

Sierra Outpost



Backpack Project gets underway with two new coordinators

--Sandi Gabe

School starts on August 19th and we are once again in the process of organizing the backpack project. This year Anita Starchman-Bryant and Cathy Owens are coordinating the effort to provide 34 backpacks for students at Woodland, MES and Catheys Valley who need a little help getting supplies gathered for school.

We have ordered the backpacks but need your help in filling them. If you would like to help with a donation of items, here is some helpful information.

- Review the list ([click here](#)) and let us know what you'll be providing. We have made it easy this year. Click this [link](#) and designate what you will bring.
- Drop your item(s) off at Starchman and Bryant Law offices (4750 Highway 49 South/966-6111) by July 27th.
- We will order the remaining items.
- Help us fill the packs at Tavis Corporation on **August 11th at 4:30 pm**. We will send out an evite before the event with more details.

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Presidents' Corner

Speaking for both Sandi and myself, we are honored to have been elected to serve as Co-Presidents for 2015-16. It was a tough and exhausting campaign.

We look forward to working with a great team of volunteers. On July 26, we will meet for a brainstorming and planning session to review the wins and lessons learned from last year and chart a course for the coming one.

Sandi and I just returned from the AAUW national convention ([See page 6](#)) and, while there, nervously checked our cell phones hourly for reports on the many fires burning back home over the weekend. But the biggest fires that were lit were in us. We were impressed, invigorated and inspired by the work of AAUW.

Speaking personally, my biggest takeaway was a renewed respect for the power of our larger mission. We concentrate so much on our branch's work that it's easy to

lose sight of the forest for the trees. This organization really does advocate for change for women. And it really does make a difference. I was humbled by the speakers' stories of impactful events in their lives, many of which were remindful of AAUW's purposes. I have a better understanding of the nature and importance of the national organization's work to address pay inequity, the lack of women in STEM, the need to give women the tools to advocate for themselves in the workplace or in the political arena, Title IX violations (biggest surprise: it's NOT all about sports!) and oh so much more. We are not just about our Backpack programs or our Tech Trek camp. We are a part of something much bigger.

Enjoy the ever-warming weather and keep AAUW in your thoughts.



Dawn

Say "Cheese!"



A picture says a thousand words...

Love your Directory picture? Do you like the one that was taken at the Brunch in June? Read no further.

Think we can get a better shot of you? Or perhaps we *have no* picture!

--Sandi Gabe

I'll bring my camera. You bring your smile and we'll capture an image worthy of print.

When: Friday, July 24th

Where: TBD (Maybe the Alley?)

Time: 4 pm



Membership

--Carolyn Baker

Annual Brunch- Celebrating 25 Years!

On June 7th, the Mariposa Branch of AAUW celebrated our 25th Anniversary with a flashback in time via photos and old documents from our early years of AAUW as well as a delicious birthday cake and the traditional bubbly. There was also an "official proclamation" honoring the Founding Moms of our Mariposa Branch of AAUW whose dedication and determination paved the way for the rest of us. These trailblazers who brought AAUW to Mariposa were remembered for being Awesome Able Unstoppable Women!



awards. In addition there was also a special tribute to Kathy Sutherland and Judy Eppler as well as Arlene Yaley who was unable to attend. They were honored for their inspiration and determination, not to mention all the paper work and

hoops they had to jump through to grow their idea into an independent branch of AAUW.

However, the day was not just about the good old days. We also had six brand new members join our ranks as well as a Charter Member who decided to re-join. Be sure to look for Maddie Brown, Joan McCamman, Judy Van Winkle, Shelly Gerken, Marcele Price, Jeanne MacDonald, and Pam Gingold at upcoming AAUW events.

[Click here](#) for more photos.

The original Charter Members were invited and quite a few of them were in attendance. Each of these original members was presented with a "Founding MOM" award . . . however it was not just a Mom award if you turned them upside down they were also "WOW"



Warm welcome to our newest members



Pam Gingold



Shelly Gerken



Maddie Brown



Welcome back to Joan McCamman.

Not pictured here: Jeanne MacDonald , Marcele Price and Judy Van Winkle as well as our three honorary members: Mary Bass, Danielle Grate, and Angie Brouillette.

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Membership

--Carolyn Baker

New Membership Liaison appointed

I'm very pleased and excited to announce that you now have two membership people to answer your membership questions. Plus that new face is not just anyone! She is our very charming, hardworking, and fun loving- **Bonnie Little!** In fact prior to her official appointment as **Membership Liaison**, Bonnie was a huge help in putting together our Membership Brunch/Birthday Celebration. I could not think of anyone who would be a better match for the job of making our new members feel at home and our continuing members feel "loved"!

I'm also pleased to welcome aboard our three newest members. These women have been chosen as **Honorary Members for our 2015-2016 AAUW Year** because of their dedication to working with and encouraging young women to develop an interest in the STEM fields and aspire to jobs in these areas and/or enthusiastically supporting and encouraging our Speech Trek girls. Please welcome **Angelina Brouillette, Danielle Grate, and Mary Bass!**

AAUW Mariposa Has
MORE than a
Few Good Women!



Have **YOU** paid your
\$84 for AAUW dues yet?

Last but definitely not least, **please remember to send your dues check made out to AAUW for \$84 to Carolyn Baker, 5765 Chowchilla Mtn. Rd., Mariposa, CA 95338.** Many thanks to the 59 awesome members who have already paid their annual dues. Remember your dues not only allow you to enjoy another inspiring fun-filled year of AAUW, but they also support such worthy projects as Tech Trek and Dinner with a Scientist, and advance equity for women and girls!

Membership Perks:

Did You Know You Get a Discount on Office Supplies?

At **OfficeDepot** and **OfficeMax**, members of AAUW can now save up to 80 percent off preferred products, online and in stores. You will also receive free next-day delivery on orders over \$50. To shop or print your in-store savings card, [visit our benefits page](#). And spread the word about all our great [AAUW member benefits!](#)

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Send Girls to Science/Math Camp

STEM- Tech Trek 2015

--Margaret Brandenburg



Incoming Tech Trek Coordinator Naoko Kada joined outgoing coordinator Margaret Brandenburg at CSU Fresno to see what our girls were doing. In the morning we



We ate lunch in the cafeteria and had a chance to meet some of our girls and talk with counselors and dorm moms. After lunch, along with visitors from Madera, Visalia, Bakersfield and Porterville, we tried the Geoplane experiment ourselves. Constructing geometric figures with toothpicks and clay isn't as easy as it looks. We then visited the classrooms and observed the girls working on their projects. Stay tuned for more this fall when the girls report on their experiences.



CSI Class entrance.

had a short briefing then observed two groups of the girls who were programming and experimenting with geoplanes. The other half were out on a scavenger hunt of the campus or in a line-drawing (simple drafting) class.

The Week in Review

--Dawna Hunter

The week was filled with meeting new friends, building confidence, and teamwork skills. We had a behind the scenes tour of the Fresno Zoo. We saw the vet hospital, string rays, elephants and the giraffes. The core classes were CSI: Crime Scene Investigation, Bridge Building, App Design, Art in Math that the girls attended for in depth learning. We also learned computer programming on a program called "Scratch" from MIT. From a Dorm Mom point of view... the pictures (next page and on [web site](#)) really tell you how much fun learning can be! The week goes by too fast in their eyes!



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STEM- Tech Trek 2015

--Dawna Hunter-photos



See the cloudy part? That's the DNA of the strawberry!



Bridge Building Class.



Investigating the reaction when mixing "Mentos" with "Diet Coke".



Checking fingerprints in CSI Class.



Team-building games.



Art in Math: Building a dodecahedron.

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AAUW National Convention

--Sandi Gabe

A Recipe for Inspiration

Ingredients:

- 1000 intelligent women
- 30 workshops
- 20 round table discussions on programs that work
- Motivating keynote speakers

Directions:

- Mix all ingredients in 3 jam-packed days in sunny San Diego at the AAUW National Convention.

Results:

- Two very inspired women (Dawn and Sandi) with many topics to share with you. If we tried to share them all at once, the newsletter would as long as a book. Over the next few issues we'll highlight different aspects of what we

learned. Here are some of the high-points.

I was impressed with the caliber of speakers, and information sessions. AAUW is gaining a reputation for the quality of the research that we do as well as how we tackle thorny topics such as pay equity, human trafficking and women in leadership roles. Overall the topics were inspiring and left me wondering how our local branch could embrace and support more issues.

Save the dates to be inspired:

- AAUW – CA convention; April 15 – 17, 2016
- National Convention; June 14 – 17, 2017 in Washington DC.

<p><u>"What does it take to make a woman leader"</u></p>	<p>Author, activist and speaker, <u>Marianne Schnall</u> hosted a panel discussion with panelists <u>Noorjahan Akbar</u>, Kate Farrar, Lilly Ledbetter, and former NFL star <u>Don McPherson</u>. I was awed by Akbar, a young woman from Afghanistan, who powerfully spoke to the need to create "systems and circles of solidarity". She noted that "Right now, there's a danger that women are competing for token positions, a situation that sets them up as enemies instead of allies and reinforces a winner-take-all leadership model."</p>
<p><u>Tech Savvy</u></p>	<p>Tech Savvy is a daylong science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) <u>career conference</u> designed to attract girls in sixth through ninth grade to these fields and to inform families about STEM education and careers. This program seems like a natural complement to Tech Trek and Dinner with a Scientist with the added benefit of encouraging families to reinforce the girls' interest in STEM.</p>

National Convention Highlights

<p><u>Charting the Course</u></p>	<p>Donations to the national AAUW Organization allowed us to provide 3.7 million dollars in scholarships and fellowships in 2015 alone! AAUW has had a very complicated donation scheme a choice of many funds. The new scheme simplifies the process and will allow the National Office to use the funds where needed.</p>
<p>Online member dues payment</p>	<p>We're not in Kansas anymore! Other organizations can easily collect fees, dues and donations and now AAUW can offer the same. Recently you received an email titled: <i>AAUW Membership Renewal Notice</i>. With a few keystrokes you can pay your dues online! This is a great benefit as it makes the process convenient. No postage required. If you want to make an additional donation directly to the Mariposa Branch, you can write a check and send to our Finance Officer, Dina Lambert.</p>

Mariposa AAUW Calendar



July

- 6 No regular Board meeting this month
- 8 *Dinner with a Scientist* team planning meeting:
10:00 am. @ Marilyn Saunder's
- 24 Directory Photo shoot:
4:00 @ The Alley
- 26 2015-16 Board planning session
12:00 pm @ Dawn Johnson's

August

- 4 Book Group: *Girls of Atomic City*
- 13 Film screening of "Half the Sky" documentary
- 17 (tentative) Board meeting: 4:00 pm @ library

September

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

Navigating the newsletter made easier.

--Jill Rowney, editor

Not only are there links to our branch website (and other internet sites) to obtain more information, but there are also links within this document (check out the "Inside this Issue" on page 1). Added last month is a link back to home-page 1 at the bottom right of each page. This should make reference much easier.



Planning the year

--Sandi Gabe

Share your Passions!

On July 26th the Board, and Program/Special Interest Group Chairs will gather at the home of Dawn Johnson to layout our plans for 2015-2016. The board needs your feedback in order to create a plan that incorporates things that are important to you. In preparation, you'll receive a brief survey prior to the

event. Please take a few minutes to help us understand where we should focus our efforts so that YOU can be engaged, enthused, participative and proud of the work we do. Please RSVP to Dawn or Sandi if you'd like to join in person.

Elections

--Sandi Gabe

The results are in!

National: Every two years, AAUW's national election offers members the chance to share their opinions on proposed amendments to the AAUW Bylaws and Public Policy Program, as well as to select the members of the national AAUW Board of Directors. All the bylaw changes and public policy recommendations were approved *with the exception of the proposal to drop the membership requirement for a two year degree*. Patricia Fae Ho was re-elected as our National President. Read more [here](#).

California: All proposed bylaw changes and public policy changes were adopted and officers were elected. Read more [here](#).

Our Branch: We elected our local branch leadership at the Brunch on June 7th. In addition to elected positions, appointed positions allow us to produce more great programs, projects and engage our new members. We are delighted to add several

new members to our planning and support community.



2015-2016 elected officers are:

- Co-Presidents: Dawn Johnson and Sandi Gabe
- VP Membership: Carolyn Baker
- VP Programs: Karen Smith
- Finance Officer: Dina Smith
- Recording Secretary: Saralynn Nusbaum

New appointed positions:

- Publicity –Sara Robison joins Cindy Harp in creating articles to describe our effort.
- Membership Liaison – Bonnie Little joins Carolyn Baker in helping to engage new members.
- Backpack Project – Anita Starchman-Bryant and Cathy Owens
- Tech Trek – Naoko Kada and Debbie Peters

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Communication Options

--Dawn Johnson

About Those Robocalls.....

We heard from some folks that they didn't love those robocalls.

We found that some members didn't always get the news about upcoming events and other goings-on. So we experimented with using the old fashioned phone tree in a new way. The robocalls are used as reminders only, not to spread news or announcements or requests. There has been roughly one call every two months. We never scheduled them for the dinner hour or weekends and assumed that, if you didn't need the reminder, you'd just hang up.

Many members have responded positively

and appreciate the reminder but we know that some of you would be happier not receiving the call.



So, you can OPT OUT!

Just send Dawn an email at dawnand-jay.johnson@gmail.com and you'll be removed from the call list.

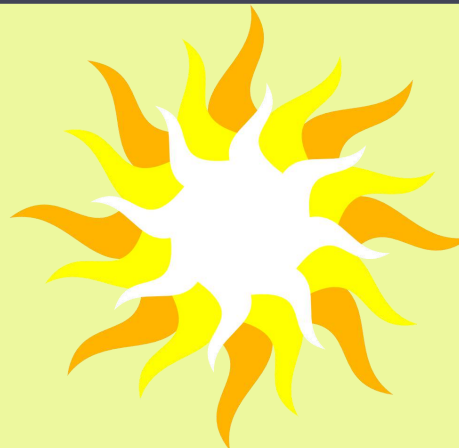
It's that easy!

Thanks for letting us try new ways to keep everybody in the loop.

Thinking Good Thoughts

Wishing our members and their families well.

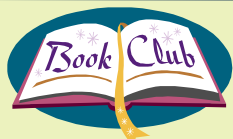
Rather than listing birthdays of the month (that you can find in the back of your directory), we are introducing a space where we will know where and to whom we should direct our good thoughts and well wishes. If you know any of our members or their families in need of moral or physical support, it could be included here. We, of course, want to be sensitive to individual privacy and make sure that what is printed is appropriate and has been sanctioned. E-mail [Jill Rowney](mailto:Jill.Rowney), editor, with any thoughts or concerns.



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Send Girls to Science/Math Camp

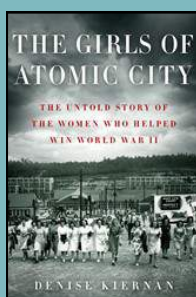
Interest Groups



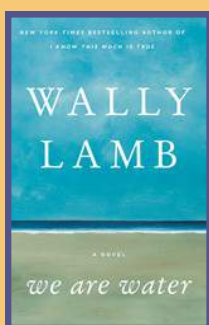
Our next meeting will be
 Tuesday, August 4 at 4:30.

The Girls of Atomic City

By Denise Kiernan

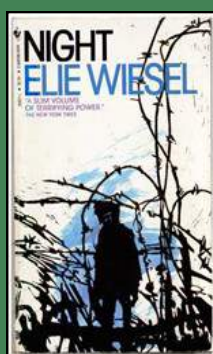


Remaining titles selected for 2015:



We Are Water

-Wally Lamb



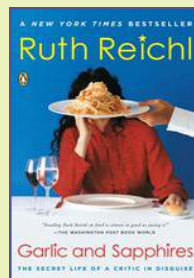
Night

-Elie Wiesel



All the Light We Cannot See

-Anthony Doerr



Garlic and Sapphires

By Ruth Reichl

Discussion Review

-- Saralynn Nusbaum

Garlic and Sapphires by Ruth Reichl was the book discussed on Tuesday June 23 and it was a hot afternoon well spent! Reichl was the restaurant critic for the New York Times from 1993 – 1999. She was known for her ability to “make or break” a restaurant. While working as the New York Times critic, she used to disguise herself to mask her identity. She created wildly innovative getups, becoming a red-haired aging hippie, a blond divorcee, a bag lady, and even her mother. The book included recipes, some of which I’m tempted to try. Her descriptions of the foods she tasted had me salivating and making frequent snack runs. I think we all found the book entertaining though some felt it went on too long and became repetitive.

We meet next on Tuesday August 4 at my home, 4836 Valley Oak Circle, to discuss The Girls of Atomic City by Denise Kiernan. Andria Matala will lead the discussion.

Beat the heat, stay inside and read!

Items Needed to fill the backpacks:

For students	Still needed	For teachers
No. 2 wooden pencils. Box of 12. Quality is important here so purchase the higher cost item	34	Kleenex
Pencil Sharpeners with container for shavings	34	Baby Wipes
Crayola Brand Markers (box of 10) Washable.	34	Hand Sanitizer
Folders - with pockets	140	
Zippered Pencil Bags. Extra large with metal zipper	34	
12 inch ruler	34	
Glue Sticks - <i>Elmers</i> is best	34	
Scissors - Junior size	19	
Individual-sized water bottles -BPA Free	34	
Flashdrives	19	
Spiral bound notebook, college ruled (not wide ruled)	76	
Box of Crayola crayons (16 or 24)	34	
Colored Crayola Pencils (Set)	34	
1 inch 3 ring binder	34	
Highlighters - any color, thick or thin	68	
Black Pens	0	
Red pens	68	
Blue Pens	68	



Board Action- June, 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 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.....

Highlights of June 1, 2015 Board of Directors' meeting:

- Approved the May 4 meeting minutes and May 31 Treasurer's Report.
 - Heard report on Membership. Currently 100 members. Reviewed the candidates for 3 complimentary Honorary Memberships earned by the Shape the Future program. Determined final list of names.
 - Reviewed final details and tasks for June 7th Annual Meeting/Brunch.
 - Heard report on Home Tour Fundraiser. Member participation was high and feedback has been excellent. Sold 146 tickets and netted \$2,000 profit. The planning team has held a debrief meeting and catalogued suggestions for next year.
 - Under "Programs", announced that the Cap 'n Town event on June 11 will be a presentation by a UCM professor on a multi-media research project to study the influence of The Silk Road.
 - In "Other Reports", heard a proposal to partner with Alliance for Community Transformations (ACT) and Mountain Crisis Center for a screening of the documentary film "Half the Sky" in Aug.
- Planning meetings are underway.
- In "Project Updates", heard that the Tech Trek candidates and their families attended an orientation meeting to finalize paperwork and disseminate information about the camp. Heard that Dinner with a Scientist will hold an organizational meeting with UCM staff. Tentative date for the DWS event is Sept. 30.
 - Under "New Business", the Board held a high level review of year-end results for all aspects of the branch's activity. These will be summarized at a strategic planning day in July for the new Board and volunteers. Specific notes on the review of 2014-15 goals and results are available in the Secretary's minutes on file with Dawn Johnson.
 - Announced that this was the final Board meeting of the 2014-15 year. Board members were thanked for their involvement.






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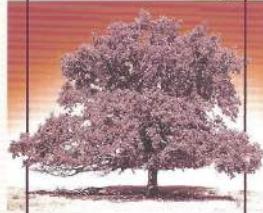
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Project Chairs/Coordinators

Advertising	Sharon Enrico
Back Pack Project	Anita Starchman-Bryant Cathy Owens
Dinner With a Scientist	Marilyn Saunders
Historian	Gussie Kidd
HS Voter Education	Peggy Shainberg
Membership Liaison	Bonnie Little
Newsletter Editor	Jill Rowney
Publicity	Cindy Harp Sara Robison
Speech Trek	Open
Sunshine Scribe	Anne Dolchanczyk
Tech Trek	Naoko Kada

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

