reading after April has not been decided):



March:

**Unbroken**

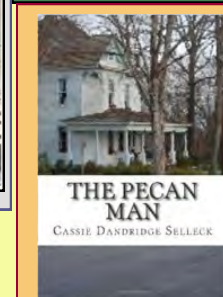
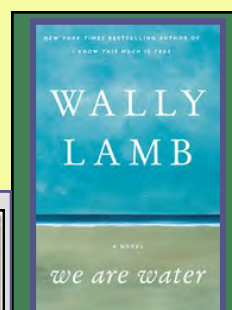
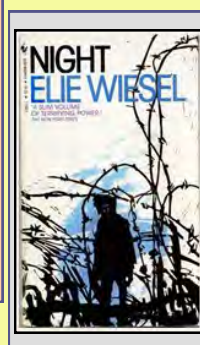
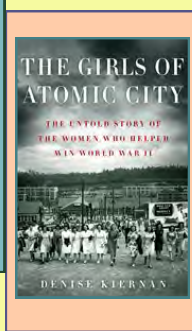
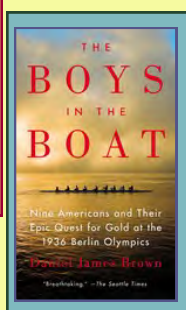
--Laura Hillenbrand



April:

**Garlic and Sapphires**

--Ruth Reichl





## Board Action- November/December 2014

*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 know. If you have any questions, would like to have a copy of the minutes or more information on any Board actions, contact Dawn.*

### Now Let's Get Down to Business.....

**December:** No Board meeting.

Kathy Chappell accepted the temporary position of Board Secretary through June 2014

#### **Highlights of November 3, 2014 Board Meeting**

- Approved the Oct. 6 meeting minutes and Oct. 31 Treasurer's Report.
- Heard the Financial Officer's report. Revenue and expenses are tracking per budget. Final Yard Sale profit was \$1,608.23; Boots and Bling finances are progressing as expected; the combined Mixer and Member Orientation expenses were under budget; expenses for AAUW's portion of Dinner with a Scientist came in under budget (sponsorship was shared with Tavis Corporation, ABC and MyIP).
- Heard reports on Fundraising, Publicity, Membership and Public Policy.
- In "Other Reports", heard an account of the Dinner with a Scientist presentation by AAUW and students to MUSD Board of

Education.

- Received an update on Speech Trek progress and final event details.
- Heard a summary of key issues to be decided at 2015 Dinner with a Scientist planning meeting. Discussion will focus on a possible venue change to Mariposa, increasing participation to 100 and whether or not to include boys and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.
- Under "New Business", heard an announcement of the holiday party, an invitation to Board members to join Dawn at the Northern San Joaquin Area Leaders Meeting, details of the awards party for the winning Scavenger Hunt team and information on the annual Salvation Army bell ringing campaign.
- Discussed contracting with AAUW-CA to maintain our website for \$120/yr. Tabled pending further conversations about how to consistently provide content.

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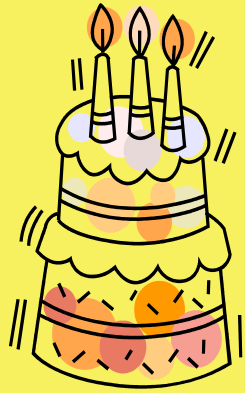
Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential

Mariposa AAUW- Treasurer's Report: 12/31/14						
		Dec-14	Fiscal YTD	Fiscal Budget	YTD Variance	
	<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$ 13,318.02</b>	<b>\$ 6,590.33</b>			
<b>INCOME</b>	Dues-National	\$ 49.00	\$ 4,206.50	\$ -	\$ -	
	Dues-State	\$ 16.00	\$ 1,464.00	\$ -	\$ -	
	Dues-District	\$ 15.00	\$ 1,194.00	\$ 1,300.00	\$ (106.00)	
	<b>Total Dues 2014/2015</b>	<b>\$ 80.00</b>	<b>\$ 6,864.50</b>	<b>\$ 1,300.00</b>	<b>\$ (106.00)</b>	
<b>Donations</b>	Undesignated	\$ -	\$ 205.00	\$ 750.00	\$ (545.00)	
	Designated:	\$ -		\$ 750.00	\$ 21.80	
	Backpack	\$ -	\$ 771.80			
<b>Fundraisers</b>	Bunco	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ (2,000.00)	
	Yard Sale	\$ -	\$ 1,608.23	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 108.23	
	Boots and Bling (TT)	\$ 95.00	\$ 6,020.92	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 2,020.92	
	Home Tour	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ (2,000.00)	
	<b>Apparel Sales</b>	\$ -	\$ 70.37	\$ 50.00	\$ 20.37	
	<b>Ads</b>	\$ -	\$ 150.00	\$ 250.00	\$ (100.00)	
	<b>Craft Sales</b>	\$ -	\$ 125.00	\$ 200.00	\$ (75.00)	
	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 175.00</b>	<b>\$ 15,815.82</b>	<b>\$ 12,800.00</b>	<b>\$ (2,654.68)</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>	National Dues	\$ 49.00	\$ 4,182.00	\$ -	\$ -	
	State Dues	\$ 16.00	\$ 1,448.00	\$ -	\$ -	
	<b>Total Dues Expended</b>	<b>\$ 65.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,630.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	
<b>Admin.</b>	Directory	\$ -	\$ 273.06	\$ 325.00	\$ 51.94	
	Awards/Gifts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	
	Insurance	\$ -	\$ 362.18	\$ 330.00	\$ (32.18)	
	Postage	\$ -	\$ 49.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 51.00	
	Supplies	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	
	Website Hosting	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	
	Phonevite	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	
	Meetings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	
<b>Member</b>	Mixer	\$ -	\$ 171.99	\$ 150.00	\$ (21.99)	
	Orientation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	
	Holiday Event	\$ 33.51	\$ 33.51	\$ 50.00	\$ 16.49	
	Annual Mtg/Brunch	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	
<b>Programs</b>	Facilities	\$ -	\$ 27.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 123.00	
	Hospitality	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	
	Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	
<b>Projects</b>	Backpack	\$ -	\$ 1,256.05	\$ 1,200.00	\$ (56.05)	
	Tech Trek	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00	
	Speech Trek	\$ -	\$ 398.42	\$ 400.00	\$ 1.58	
	Dinner w/ Scientist	\$ -	\$ 263.10	\$ 400.00	\$ 136.90	
	Voter Education	\$ -	\$ 168.15	\$ 50.00	\$ (118.15)	
	<b>Funds Assessment</b>	\$ -	\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00	\$ -	
	<b>Leadership Develop-</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	
	<b>Marketing</b>	\$ -	\$ 283.25	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 916.75	
	<b>Equipment</b>	\$ -	\$ 35.93	\$ 100.00	\$ 64.07	
	<b>Miscellaneous</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 98.51</b>	<b>\$ 9,011.64</b>	<b>\$ 12,340.00</b>	<b>\$ 8,958.36</b>	
	<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$ 13,394.51</b>	<b>\$ 13,394.51</b>			

## Happy Birthday to:

### December:

4 Sharon Roberts  
12 Peggy Keller  
14 Noel Morrison  
15 Bridget Fithian  
17 Carol Sill  
23 Kay Price  
25 Georgia Gallagher  
29 Maggie Holmes  
31 Robin Hopper



### January:

3 Margaret Brandenburg  
8 Helene Fiske  
10 Barbara Milazzo  
11 Sara Robison  
13 Karen Rust  
20 Margarita King  
21 Susan Maher  
24 Debra Vittore

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### AAUW- Mariposa

[www.aauwmariposa.com](http://www.aauwmariposa.com)

#### Board of Officers– 2014-2015

President	Dawn Johnson <a href="mailto:dawnandjay.johnson@gmail.com">dawnandjay.johnson@gmail.com</a>
VP Membership	Carolyn Baker <a href="mailto:bakersacre@sti.net">bakersacre@sti.net</a>
VP Programs	Karen Smith <a href="mailto:smithandmartin@sti.net">smithandmartin@sti.net</a>
Recording Secretary	Kathy Chappell <a href="mailto:chappell@sti.net">chappell@sti.net</a>
Finance Officer	Dina Lambert <a href="mailto:lambert@sti.net">lambert@sti.net</a>
Public Policy	Marilyn Saunders <a href="mailto:mwsaunders@earthlink.net">mwsaunders@earthlink.net</a>
Funds/Fundraising	Sandi Gabe <a href="mailto:sandi.gabe@hotmail.com">sandi.gabe@hotmail.com</a>

#### Project Chairs/Coordinators

Advertising	<a href="#">Sharon Enrico</a>
Back Pack Project	<a href="#">Burney Stephens</a>
Financial Fitness	<a href="#">Kathy Delaney</a>
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HS Voter Education	<a href="#">Peggy Shainberg</a>
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*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](mailto:jillrowney@yahoo.com)