



## Sierra Outpost

### AAUW Program-

# “The Plight of the Condors”

When: **Thursday,**  
**March 10**

Time: **4:30 p.m.**

Where: **Roadhouse 140**

--Karen Smith



In 1982, only 23 California Condors remained in the world. Today, condors soar over California, Arizona, Utah and Baja California—a dramatic reversal of fortunes for this majestic icon of the American West. John McCamman, past California Condor Coordinator will speak on the recovery program for this highly endangered species.

Join us on March 10th at 4:30 pm at the Miners Inn Roadhouse 140.

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## Co-Presidents' Corner

Over the past couple of months, Dawn and I have been creating Leadership Development workshops that we delivered to Southern California branches last weekend and that we'll present at the state convention in April. After surveying branch leadership to better understand what their needs were, we designed our sessions around the top concerns. While I focused on strategic planning and using technology to make our lives easier, Dawn focused one of her sessions on supporting volunteers. Each of us brought our own unique perspective and experience.

I can understand that your first thought might be something akin to - "I'm not doing that"! What struck me was how inspired I was by the process and most importantly, I realized I learned new things that I can and will apply within AAUW as well as in my personal life. Let's face it, the people we love are volunteers in our lives as well, so it was a gift. I loved Dawn's observations and recommendations and I encourage you to attend the convention to be motivated and learn from the variety of workshops available.

As I reflected on this experience, I realized that it embodies what AAUW means to me. An opportunity to work with like-minded women. An opportunity to learn and grow with them and an opportunity to put my mark on something that will endure.

As I shift my time from being Co-President of the Mariposa Branch to working more with AAUW CA (hopefully you'll vote for me for State Director!), I hope you might consider how you can leave your mark as well. Our local AAUW Mariposa Branch Board needs a diverse set of talents, opinions and passions. Each of us brings something new, unique and special. Your mark will be different. I hope you'll share your treasures with the board. We are still looking for someone (or two) to take on the President role. It could be you. Contact Dawn or me if you'd like to talk.



*Sandi*

## Mariposa AAUW Calendar

- February:** 29 Board Meeting- 4:00 at Library
- March:** 1 Women's History Month Proclamation- 9:00 am, BOS Rm
- 1 Reading Group- 4:30 at Helene Fiske's
- 10 Program-4:30pm at the Miner's Inn-Roadhouse 140
- 19 Hiking Group- Hite Cove
- 24 Garden Group- 4:00 at Library



(See Master Calendar on [11](#) for a more complete

## Speech Trek

--Jill Harry, Coordinator



### Five outstanding students deliver five outstanding speeches on “Gender Bias and Inequality”



Congratulations to this year's Speech Trek contestants who all did an outstanding job presenting their speeches on Gender Bias and Inequality to an appreciative audience on Wednesday, February 24 at 6 PM in the MCHS Fiester Auditorium. Thanks to all who came to the event to listen to these thought-provoking speeches and support these stellar high school students. Thanks also to all the volunteers who worked so hard to make the contestants feel supported and the event successful. Special thanks to our high school-associated volunteers Bryan Starchman, who worked with us from the very beginning, provided guidance to the students and helped in innumerable ways, and to

Walt Hebern who gave up an evening to video the event. Much appreciation to all. The winner of our Speech Trek contest, Claire Gorham, will be entered in the state AAUW competition with a chance to go to the AAUW annual conference in San Mateo in April. Congratulations, Claire! Great job to all involved.



*Coordinator Jill Harry guided the evening's events with warmth, light heart, and grace. She proclaimed all the girls winners as she presented each contestant with a rose.*

## AAUW Mariposa: Leadership

--Dawn Johnson

### We are still looking for.... YOU?

It's never too early to start planning. Before we know it, our new 2016-17 AAUW year will be upon us. Let's be sure we have an energized Board of Directors in place so we can continue the enjoyable and gratifying work that we do together.

We are fortunate that several people have stepped up to take leadership roles for our projects and on our Board next year. They are pumped and ready.

But there are still some opportunities for YOU.

Our branch knows how to get the job done, but it still needs an official **President**. We urge you to think for a moment of how you might personally benefit from stepping into that role. Look on this as a chance to learn new skills and share your own vision. We

also urge you to think of sharing the position. Surely you have worked with someone else on an AAUW project and found that you were sympatico. Why not talk to them about partnering? There are a number of ways to organize that.

There are also two openings for the **Board Member-At-Large** positions. These are new! Make them what you and the new Board want. These will be appointed positions with voting rights, but no official titles so they can float and get involved as needed.

Sandi and I are always available to talk about our fulfilling experiences leading this good-minded organization. Let us help you find a role for yourself in it too.

## Fundraising: Home Tour

--Sandi Gabe



The graphic features a yellow background with a dark blue house silhouette on the left. The words "HOME TOUR" are written in large, bold, dark blue letters, with the house silhouette acting as the letter "H". To the right of the house is the AAUW logo. On the right side of the graphic, the text "Save the Date" is written in a cursive font, followed by "Saturday, May 14, 2016" and "10 am - 4 pm" in a serif font.

## Tech Trek

--Naoko Kada & Debbie Peters

### Applications are beginning to come in

All school visits were completed in January and we want to thank all of our teachers involved in the process and for taking time to nominate students. We also want to thank our school site liaison AAUW volunteers: Jill Harry, Cathy Owens, and Naoko Kada. We had approximately 25 nominations from four schools. Camp applications have started to come in and are due by February 29, 2016. All applications will be assigned an application number to make them anonymous and then forwarded to the application review committee consisting of Debbie Peters, Dawna Hunter, Maddie Brown, Carol Hart, Dawn Johnson and Betty Massey. The application review committee will have approximately one week to review and score all applications. Only the top eight applicants will be asked to move forward in the process and inter-



view. The application reviews and interviews have exposed some of our brightest and curious young ladies and reminds us why we value the opportunity to expose our young ladies to STEM careers. The interview location and time have been set and we are pleased to have an interview team consisting of Maddie Brown, a former Tech Trekker, Betty Massey and Dawna Hunter. We want to thank everyone involved for contributing their time.

#### **WANTED:**

**Volunteer needed to be a "back up" dorm mom.** Contact [Dawna Hunter](#) or [Naoko Kada](#).

## Community Support

--Marilyn Saunders



Reminder:

### Women's History Month proclamation

Hear ye! Hear ye! Don't forget to come to the Board of Supervisors'

meeting in the County BOS room at 9:00 **this Tuesday, March 1** to support the official proclamation that March is Women's History Month.

This proclamation is sponsored by Mariposa AAUW (thanks to Marilyn Saunders) and we

need a show of force in the audience to support its message.

The proclamation will be accepted by our member and Tech Trek Co-Chair, Debbie Peters. It will be announced at some time between 9-11 a.m. but is typically fairly early in the agenda.

Come and show your proud support!



## Membership

--Carolyn Baker & Bonnie Little

### Welcome to our newest branch member

At our Speech Trek event, Rosemarie Smallcombe served as one of the judges, and, seeing first-hand the positive impact we have on our students and community, filled out a membership form. Welcome, Rosemarie!

## AAUW California: Convention

--Dawn Johnson

### There is room for YOU

### At the upcoming state AAUW Convention

We are fortunate to have our state convention so close to home this year. It will be held April 15-17 in San Mateo, which is really not a bad drive if you share it with other fun people who will talk all the way down and all the way back.



"Empowering You"

The convention is an opportunity to see the bigger picture of AAUW, meet other people who care about the same things as you do and get energized. This year's theme "Empowering You" reminds us that we have the capacity to make our branches even better.

Expect some useful workshops, great networking opportunities, and stirring speeches, especially the one from someone close to home—a **Fresno educator** whose

fair pay lawsuit was supported by national AAUW.

You'll also be treated to a preview of *The Hunting Ground*, the latest documentary on sexual assault in colleges from the producers of *The Invisible War* (remember that provocative film?).

The Speech Trek finalists chosen from all the participating branches will present their views on gender inequality and vie for the \$1500 first place prize. Will our entrant be among the finalists?

Register [here](#), then grab a friend to keep you awake on the drive and come get inspired and intrigued by all the amazing things going on throughout AAUW. The Board has budgeted \$300 to help with the cost of attending convention for several participants. Contact Sandi or Dawn if interested.

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Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential

**Interest Groups- Wine**

Contact Kathy Sutherland: 209.742.6131

**Corks and Forks put the Malbecs to test**

--Jill Rowney



The 31<sup>st</sup> of January turned out to be as stormy as predicted. Many of our group decided to stay warm, safe, and dry by their fires at home. A few of us, however, ventured out in the rain/snow to Wendy Carman’s home in Midpines to learn about Malbec wines- most of which come from Argentina, a climate where the Malbec grape seems to thrive. Just as we began the actual tasting, the power went out. In the candlelight, we proceeded to check out 4 different Malbecs . Though we couldn't see very well to judge the clarity, our other senses of smell and taste were heightened. All four came in between 100 and 111.5 points... a pretty close outcome. First choice was a 2014 “Tilia” Malbec, 2<sup>nd</sup>: 2013 Antigat (Trader Joe’s), 3<sup>rd</sup>: 2011 Tierra Divina, and last place was a 2010 Graffigna Centenario.



**February 15 finds the Corks & Forks at Dawna & Jeff Hunter's house**

We tasted 2007 Bogle Petite Sirah Port, 2009 Zucca Syrah Port, 2010 Ficklin Old Vine Tawny Port, and Fonseca Porto.

--Dawna Hunter

Anne Dolchancyk, MaryAnn Dvorak, Carolyn & Dennis Baker plus Jeff and Dawna Hunter were our mighty tasters. 2009 Zucca Syrah Port from Murphys was the favorite with 2007 Bogle Petite Sirah Port from Clarksburg coming in 2nd.

MaryAnn was very unsure about ports BUT WE changed her mind by the end of the tasting.



### Interest Groups- Garden

Contact Micki Finney: 209.966.4644



We had a great garden meeting on Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> with lots of sharing and laughter.

Discussion topics covered a wide range of areas including:

- What we are planting now: bare root fruit trees and berries along with winter sets of lettuces and peas.
- What we are growing: arugula, Swiss

chard, leaf lettuces and kale.

- And most importantly, what are our garden visions; where they take us and the joy and frustrations they bring.

Join us on Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at the library from 4-6 pm for our next meeting.

Thank you to those who responded and hopefully we'll see you there.

### Interest Groups- Hiking

Contact Mary Ripma: 831.334.2223



## Hiking group explores more of Briceburg

--Mary Ripma

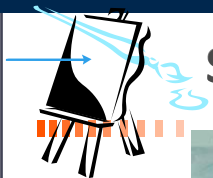
AAUW Hiking Group returned to Briceburg for our hike on Saturday, February 20. Dogs were welcome to come along!

In March (3rd Saturday) we plan to hike to Hite Cove. As there is a profuse amount of nasty poison oak lining the trail, it is probably not such a good idea to bring along dogs. Locals will know more about this than I do! This will be my first time going to Hite Cove, we are hoping to see wildflowers.

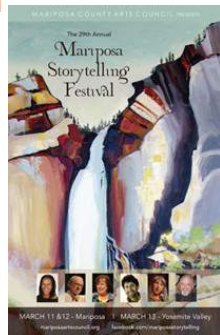
Mark and I so appreciate how much we have learned about local hikes (and gotten to know group members) through the hiking group.

### Interest Groups- Art

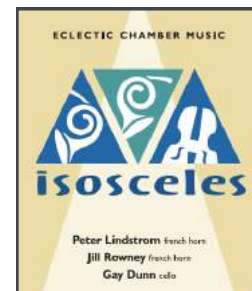
Contact Margaret Brandenburg: 559.760.1431



## Storytelling tickets may still be available



Art group will take advantage of the local Storytelling Festival in Mariposa, March 11-12. Prior to each evening performance, the Isosceles Trio (horn- Peter Lindstrom, horn- Jill Rowney, and cello- Gay Dunn) will perform twenty minutes of an eclectic mix of classical, pop, folk and other genres of music.





**Interest Groups- Craft**

Contact Joan Lee: 209.966.2505



**Crafting is a dangerous sport!**

The craft group found it's not as easy as it looks to wire wrap. These beautiful bracelets were the result of the hard work of Cathy Owens, Carolyn Baker, Joan Lee, Micki Finney, Sharon Enrico and Sandi Gabe. After battling the wire to make the wire coils on either side of the center bead, one of us went home sporting a new band-aid. It was worth the fight.



We're taking March off to enjoy the warm weather and pull weeds.

Our next event is scheduled to be in April hosted by Debra La Notte and presented by Anne Mahle. We'll send out an evite when we have confirmed a date.

**Interest Groups- International Study**

Contact Peggy Shainberg: 209.966.2076

**Guest speaker relates personal experiences in Brazil**



We had a wonderful meeting this month with lots of good food and good conversation. Many thanks go to Naoko Kada for introducing her friend, Suzanne Kallmann into our discussion. Suzanne, a vivacious and interesting speaker, spoke about Brazil from her personal experiences.

Thank you to Sharon for hosting.

Our next meeting, March 14, will be at Barb Silva's house at 5:00 pm. Gary and Reva Colliver will be presenting on Current Affairs and Religion.

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## Interest Groups- Reading

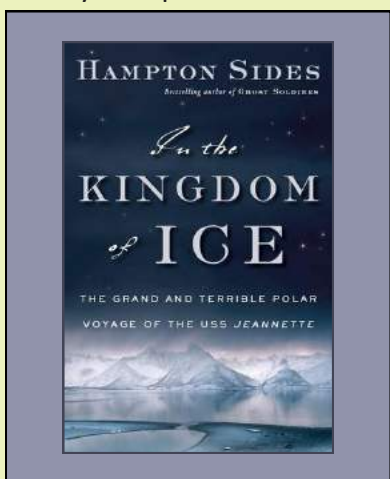
Contact Saralynn Nusbaum: 510.913.6994



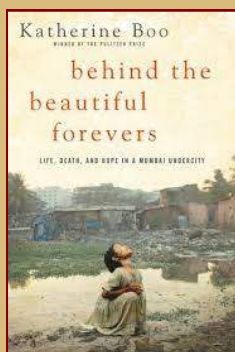
Our next meeting will be  
**Tuesday, March 1, 2016**  
 at 4:30 pm

at Helen Fiske's home on  
 4975 6th Street. Jill Rowney will lead  
 a discussion on:

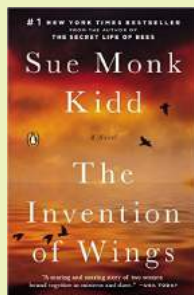
**In the Kingdom of Ice**  
 By Hampton Sides



Book chosen for March  
 reading:



**Behind the Beautiful  
 Forevers**  
 By Katherine Boo



### Discussion Review

--Margaret Erhart

*The Invention of Wings*, by Sue Monk  
 Kidd, proved to be a popular selection  
 for members of the book group. Based

upon the life of abolitionist Sarah Grimke, this historical  
 fiction novel tells the story of the relationship that  
 develops between Sarah and "Handful," the spunky  
 slave forced upon Sarah as a present for her eleventh  
 birthday by her prominent South Carolina family. Both  
 Sarah and Handful search for freedom to live their lives  
 on their own terms, and, as Sarah and her sister Nina  
 become major forces in the abolitionist movement, they  
 find themselves fighting for the rights of women as well.  
 This superbly written story tells how both mistress and  
 slave muster the courage to find their wings.

The following are titles from which we will consider in  
 selecting our reading choices for the year:

Behind the Beautiful Forevers

By Katherine Boo

Big Magic

By Elizabeth Gilbert

Blue Jasmine

By Kashmira Sheth

Bobbed Hair and Bathtub Gin

By Marion Meade

Flight Behavior

By Barbara Kingsolver

The Goddess Pose

Michelle Goldberg

The Senator Next Door

By Amy Klobuchar

The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet

By David Mitchell

Whiplash

By Catherine Coulter

The Children's Crusade

By Ann Packer

Between You & Me

By Mary Norris

Wild

By Cheryl Strayed

Plenty Ladylike

By Claire McCaskill





### 2015-2016 CALENDAR

- 04 Independence Day
- 26 Board Planning Mtg

JULY 2015						
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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

AUGUST 2015						
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- 01 Board Meeting
- 17 Program – Miner’s Inn 4:30
- 24 Speech Trek
- 23 AAUW Regional Mtg
- 29 Board Meeting

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

SEPTEMBER 2015						
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- 10 Program – Miner’s Inn
- 27 Easter Sunday

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

OCTOBER 2015						
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- 04 Board Meeting
- 15-17 AAUW State Convention

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

NOVEMBER 2015						
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- 02 Board Meeting
- 08 Mother’s Day
- 14 Home Tour
- 22 Brunch 2-4 pm
- 30 Memorial Day

- 13 Holiday Party
- 25 Christmas Day

DECEMBER 2015						
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Update 1/7/16

**Meeting Minutes**  
**AAUW Mariposa Board of Directors**  
**February 1, 2016**

**CALL TO ORDER:** at 4:01PM by Co-President Sandi Gabe.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dawn Johnson, Sandi Gabe, Karen Smith, Dina Lambert, Saralynn Nusbaum, Carolyn Baker, Naoko Kada, Bonnie Little

**Approval of Minutes from January 4, 2015 board meeting:** Minutes were previously submitted, approved by email, & published in February newsletter.

**REPORTS:**

**Membership:** Carolyn Baker and Bonnie Little

With new member Lei Yue, our branch now has ninety members.

Update: Board Buddy assignments – the purpose of “Board Buddies” is to encourage involvement in AAUW activities by recent members. Each of the board members is assigned a buddy; the board member gets in touch with the members to make them feel welcome by answering questions or telling them about upcoming activities. Bonnie suggested that instead of a board member being a buddy that special interest group coordinators or members of the ride groups be the buddy. Carolyn and Bonnie will present a proposal at the next meeting.

Free national membership - The Shape the Future membership campaign is a recruitment tool for branches to offer a discounted rate to prospective members. With this campaign, new members and students can take 50 percent off the national dues rate when they join during an AAUW public event. Branches also earn one free national membership to give away for every two newly recruited members, with a maximum of five free memberships annually. Mariposa branch has accumulated five free memberships. It was suggested that Kim Monson, Mariposa High School teacher, be offered a membership under this program. Board members should think of other candidates.

AAUW national will be offering a Share and Learn webinar February 24 on membership recruitment.

**Programs:** Karen Smith

The January 14 “Operation Babylift” program featuring Bill Yaley was well attended.

Our next program will be the Chinese Silk Road on Wednesday February 17, 4:30pm, at the Miner’s Inn. The speaker will be Dr. Ruth Mostern of UC Merced.

The topic and speaker for the March meeting is yet to be determined.

**Publicity:** As Cindy Harp was not present there was no publicity report.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** Dina Lambert

The 1/31/16 Treasurer’s Report was circulated. To review, contact the Board Secretary for a copy. Income – A \$27 donation for TedEx and residual fashion show income of \$30.

*(Continued on page 13)*



*(Continued from page 12)*

Expenditures – Combined national and state dues of \$22.

The outstanding \$50 check which was issued to MCHS Bank Boosters on 2/3/15, in memory Ti Shakelton, will be reissued.

Dina is awaiting feedback from Trish Gilger or UC Merced on the outstanding check issued for the Dinner with a Scientist program.

Ending cash balance - \$14,821.

Sandi moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and Karen seconded the motion.

#### **PROJECT UPDATES:**

**Tech Trek :** Dawn Johnson/Naoko Kada

We have approval for five Tech Trek participants and we've been asked to consider increasing to six. All schools have been visited. There are 10 potential candidates from Woodland School though 6 of the 10 have a conflict. There are 6 from MES of which 2 are very interested, and 5 from Sierra Foothill Charter School, 2 of which are very strong candidates. \$5,500 is available to fund.

Sandi moved that we approve sending six students to Tech Trek and Karen seconded.

A committee has been formed to review the written applications. The members are Debbie Peters, Betty Massey, Dawna Hunter, Carol Hart, Maddie Brown, and Dawn Johnson. The top eight written applications will be selected and then face-to-face interviews will be conducted by a subcommittee including Dawna Hunter, Betty Massey, and Debbie Peters.

**Speech Trek:** Dawn Johnson

Dawn and Jill Harry have had several meetings. At this point, 8 students have expressed interest in participating, 5 is considered a minimum to move forward. The topic is gender bias. The participants are mainly 9<sup>th</sup> graders (Bryan Starchman is teaching 9<sup>th</sup> grade rather than 12<sup>th</sup> this year). Rough drafts are due on Wednesday February 3. The event takes place on February 24, 6pm, at the high school. We have eight volunteer coaches from our membership.

#### **Dinner with a Scientist**

The Girls on Ice notification, discussed at the January board meeting, was sent to past DWS participants. Information on a UCSF program for juniors, to be held in Fresno, was sent to DWS juniors.

#### **ACTION ITEMS (non-routine):**

Time for AAUW?

Help wanted ads generated two volunteers to review Tech Trek applications and several to assist at the Speech Trek event.

**Mandatory Bylaws Amendments:** Dawn/Sandi

The changes to the bylaws will be published in this month's newsletter. Members may approve in

*(Continued on page 14)*



person or by email. Thirty days' notice from the date of the newsletter's publication is required. Sandi moved that we use email to get membership approval and Karen seconded.

**Policy and Procedure Handbook Update:** Dawn/Sandi

The bylaws amendments will be incorporated into the handbook. The branch membership does not need to approve changes to the handbook. Members will be notified of the changes when they are posted on our website.

Karen made a motion to incorporate the bylaws amendments into the handbook and Carolyn seconded.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Home Tour:** Sandi

The home tour is tentatively scheduled for May 14. To accomplish, we need a theme, houses, and volunteers. Karen proposed the theme be "A Room with a View" which drew an enthusiastic response from those of us in attendance. Alan Dayhoff and Randy Brower have offered assistance in finding suitable homes. Sandi will send out a call for volunteers via email

**Donation Requests:** All

Donation requests were received from Citizenship Washington Focus and Mariposa Student Loan Association. AAUW guidelines indicate that we cannot donate to other organizations. Since the requests appear to be form letters sent to all chamber members, we will not acknowledge the solicitations.

**Review Goals status**

The 2015-16 Goals and Actions document which was developed at the annual planning meeting, was circulated, discussed, and updated. To review, contact the Board Secretary for a copy.

**Assignment of Branch Buzz for February & March**

March – Karen Smith

April – Dina Lambert

**Update: Women's History Month Proclamation and Recipient**

Marilyn Saunders prepared a proclamation to be presented to the Board of Supervisors in recognition of Women's History Month, March 2016. Members are encouraged to attend the March Board of Supervisors meeting where Debbie Peters will accept the proclamation.

**Board Recruitment action plan:** All

Positions to be filled for the 2016/17 year – President and Programs VP. Maddie Brown has volunteered for the position of Membership VP. Her work schedule will permit her to attend board meetings. She will be attending the state convention.

**State Convention Expenses**

\$1,500 has been allocated to cover state convention expenses; we are hoping to send five members to the convention. Cost to attend the convention is \$139/night lodging, and \$149 for registration which does not include meals.

*(Continued from page 14)*

Sandi moved that we provide each conference attendee with a \$300 subsidy and Karen seconded.

**Community Action Grants:** Sandi

AAUW national is offering grants of up to \$10,000 for innovative programs or non-degree research projects that promote education and equality for women and girls. Sandi asked the group if we'd like to pursue.

The March board meeting will be on February 29th and the April board meeting will be held on April 4.

The meeting was adjourned by Co-President Sandi Gabe at 5:35PM.





**MALINA BONDISHU**  
 Jazzercise Fitness Studio  
 Class Owner

5011 5th St.  
 Mariposa, CA 95338

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