



## Sierra Outpost

December, 2016

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## Coats and Canapés: Something different for our Holiday Gathering



--Dawn Johnson

This year, you can be both naughty **and** nice at our annual AAUW holiday gathering.

Be naughty by bringing a calorie-laden appetizer to share.

Be nice by bringing a gently used coat or new toiletry item to donate to Mariposa Heritage House's (MHH) charity drive.

Thanks to Sandi Gabe's and Kathy Delaney's efforts, we have collaborated with Alliance for Community Transformations to

support MHH in support of National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. MHH is a safe, healthy, clean and sober support center that reaches out to adults and their families to help them navigate the difficult situations in their lives. MHH has a long history of service to our community. Last year alone, 21 chronically homeless local individuals established permanent housing through the work of MHH and government sectors.

Help share your good fortune this year by bringing a donation to our holiday gathering. MHH needs such things as:

Coats, socks, gloves, warm hats, umbrellas, new

(Continued on page 2)

**Sunday  
December 11  
4:00 pm**

**Home of Dawn Johnson  
(Directions- page 2)**

## Holiday Bash (Continued from page 1)



sleeping bags, new or gently used backpacks, razors, shaving cream, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, Pioneer Market gift cards (\$5-20), Subway gift cards (\$5-20), and Rite

Aid gift cards (\$5-20)

Festivities will begin at 4:00 at Dawn Johnson's house and last until we can't jingle any more. This is an informal, social event and **spouses are encouraged to attend**. We'll provide an adult holiday beverage (thanks to our mixologist, Bonnie Little) but **please feel free to bring other beverages to share**.

Please let us know if you're coming by RSVPing to the Evite [here](#).

### Directions to Dawn's house

3978 Van Ness Road

Phone: 209-742-5316

Coming from town.....take 49 toward Oakhurst. Turn left onto Darrah Rd. Take the first left (at the feed store) onto Cole. Follow Cole until it "T's" at Silva. Turn right onto Silva. Turn left onto Van Ness Road (there is an iron gate and a bank of mailboxes).

Coming from the Oakhurst/Ponderosa Basin direction....take 49 toward town, turn right onto Darrah Rd and follow the directions above.

Coming from Triangle...turn right or left onto Silva. Follow Silva to Van Ness Road (iron gate and a bank of mailboxes). Turn right.

The house is the second one on the right after you turn onto Van Ness Road. It's a newly-built two-story with stone work on the front. There's plenty of easy parking.

## Co-Presidents' Corner

### 1,720

*One thousand seven hundred and twenty.* That's not an average Mariposan propane bill for the winter, nor is it the number of miles we drove seeing friends and family over Thanksgiving break.

One thousand seven hundred and twenty is the number of hours all of you contributed this year to making our community and world a better place for women and girls.

Can you believe it?! And believe it or not, that count is absolutely an underestimation! That was just a guesstimate of projects, programs and fundraisers over the past year. We still have a whole month to go, which includes kicking off Speech Trek on Tuesday, December 6th at MCHS for students interested in participating, and the Holiday Party on Sunday,

December 11th at Dawn's house, from 4-6 pm.

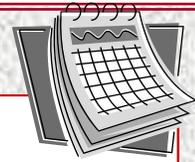
As we have entered the Holiday Season, we want to express our thankfulness for the gift of your time. We all know we wear many hats in our small community, and whether that hat is a Santa hat, yarmulke, or even one of those big stuffed turkey hats this season, we are grateful for your time, dedication, and passion!

Thank you times 1,720.



*Rebecca  
&  
Maddie*

## 2016-17 Calendar



Dec 6	SIG: Reading Group, 4:30 pm
Dec 6	Speech Trek Introduction (students only)
Dec 10	SIG: Craft Group, 10:00 am
<b>Dec. 11</b>	<b>Holiday Party</b>
Jan 9	SIG: International Study Group, 5:00 pm
Jan 11	Speech Trek (coaches) 5:30 pm MCHS, Rm 1
Jan 12	Program, 4:30 pm, Miner's Roadhouse Inn
Jan 18	Speech Trek (coaches and students) 3:00 pm, MCHS Rm 1
Jan 21-22	SIG: Hiking Group (TBD)
Feb 11	An Evening in Paris - Fundraiser
Feb 22	Speech Trek Main Event
Feb 24	SIG: Hiking group- Badger Pass snowshoeing
Mar 7	Women's History Month Proclamation
Feb/Mar	Tech Trek Interviews
May 7	Annual Meeting
May 20	Home Tour
May TBD	Tech Trek Ice Cream Social
June TBD	Tech Trek

Check the above calendar so that you can plan accordingly!

## Membership

--Dawn Johnson

### Welcome aboard to another new member



Our branch got an early Christmas present! We welcomed new member Nancy Kemp at the "Made in Mariposa" program a few weeks ago. Nancy heard about AAUW at the Yard Sale and attended the program to see what we are all about.

Nancy has a diverse career background, ranging from the television industry to divinity studies. She will be interesting to get to know!



Please add Nancy's contact information to your directory on that handy dandy last page.

Be sure to say Hello when you see her!



Nancy Kemp  
Mailing address: PO Box 5008-121  
Mariposa CA 95338  
[nrkempmail@aol.com](mailto:nrkempmail@aol.com)  
[\(209\)377-8265](tel:(209)377-8265)

## Good Will Ambassador



### Please tell us.....

When one of our members could use some "good will."

Sometimes a member needs a note of support when something troubling has happened or a shout out when it's something great.

Margaret Brandenburg is our **Good Will Ambassador** and will send appropriate cards to our AAUW family. But this support system only works if YOU tell us who could use a boost or a pat on the back.

Please contact Dawn, Membership VP, at [dawnandjay.johnson@gmail.com](mailto:dawnandjay.johnson@gmail.com) to share any news that we should know about and we'll take it from there.

## Membership

--Dawn Johnson

### Ever wonder where some of your dues go?



#### Meet a few women who have been helped.

AAUW has a long and distinguished history of advancing educational and professional opportunities for women, providing more than \$3.7 million in fellowships and grants in the

2016-17 academic year alone.



Each year AAUW California formally presents the recipients of the American Fellowship and Grant funds at the AAUW Fall Fund Luncheons. Want to meet them? Click [here](#) to see a video of their inspiring stories and get a better understanding of some of the good work our dollars do for women.

## Programs

--Leslie Bernacchi



### Made in Mariposa program elicits "oohs" and "ahs" from audience

Our first program of the year, *Made in Mariposa*, was an inspiring and educational evening that was not only a great kickoff to the holiday season, but also an event that highlighted local businesses that we should be proud of year around!

Dane Carlson, CEO of the Mariposa Chamber of Commerce, began the evening by wowing attendees with a beautifully crafted video featuring the Made in Mariposa program (if you haven't yet, be sure to watch the video on [YouTube](#) - you will be thoroughly impressed!). Throughout the program he shared information about the grassroots movement to support our local businesses that create, craft, and manufacture goods that are made by, or made using, 51% labor and/or materials from Mariposa County. There were surprised "oohs" and clearly impressed "ahhs" when he shared that there are about 70(!) businesses participating in Made in Mariposa. Though the initiative was created and is supported by the Chamber of Commerce, it is



--Maddie Brown

free for all businesses that meet the 51% requirement, some of whom may not otherwise be able to participate in the Chamber of Commerce. In addition, the

Made in Mariposa participants have regular public meetings to discuss the group's status, growth, challenges, etc. Following the presentation, there were a wide variety of questions and lively continual discussion about the initiative. From intricate, dainty jewelry to bulky building size manufacturing machines, a little bit of everything is *Made in Mariposa*.

Our next program will be held on January 12th at Miner's Roadhouse Inn at 4:30 pm. The January program will help attendees start the New Year off strong by highlighting Financial Literacy for Women (and men too!). Friends and family are always welcome and encouraged to attend. Don't forget that if someone signs up at a public event, they'll be able to join at a discounted rate!

## Project: Speech Trek

--Jill Harry

**This year's Speech Trek is Wednesday, February 22.** While that may seem like a long way away, it is time to get started. Especially considering the holidays, February will be here before we know it!



last year and want to help with that again? Did you help on the night of the event in some way and would like to do so again? Or, is time to try a new task? Have you not helped before, but want to be involved? In any of these instances, please email Jill Harry at [jill.e.harry@gmail.com](mailto:jill.e.harry@gmail.com) and let

her know how you would like to help.

This year's topic is, "Is it time to pass the Equal Rights Amendment?"

Our first place winner last year, Claire Gorham, won second place in the state-wide competition with the topic: "Gender Bias and Inequality." Maybe we'll have a student place at the state level again this year!

With the help of high school teachers, Bryan Starchman and Kim Monson, Speech Trek Coordinator, Jill Harry, has started promoting the contest to high school principals and students. The first informational meeting for students is happening Tuesday, **December 6**, during their lunch break. (Thank you, Dawn Johnson, for covering for Jill at this meeting! She will be in Hawaii with her child who is in the MCHS band. The band is playing on the USS Missouri on the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pearl Harbor on December 7. How cool is that!)

Fabulous AAUW members, might you please take a moment to consider helping with Speech Trek? Did you coach students

For coaches, time commitments are minimal and will not start until mid January with the event itself happening the evening of Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Coaching simply means giving students advice and encouragement on their speeches, including presentation and delivery -- students are expected to do all the research, writing, and editing on their own.

Specifically, becoming a coach means that you would:

- Attend two meetings---an orientation meeting on **Jan 11 at 5:30 PM** at the high school to learn about the contest and the coach's role and a second meeting on **Jan 18 at 3:15 PM** for coaches to meet their assigned students.
- Review your student's rough draft-- help with organization of thoughts, etc. (This can be done via email.)
- If possible, at least twice, listen to

(Continued on page 7)



## Project: Speech Trek

--Jill Harry

(Continued from page 6)

your student's speech via phone, Skype or in person and help with delivery.

- If possible, join your student for a practice run-through on the auditorium stage Feb 8 or 9; Feb 15 or 16; and/or Feb 20 or 21. These will be scheduled for after school. (If you can't make it, no problem. Jill Harry and/or Kim Monson will be there to help students.)
- If possible, come and cheer your



student on at the contest itself!

- If your student wins first place, he/she will be invited to compete on the state level and you will be invited to attend (completely optional, of course, but fun!)

If you can do most but not all, please let Jill know as she can probably work around it.

Thanks so much in advance for considering this. Thanks even more for responding with a "yes"!

## Project: Tech Trek

--Naoko Kada & Debbie Peters

### Wanted: Two new committee members!!

**AAUW's life-changing camp for young girls who like to play with math and science**

- ♦ Are you comfortable interacting with teachers and the school district?
- ♦ Would you like to get to know some of Mariposa's delightful students?

If so, the Tech Trek Committee needs your participation. The Tech Trek Committee will have its first official meeting on December 7th at 5:30 at Sal's to plan the selection of six girls to attend the Fresno camp in June.

Naoko and I are currently the Co-Chairs for the Tech Trek Science Camp Committee and we want to recruit two new Tech Trek Committee



--Debbie Peters

Members to learn the ropes as Naoko and I will both be stepping down as Co-Chairs after this year. Naoko has

volunteered to remain on the committee for an additional year to act as a "Past Co- Chair" in an advisory role. We both have increasing obligations and we want Tech Trek to have the time and attention it deserves.

We would like to include you from the beginning so that you can experience the entire process with the goal of working together to take over next year with Naoko's support and guidance. If you (and a friend??) are interested in working on this important project, please contact [Debbie](#) at 559-642-0204 or 209-966-6597

# Fundraising

--Sandi Gabe

## An Evening in



Imagine walking down a Parisian street doing a little shopping on your way to an evening of music and singing. Along the way you spot the Eiffel Tower in the distance. You stop at small shops to find treasures of AAUW experiences donated by good friends and friends yet to be.

As you step through the doors of the bistro you are enchanted by the live music streaming from the stage...

### The details

- Doors open Saturday, February 11th at 4pm. The music starts at 5pm.
- Entertainment provided by Kathi Walsh, cabaret singer extraordinaire, and Gary, keyboard artist
- Hors-d'oeuvres and no host bar
- Cost - \$20/person presale, \$25/person at the door
- Silent experience auction

Does that set the scene for our February fundraiser? Now all we need is YOU to

make it happen. In addition to donating an experience auction item and selling tickets we need your help transforming the fairgrounds!

### Items needed:

- White Christmas lights
- Shade umbrellas with stands (we need lots of them)
- Paris /France posters
- Card tables
- Bistro tables and chairs
- Park benches
- Coat racks

Contact Sandi Gabe if you are able to loan any of the items listed above.

## Interest Groups - Hiking

Contact [Mary Ripma](#)



### AAUW hikers chose another wet day to hit the trail

Sunday, October 30 found a few souls to brave the wet weather and enjoy a trek to the reservoir from Helen Fiske's home.

#### Upcoming hikes:

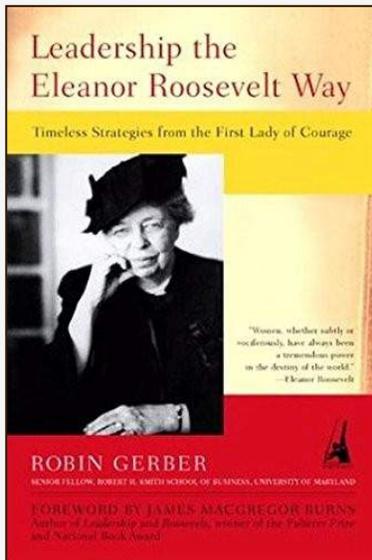
- Weekend of January 21-22 Hike (Destination TBD)
- Friday February 24 Snowshoe at Badger Pass
- Weekend of March 18-19 Hike (Destination TBD)



## California AAUW

--Dawn Johnson

### Participate in a state-wide "virtual" book club



AAUW-CA is trying something new and different and YOU can participate. It's a state-wide initiative to study the concept of **Leadership: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.**

What's different?

It's a "virtual" book club. One book will be selected each year to cover the three topics. Year One covers yesterday's leadership, examined through the remarkable Eleanor Roosevelt.

The next meeting is Tuesday, December 27 at 7 pm. We'll be discussing Chapter 3. (You do not have to have read the previous chapters in order to participate.)

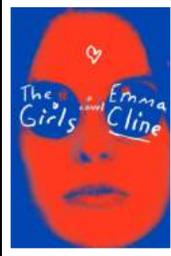
Dial in: 1-877-885-3221      Passcode: 7770040

Contact [Dawn Johnson](#) with any questions.

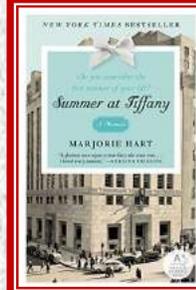
# Interest Groups- Reading



Contact [Saralynn Nusbaum](#)

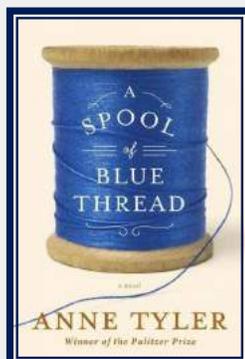
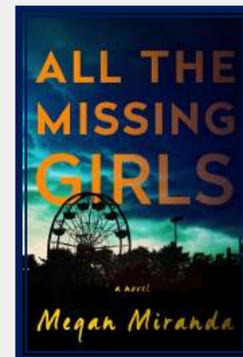
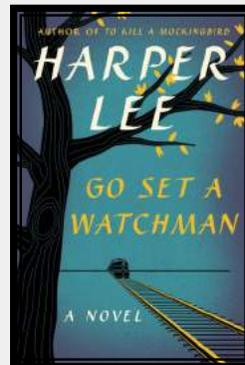
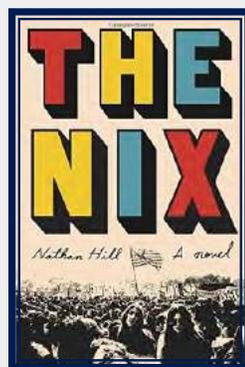
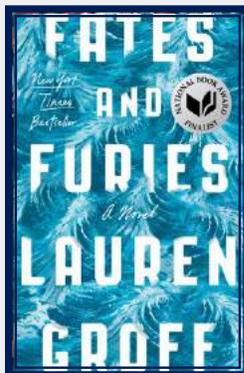
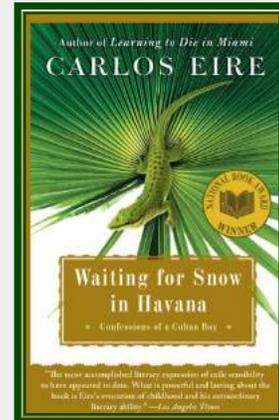
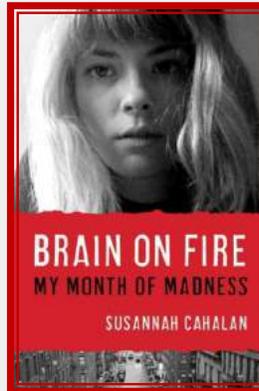
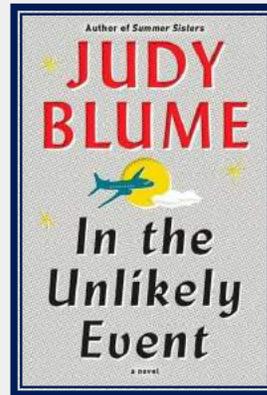
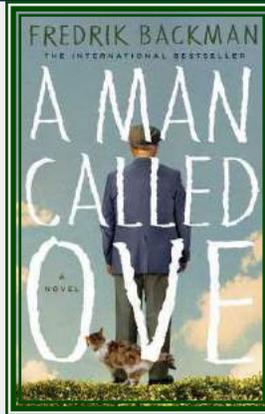


Our next meeting will be  
 Tuesday, December 6, 2016 at 4:30 pm  
 At the home of Helene Fiske. We will be discussing  
**The Girls** by Emma Cline. January's discussion will  
 be on **Summer at Tiffany** by Marjorie Hart.



## Book List for 2017

- A Man Called Ove* by Fredrick Backman
- In the Unlikely Event* by Judy Blume
- Brain on Fire* by Susanna Cahalan
- Waiting for Snow in Havana* by Carlos Eire
- Fates and Furies* by Lauren Groff
- The Nix* by Nathan Hill
- Go Set a Watchman* by Harper Lee
- All the Missing Girls* by Megan Miranda
- We are Unprepared* by Meg Little Riley
- A Spool of Blue Thread* by Ann Tyler



# Interest Groups - Wine

Contact [Kathy Sutherland](#)



--Jill Rowney

On Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, the Corks and Forks gathered at the Rauch Winery on Ben Hur Road in Mariposa. There we enjoyed tasting their **Viognier**- a crispy white; a **"Rock Wall Red"**- a lighter blend of Sangiovese, Zinfandel, Syrah, and California; and their full-bodied **"Black Gold"** - a blend of Petit Syrah, Zinfandel, and Cabernet Franc. Several of us left with a full case and headed back down the road a mile to the Gabes' where we further enjoyed the fall weather, great friendships, and, of course, more wine!



Top: Rauch Ranch vineyards in the rolling hills of southwestern Mariposa County.

Upper L-R: Cindy Harp; Hostess Leslie Rauch serves the *Viognier* to Lynn Harp. Above: Host Mike Rauch shares the process.. No oak barrels, but this "egg" promises delicious "fruit".



Lower L-R: Jill Rowney, Carolyn Baker, Saralynn Nusbaum, Sandi Gabe

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### Interest Groups - Craft

Contact [Joan Lee](#) or [Sandi Gabe](#)



The craft group had two creative get-togethers recently. In October we met at Elaine Keeley's home where we made mosaic rocks and a garden art project. In November Margaret Brandenburg hosted the group and we recycled fencing and sea glass to create Christmas trees, perfect for the holiday season. On December 10th we'll be gathering manzanita to create wreaths- perfect for hanging inside or out. Contact Joan Lee or Sandi Gabe for more details.



Left: Margaret Brandenburg and Elaine Keeley hard at "work" making their rock projects.



### Interest Groups - International Study

Contact [Peggy Shainberg](#) or [Carolyn Baker](#)



The International Study group continues to look at Turkey. There is certainly a lot happening there. So far this year we have discussed history, women's roles, books and travel. We will take a break in December and meet again in January. There is still much to discuss next year including religion, politics, cultural celebrations, music and famous places. We meet at different member's homes and always begin with appetizers and conversation. You are welcome to join.

**AAUW Mariposa Branch  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Library, November 7, 2016**

**CALL TO ORDER:** at 4:00 by Co-President Maddie Brown

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Marilyn Saunders, Maddie Brown, Dawn Johnson, Leslie Bernacchi, Rebecca Swisher, Saralynn Nusbaum, Sandi Gabe, Bonnie Little, Sharon Enrico

**Approval of Minutes from October 2016 board meeting:** Minutes were previously submitted, approved by email, & published in November newsletter. Our practice is follows: Saralynn, Secretary, emails the minutes to the board, *and will now also include leadership*, within two weeks of the board meeting. Before the end of the following week, the minutes are reviewed and suggested revisions are emailed to Saralynn. We agreed, in addition to the procedure discussed above, Saralynn will recirculate the final minutes prior to sending to Jill Rowney for publication in the newsletter.

**PROJECT UPDATES:**

**Dinner with a Scientist** - Marilyn Saunders

The ten Merced participants sent thank you notes. We have not yet received invoices for expenses. We understand that UC Merced will pick up some of the costs. The lab visits were successful; feedback from participants was that they would like more lab visits and more time spent in the labs. The DNA experiment was the favorite. The Gazette will be publishing an article. The lan-yards were popular.

**Rock the Vote/Candidate Forum** - Maddie Brown

Our AAUW branch hosted a forum on October 12, at the Mariposa County Supervisors' Chambers, for the John C Fremont Hospital Board and the MCUSD Board (District 2) elections. Maddie estimated an audience of fifteen to twenty for the school board candidates and thirty for the hospital board. We were unable to get an article published in the Gazette in advance of the forum, but it was promoted on Facebook and flyers were posted around town.

**FUNDRAISER UPDATES:**

**Spring Fundraiser** - Sandi Gabe

The event has been scheduled for the evening of February 11. We will serve appetizers and there will be a no-host bar. This will be a French bistro theme and Sandi has arranged for a singer and accompanist.

*(Continued on page 14)*

*(Continued from page 13)*

### **Yard Sale** - Sharon Enrico

The yard sale was held on Friday October 21 and Saturday October 22 at the home of Bill and Helene Fiske. We brought in roughly \$2,000 and of that we estimate that \$500 was raised from items donated by Ron & Helene Halcrow. Very few items remained to be taken to the Methodist Church. We will remind members, via the newsletter, to set aside items throughout the year to donate to the yard sale.

### **REPORTS:**

#### **Membership**:-Dawn Johnson

Dawn is soliciting three prospective new members, two introduced by Marilyn Saunders and one by Saralynn Nusbaum.

Our holiday party will be at the home of Dawn Johnson on Sunday December 11 from 4PM – 7PM. Members will be asked to bring appetizers. Alcoholic beverages, probably a punch or signature cocktail, will be served. Members also may bring a beverage of their choosing. An evite will be sent this week.

Dawn will be contacting members who have not yet received their directories. Dawn requested approval to cover the cost of mailing the directories that remain after members have been contacted. Maddie made the motion and Marilyn seconded.

#### **Publicity** - Maddie Brown

Cindy Harp was not able to attend the meeting. Maddie will post our November 10, "Made In Mariposa" event on our Facebook page. She will also create Facebook Events for public events/ programs in the future. People can share Facebook events with the public on their own walls and invite friends etc. This will be supplementary to the evites that go out to members as the public doesn't receive evites.

#### **Programs** - Leslie Bernacchi

The November 10 program will be a presentation by Dane Carlson, CEO of the Mariposa Chamber of Commerce. The topic is their "Made in Mariposa" initiative. Leslie described some of her challenges with communications and logistics. Board members offered to assist. Maddie will provide the insurance form required by the Miner's Inn. Leslie mentioned she needs help tracking down supplies for the meeting and several of the board members in attendance offered to assist. Kathy Delaney has asked to make a short presentation at the event regarding the Alliance for Community Transformation coat and toiletries drive in recognition of National Hunger Awareness Week.

#### **Treasurer's Report** - Dina Lambert was not in attendance.

The annual budget was approved at the October 8 fall mixer. Sandi Gabe made the motion and

*(Continued on page 15)*

(Continued from page 14)

Margaret Brandenburg seconded.

The October financial statements were circulated. Expenses for the fall gathering, Dinner with a Scientist, and the Candidates' Forum have not yet been received so have not been posted. An invoice has been received from the Chamber of Commerce; Rebecca will deliver the invoice to Dina.

The ending cash balance as of October 31 was \$14,437.

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

Marilyn Saunders will prepare the Women's Day Proclamation and bring to the December board meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### AAUW CALIFORNIA PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAM

A document stating AAUW California's Public Policy program, dated January 6, 2016 was circulated for comment. *This document is available to all members; contact the branch secretary for a copy.* The priorities as stated are:

- To achieve economic self-sufficiency, for all women
- To support a strong system of high quality public education
- To guarantee equality, individual rights and social justice for a diverse society

Feedback from our board was as follows:

- Change wording from "To *achieve* economic self-sufficiency to *enable*
- Under the header of economic self-sufficiency, state that AAUW California supports legislation that would prohibit employers from requiring prospective employees to provide salary history
- Under the header of economic self-sufficiency, state that AAUW California supports programs to educate women on financial literacy.
- Under the header of guaranteed equality, state that AAUW California supports protection against human trafficking.

We will query our members as to the level of interest in public policy and will ask if one of our members wants to take this on as a role.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Libby Murrell sent a notice to our branch about the passing of former member and branch president Courtney Roberts. The memorial will be held on November 19. Dawn will inform our membership and send an acknowledgment from our branch.

We received a request from AAUW California to acknowledge our intent to participate in Speech

(Continued on page 16)



*(Continued from page 15)*

Trek. We will be participating and Jill Harry will be the coordinator.

Assignment of Branch Buzz:

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

December – Saralynn

January - Rebecca

The meeting was adjourned by Co-President Maddie Brown. Rebecca made the motion for adjournment and Saralynn seconded.



**MALINA BONDSHU**  
 Jazzercise Fitness Studio  
 Class Owner  
 5011 5th St.  
 Mariposa, CA 95338  
 209.769.6290  
 malinajazz@yahoo.com  
**JAZZERCISE.COM**

**Bonnie Newman**  
 Imaging Supervisor & Mammographer   
 John C. Fremont Healthcare District  
 5189 Hospital Road ~ P.O. Box 216  
 Mariposa, CA 95338-0216  
 bonnie.newman@jcf-hospital.com  
 209-966-3631, x 233 or 244 ~ FAX # 209-966-2972



**H&R BLOCK**  
**Marilyn Saunders**  
 Master Tax Advisor  
 Enrolled Agent  
 5075B HWY 140  
 MARIPOSA, CA 95338  
 Tel 209.966.2882 Fax 209.966.6882  
 marilyn.saunders@tax.hrblock.com  
 www.hrblock.com




**WINE TASTING ROOM & GALLERY**  
**KRIS CASTO**  
 Email: Castokris@aol.com  
 5022 Highway 140, Mariposa CA 95338  
 209-742-2000 209-377-8203  
 www.CastoOaksWine.com

AAUW- Mariposa

[www.aauwmariposa.com](http://www.aauwmariposa.com)  
 Board Officers— 2016-2017

Project Chairs/Coordinators

Co-Presidents	Maddie Brown <a href="mailto:maddie.s.brown@gmail.com">maddie.s.brown@gmail.com</a> Rebecca Swisher <a href="mailto:beccaswish@yahoo.com">beccaswish@yahoo.com</a>	Advertising	<a href="#">Sharon Enrico</a>
VP Membership	Dawn Johnson <a href="mailto:dawnandjay.johnson@gmail.com">dawnandjay.johnson@gmail.com</a>	Back Pack Project	<a href="#">Anita Bryant</a> <a href="#">Cathy Owens</a>
VP Programs	Leslie Bernacchi <a href="mailto:lesiann77@gmail.com">lesiann77@gmail.com</a>	Dinner With a Scientist	<a href="#">Marilyn Saunders</a>
Recording Secretary	Saralynn Nusbaum <a href="mailto:saralynn@italiancreekdesians.com">saralynn@italiancreekdesians.com</a>	Fundraising	<a href="#">Sandi Gabe</a>
Finance Officer	Dina Lambert <a href="mailto:dinallambert@gmail.com">dinallambert@gmail.com</a>	Good Will Ambassador	<a href="#">Margaret Brandenburg</a>
Directors at Large	Cindy Harp <a href="mailto:cindy_harp@earthlink.net">cindy_harp@earthlink.net</a> Bonnie Little <a href="mailto:mbmslitle@sti.net">mbmslitle@sti.net</a>	HS Voter Education	<a href="#">Jetty Uebner</a>
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