



Sierra Outpost

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Annual Meeting	3
Board Meeting Minutes	17
Calendar- May	5
Calendar-Year	16
Candidates' Forum	8
Contact Info	20
Dinner With a Scientist	6
Home Tour	1 & 5
Membership VP opening	3
President's Message	2
SIG:	
Craft	15
Garden	13
Hiking	12
Reading	14
Wine	10
Speech Trek	4
State Convention Review	7
Tech Trek	6



A Room with a View

Saturday
May 14, 2016
10 am - 4 pm

Tickets:
\$20 Pre-Sale; \$25 Day of Event

Presale:
Mariposa Visitors' Center
from any AAUW member
aauwmariposa.com

Day of Event:
Mariposa Visitors' Center
River Rock Inn

Spectacular views on tour

--Sandi Gabe

See this distinctive hexagonal home on the site of the historical Silva Ranch as well as seven other amazing houses on the Home Tour on Saturday, May 14th. You'll find inspiring pictures of all the houses on tour as well as a map you can download on the *Home Tour* Page of our [website](#). This event is a great opportunity to show off the unique corners of Mariposa while having a good time and supporting our programs.



Co-Presidents' Corner

Spring is upon us. It's my favorite time of the year. I love anticipating and then enjoying colorful landscapes of trees and flowers and rainy days making the weeds easy to pull. As the memory of cold days begins to fade, I look forward to the warmth of summer. Spring cleaning begins and summer vacation plans come into focus.

This spring take an opportunity to get reconnected with friends old and new at our annual meeting. It's a great time to reflect on the amazing things we've accomplished during the past year, to welcome our new officers and to introduce friends to the organization. We scheduled it earlier this year so you don't have to choose between graduation and retirement parties or this event. And it's later in the day so you can putter in the morning and still have time for some fun in the afternoon. We're even providing light appetizers so there's no excuse not to swing by and say "hi" at the River Rock Inn from 2-4 pm on May 22nd.

This will be my last President's message this year. As you know, Dawn and I have been sharing the role of President, and with it, the privilege of sharing our thoughts with you each month. I had a little apprehension in thinking about sharing the role since I'm used to flying solo. I never imagined how easy it would be. We started by writing things down (you know we like lists!) and then split the list. We didn't fight over things and there wasn't a large pile of unwanted things left over either. Of course, like many relationships, having the right partner is important and I want to say thanks to Dawn for not just being a good partner, but being an *amazing* partner, friend and inspiration. I had so much fun. We accomplished so much. And... we're done (almost)! I'm so excited and proud to be able to transition the role of President to Rebecca Swisher and Maddie Brown on July 1st. They are passionate and committed to a successful year. You will enjoy their energy and leadership.

But, I'm not gone yet so it's time to get back to business. Let's raise some money to fund our programs!

Our second annual home tour is just around the corner on May 14th. Grab your family and friends and follow the yellow signs to eight homes each with an amazing "*room with a view*". In addition to the views you'll enjoy light snacks along the way. While you're in town, stop at the River Rock Inn to buy a pile of raffle tickets for the gift baskets assembled by the Special Interest Groups. You'll find it difficult to choose which basket(s) to bid on!

AAUW Mariposa is what it is today because of you; your generosity, enthusiasm, talents and desire to give to the community. Thank you for allowing me to be part of it.

P.S. from Dawn

This wasn't fair! Sandi got the last word.

So I just have to sneak in a message too, even though it's "not my turn."

As Sandi said, this has been an amazing year of sharing. We shared the job. We shared the challenges. We shared the stresses. We shared the rewards. Naturally, we each did 75% instead of 50% because we're overachievers. But it was also because we loved what we were doing and inspired each other to do our best. Sandi and I were lucky to be *sympatico* in our approach to leadership. And, at the end of the day, we liked each other too. It helps! ☺ Having just spent a weekend at the AAUW CA convention with Rebecca and Maddie, I sense that they will have the same successful relationship. The branch is in very, very good hands. I look forward to next year.



Membership

--Carolyn Baker & Bonnie Little

Annual Meeting

Sunday, May 22, 2016

2:00 - 4:00 pm

River Rock Inn

Celebrate
Accomplishments!

Welcome
New Beginnings!

--Carolyn Baker

Please join us at River Rock Inn in the patio area on Sunday, May 22 from 2:00 to 4:00 for our Year-End Gathering. You will have an opportunity to hear about our accomplishments over the past year and meet our brand new board members. Be sure to view the posters made by our project and special interest group leaders, and allow yourself plenty of time to mingle with old

and new friends. Light appetizers will be served as well as champagne, lemonade, and water. (If wine is your drink of choice, it will be available to purchase.) We hope you enjoy this mini retreat as we relax and take in this beautiful setting in the company of our wonderful and amazing membership.

Have I got a fabulous job for you!!

--Carolyn Baker

In my opinion it's the BEST job in AAUW as you are often the very first to get to welcome our new AAUW members. You get to encourage them and then beam with pride as you see them step into various roles within our AAUW family. You also get to plan parties! Who doesn't love a party? (Of course that also pretty much guarantees that the party will be on a date when YOU are available.) As you may have

already guessed, I'm talking about the job of **MEMBERSHIP VP** which I have held and enjoyed for the past three years. Just in case you are not **already** typing an email to Dawn or Sandi begging for this position- let me add that the member taking over this job will also have the privilege to be the Guardian of the Official Membership Briefcase!

Speech Trek

--Jill Harry, Coordinator

Mariposa's Claire Gorham speaks at the State Convention

Mariposa High School student, Claire Gorham, earned Third Place and \$500 in the 2016 AAUW "Speech Trek" contest hosted by the State AAUW organization at San Mateo on Saturday, April 16. Claire, a junior at Mariposa County High School, was competing against thirteen students from AAUW branches all over the state, and was one of three finalists to perform her speech live to an enthusiastic audience at the state AAUW Conference. Her speech on Gender Bias and Inequality can be viewed on YouTube at <http://tinyurl.com/gokn7jx>.



Above: the three finalists selected to speak at the State Convention

Second place winner was Caitlyn Jordan, a senior at Roseville's Oakmont High School, earning a \$1000 prize. First place was claimed by Sharon Lu, a senior at San Gabriel's Gabrielino High School, with a prize of \$1500. All three young women presented insightful, polished, well-researched speeches.

Claire, who was also playing the role of the wicked stepmother in the high school production of Cinderella the weekend of the final speech contest, drove to San Mateo with her parents on Saturday morning and made it back in time for the Saturday evening performance of the play – that is impressive dedication!

She is 16 years old and the president of the local 4-H club, secretary of MCHS's California Scholarship Federation chapter,

and an active member of French club. This is her second year competing in the AAUW speech contest. She hopes to attend college at California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo, Fresno State University, or UC Davis. She wants to become a veterinarian.

Next year's theme was announced at the conclusion of the state AAUW contest: "Is it time to pass the Equal Rights Amendment?"

We hope to groom another state finalist with this provocative topic. Watch for news in the fall to see how you can help.



Claire with parents, Rachel and Tolleman S. Gorham III

Fundraising: Home Tour

--Sandi Gabe



A Room with a View..... Special Interest Groups compile “themed” baskets for raffle

Each Special Interest Group is just about done filling a basket with special items that reflect the group's focus. These 'baskets' will be raffled off at the end of the tour. In one basket, you may find garden gloves, seeds, yard art; in another, there might be books, hot cocoa mix, snuggly socks for a cozy read. You get the idea.

See the baskets and purchase raffle tickets at River Rock Inn on the day of the event. Tickets are \$5 for 3 tickets or \$10 for 7 tickets. Pictures and a description of the contents will be posted on our facebook page and on the Home Tour Page of our [website](#).



Here is a sampling of the “baskets” to be raffled from the Wine, Craft, and International Study Groups.



Mariposa AAUW Calendar

May:

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------------|----|------------------------------------|
| 2 | Board Meeting: 4:00, Library | 18 | Candidates' Forum- Greeley Hill |
| 3 | SIG: Reading Group: 4:30 | 19 | SIG: Craft Group: Ann Mahle's home |
| 5 | Candidates' Forum- Mariposa | 22 | Annual Meeting: 2:00 pm |
| 9 | SIG: International Group, 5:00 | | |
| 14 | Home Tour: “Room with a View” | | |
| 15 | Tech Trek: Ice Cream Social | | |

(See Master Calendar on [p. 16](#) for a more complete schedule.)



AAUW- State Convention

'Party of Five' goes to convention

-- Dawn Johnson

Five of your AAUW leaders packed their grownup clothes and traveled to San Mateo for the April 15-17 California Convention. We knew it was going to be a weekend of surprises when we encountered a major road closure due to spillage from an overturned wine delivery truck. After grieving appropriately, we employed some brilliant Google mapping and human onboard navigation systems to arrive just in time for a stimulating and educational weekend.

Attending were Sandi G., Rebecca S., Maddie B., Cindy H. and myself. How lucky that our outgoing and incoming Presidents had this mini-retreat to learn and talk about all things AAUW. There were many thought-provoking topics in the speeches, films and workshops, but the main benefit was sharing stories and ideas with other branch leaders. Sandi and I had the added layer of presenting several 90-min. workshops on leadership-related topics. Our fingers kept super busy clicking through Powerpoint slides.

It's tough to summarize all that was done, learned, listened to, talked about, thought about or enjoyed.

The best way to convey our feedback on the weekend is in our own words. Here then are three comments from each of us:

From Sandi...

It was amazing to see and be part of so

much talent and passion in one room.

We aren't alone. Other branches think like us, have similar challenges, and were willing to share their ideas.

Equal pay for equal work is still an ambition, not a reality.

From Rebecca...

It was enlightening be part of such a large group of educated, strong- willed, and motivated women.

The college/university partnership is a wonderful program that, at some point in the future, may be worth our branch exploring.

I appreciate the way our group (members) communicates with each other.

From Maddie...

There is something for EVERYONE in AAUW. If there is an activity or fundraiser or something that a member would like to try that doesn't exist yet, bring it up for discussion!

Change is hard, but it can be made easier through open dialogue, collaboration, and being supportive of one another.

It is important to remember the mission of AAUW and how our branch programs and activities relate.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

*One of my big take-aways was that some people are more passionate about programs, and some *girls just want to have fun* ;). So, I would sum it all up in a few short words...Work hard (programs), AND play hard (interest groups)!!*

From Dawn...

We are part of something much bigger. There is an overall mission that is easy to lose sight of. We watched the documentary film "The Hunting Ground" about sexual assault on college campuses and listened to the compelling personal story of a Fresno teacher's equal pay fight. These presentations both moved and outraged us. They reminded me of the activist role AAUW takes on the national stage and we all talked about how to bring these issues closer to home.

Some people are concerned that AAUW is aging out and dying on the vine. When you are surrounded by people who selflessly commit so much time and care to an organization, it looks like age doesn't matter at all!

It was rewarding to cheerlead for our very own Speech Trek finalist. Our time was well spent to nurture this amazing young woman. We can be proud of our projects and their impact.

From Cindy...

Convention was intense! From the first movie, "The Hunting Ground," to the last Public Policy Forum at lunch on Sunday, our time was tightly packed with information, discussion, learning, and inspiration.

There are women (and a few men) who have been there, done that, who are ready and willing to share their expertise, tools, and know-how to support us in any initiative we may feel inspired to take on!

It was so much fun spending time with and getting to know Maddie, Rebecca, Sandi, and Dawn better in our social time- I am excited to see what we can do together here in Mariposa AAUW this year!

Now that you wish you had gone.....next year (June 14-17, 2017) will be AAUW's national convention in Washington DC , attended by hundreds of like-minded women from all over the country. It's not too early to think **"Road Trip"!**



LEARN ABOUT THE CANDIDATES

The California June Primary is June 7th and our branch is proud to present two Candidate's Forums. Candidates for Supervisor are invited to present their platforms on Thursday May 5th at 6:00 pm at the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors' Chambers, 5100 Bullion Street. A second forum will be held for District 2 candidates on Wednesday May 18th at the Greeley Hill Community Hall, 10332 Fiske Road at 6:00 pm.

Locally, there are contests in three districts for vacancies on the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors. District 2, Coulterville/ Greeley Hill area, will consider three candidates. District 4, Mariposa Town to Lush Meadows area, is uncontested with the incumbent running. District 5, Hwy 49 South to Fish Camp area, will consider 2 candidates. This nonpartisan forum will give the public and the candidates an opportunity to exchange views on topics of local interest.

The forums will feature opening and closing statements by each candidate as well as their responses to questions submitted by the audience in a neutral, moderated setting. Please help spread the word and invite your friends. The best way to help this AAUW event is by personal contact. Contact Kris Casto or Judy Van Winkle for more information.

Dates and Locations

May 5, 2016

6 p.m.

Participants:

District 2, 4 and 5
Supervisor Candidates

Location:

Government Center
Board Chambers
5100 Bullion Street
Mariposa

In Addition:

Maria Wolf's Taco Truck
Available from 5- 6 p.m.

May 18, 2016

6 p.m.

Participants:

District 2 Supervisor
Candidates

Location:

Greeley Hill
Community Hall
10332 Fiske Road
Greeley Hill

For information Contact

Kris Casto at 209-377-8203
Judy Van Winkle at
judyvw@sti.net

Vote

Primary Election
June 7, 2016

**Let's do our part to
get out the vote!**

Tech Trek

--Naoko Kada & Debbie Peters

Ice cream social orientation on May 15

--Naoko Kada



We're down to the official business of gathering paperwork and preparing the girls for their upcoming awesome experience. All six campers have submitted their Agreement to Participate and the fee. Camper information was sent to the Fresno camp director. The camp director has just sent out more paperwork to be completed by May 15. We are preparing for an ice cream social-orientation meeting on May 15 at Marilyn Saunders' house. All six girls, their parents, campers from prior years and camp coordinators will be able to mingle, exchange information and discuss any questions or concerns.



Dinner with a Scientist

--Marilyn Saunders



The planning committee has set the date for this year's event for

Thursday, October 6.

Add this date to your calendar.

Left: photo from last year's very successful dinner event.

Interest Groups- International Study

Contact [Peggy Shainberg](#)



We have been looking at Brazil this year and our last meeting was on the Olympics to be held in Rio in August. Brazil has certainly been in the news this year, politics as well as readiness for the Games. But our group each won a Gold Medal as we are such good athletes. We have one more meeting this year in May and then will go to a Brazilian restaurant in Clovis for a summer excursion.



To Page 1

Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential

Interest Groups- Wine

Contact [Kathy Sutherland](#)

Corks and Forks' excursion to O'Neals reaped excellent food AND fine wine

--Saralynn Nusbaum



We were greeted with perfect weather on April 2 for our trek to **La Cabana** in Northfork and **Westbrook Winery** in O'Neals. For those not familiar with La Cabana, it's definitely worth the drive to Northfork. The restaurant features Mexican cuisine inspired by recipes from Michoacán, central Mexico. Prior to opening La Cabana in 1996, chef Miguel Arcé cooked at The Redwoods and Erna's Elderberry House. Several of us enjoyed a leisurely lunch at picnic tables on the deck.

With full tummies, a good idea ahead of wine tasting, we headed down the road to O'Neals. We were a larger group than Westbrook usually hosts, but I promised that we are well-behaved university women, so winemaker Ray Krause relented. Ray greeted us as we drove up and gave us a tour of the property and the vineyards before taking us into the tasting/barrel room to start the wine tasting. It's rare that you get to meet with the winemaker himself and be educated, in great detail, about every nuance and decision that goes into making their wines. Ray is witty, patient, and delights in sharing his passion for winemaking. Among the whites tasted

were *Uber Rhenish*, Ray's take on a dry Riesling, awarded 90 points by Wine Enthusiast magazine, and *Savvy*, his Sauvignon Blanc. My personal favorite is his chardonnay, followed by his viognier; after a bit of pleading he opened a bottle of the chardonnay but my groveling got me nowhere on the viognier.

Westbrook's flagship wine is the estate grown *Fait accompli* which translates to English as 'accomplished fact' or in O'Neal's lingo, 'done deal'. The blend is Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Malbec, Merlot, Petite Verdot, and Carmenere. It's yummy, (a wine-tasting term). Among other reds tasted were *Cabernet Sauvignon* and *Point Noir*, note, not *pinot noir*. My personal favorite of Westbrook's reds is the *petite sirah*, which I'm typically not fond of, but Ray's is luscious.

We all left Westbrook with a memorable experience and I noticed several cases going out the door! I think we all agreed that a Westbrook visit needs to be an annual Corks & Forks event.

Interest Groups- Wine



Photos by
Dawna
Hunter

Corks and Forks' excursion to Westbrook Winery



Above right: Wine-maker Ray Krause gives us a history of Westbrook Farms.

Below:

Left- original building.

Right- Ray, inside his wine 'cellar'.

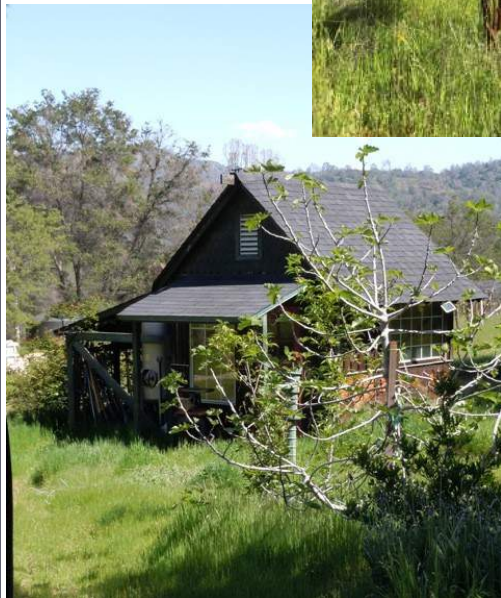


Above- Westbrook Winery logo: (note the double V = W and the F for "Westbrook Farms", in shape of a wine glass.

The 3 E's stand for:

- ◆ Enology
- ◆ Economics
- ◆ Ecology

Art was evident everywhere- natural and created, including this metal structure (on left)



 [To Page 1](#)

Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential

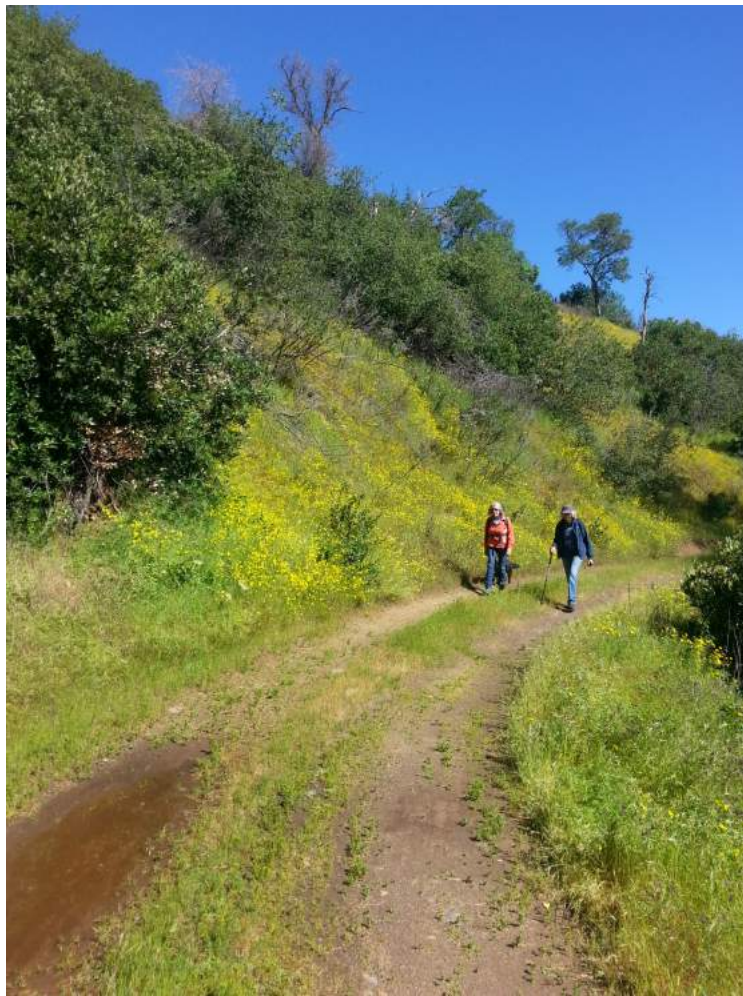
Interest Groups- HikingContact [Mary Ripma](#)

Wild flowers abound on the reservoir trail

--Gary Colliver

The hiking group took a walk on the trail around the Mariposa Reservoir on Saturday, April 23. All of the following photos (by Gary Colliver) were taken along the road from Highway 140 to the water treatment plant above the high school. Attending were Gary Colliver (Reva was working at the Ahwahnee), Mary and Mark Ripma (and their dog Kaya), Saralynn Nusbaum, Margaret Erhart, and Bill and Helene Fisk. It was a wonderful day.

A date and place for the May hike has yet to be determined.



Above: Mariposa Lily adorned with dew drops.

Left: Saralynn Nusbaum and Margaret Erhart on the trail.

More photos on page 13.



Interest Groups- Garden

Contact [Micki Finney](#)

Life begins the day you start a garden.
--Chinese Proverb



--Carolyn Baker

On Tuesday, April 19, ten AAUW members experienced a most enjoyable outing. Jill Rowney graciously guided us through this charming Mariposa nursery with her invaluable plant knowledge. Tom Ritter was on hand to add additional expertise. Jill also provided each of us with a very useful list of the plants that were most likely to be drought tolerant and deer resistant. Although we did select a very warm day, the shade was very pleasant and a good time was had by all. If you have not visited this

great local business, I highly recommend it. There is something for everyone: even if you have a brown thumb like me, there is fantastic garden artwork!

Editor's note: This gathering was not truly a Garden Group SIG event-- having been organized by our Membership VP, but at this time of year, who cares!? It is far too beautiful outside to be indoors. The call of the garden wins- be thee a member of this SIG or or not!

Jill

Reminder: The Master Gardeners annual plant sale is Saturday, May 7th, from 8 to 1 at the fairgrounds.

Interest Groups- Reading

Contact [Saralynn Nusbaum](#)

Our next meeting will be

Tuesday, May 3, 2016

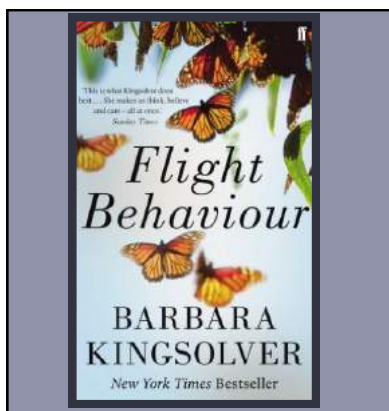
at 4:30 pm

at [Helen Fiske's](#) home.

Saralynn Nusbaum will lead the discussion on:

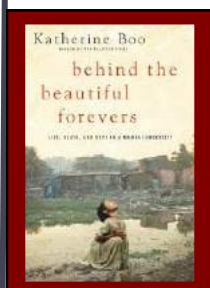
Flight Behaviour

By Barbara Kingsolver

**Discussion Review*****Behind the Beautiful Forevers***

By Katherine Boo

--Sharon Enrico



The summary that follows makes *Behind the Beautiful Forevers* sound much more hopeful and positive than what our group was able to acknowledge. In our discussion we had a hard time identifying with the characters, their plight, the abject poverty, and the rampant corruption. When asked to summarize the book in one word, depressing, dismal, educational, and overwhelming were a few that were mentioned. And yet, most of us found the author's style of writing easy to follow, and a book we were glad to have read for the awareness it brought us. It was hard to believe it was a non-fiction book written by a white American woman in the present day.

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

Big Magic By Elizabeth Gilbert

Blue Jasmine By Kashmira Sheth

Bobbed Hair and Bathtub Gin

By Marion Meade

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

McKaskill is the title selected for the June 7 discussion.



"In this brilliantly written, fast-paced book, based on three years of uncompromising reporting, a bewildering age of global change and inequality is made human.

Annawadi is a makeshift settlement in the shadow of luxury hotels near the Mumbai airport, and as India starts to prosper, Annawadians are electric with hope. Abdul, a reflective and enterprising Muslim teenager, sees "a fortune beyond counting" in the recyclable garbage that richer people throw away. Asha, a woman of formidable wit and deep scars from a childhood in rural poverty, has identified an alternate route to the middle class: political corruption. With a little luck, her sensitive, beautiful daughter—Annawadi's "most-everything girl"—will soon become its first female college graduate. And even the poorest Annawadians, like Kalu, a fifteen-year-old scrap-

(Continued on page 15)



Book Review (Continued from page 14)

metal thief, believe themselves inching closer to the good lives and good times they call "the full enjoy."

But then Abdul the garbage sorter is falsely accused in a shocking tragedy; terror and a global recession rock the city; and suppressed tensions over religion, caste, sex, power and economic envy turn brutal. As the tenderest

individual hopes intersect with the greatest global truths, the true contours of a competitive age are revealed. And so, too, are the imaginations and courage of the people of Annawadi. With intelligence, humor, and deep insight into what connects human beings to one another in an era of tumultuous change, *Behind the Beautiful Forevers* carries the reader headlong into one of the twenty-first century's hidden worlds, and into the lives of people impossible to forget."

Interest Groups- Craft

Contact [Joan Lee](#)



April craft:-recycling wine bottle corks

--Bonnie Little

Five members of the Craft Group met at Sandi Gabe's home to create with corks. As it started to lightly rain outside, we were busy in Sandi's garage, with trays, frames, glue and sharp instruments to trim the corks. We were all amazed at how many corks it takes to complete a project. As we worked, we sipped a bit of wine to get us in the mood. After all, we need to keep up with our cork collections!



We'll be making the "Tin Man" (above).

Anne Mahler will be leading our May project on the 19th at her home.



Send Girls to Science/Math Camp



To Page 1



2015-2016 CALENDAR

- 04** Independence Day
26 Board Planning Mtg

JULY 2015						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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JANUARY 2016						
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31						

- 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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28	29					

- 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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MARCH 2016						
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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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MAY 2016						
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- 02** Board Meeting
08 Mother's Day
14 Home Tour
22 Annual Meeting 2-4 pm
30 Memorial Day

- 13** Holiday Party
25 Christmas Day

DECEMBER 2015						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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JUNE 2016						
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Update 4/29/16

Meeting Minutes
AAUW Mariposa Board of Directors
April 4, 2016

CALL TO ORDER: at 4:04PM by Co-President Sandi Gabe

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dawn Johnson, Sandi Gabe, Cindy Harp, Gary Colliver, Sue Gaunt, Maddie Brown, Rebecca Swisher, Bonnie Little, Karen Smith, Carolyn Baker, Saralynn Nusbaum

The Mariposa County Health Department is sponsoring a program on climate change “Building Resilience Against Climate Effects “(BRACE) on April 13. Gary Colliver attended the board meeting to make the board aware of the program and to suggest that AAUW send a representative. Karen Smith will be attending on behalf of Rotary and Gary suggesting suggested that Jane MacLean represent AAUW. Sandi made a motion and Dawn seconded that Jane attend on behalf of AAUW and report back. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes from February 29, 2016 board meeting: Minutes were previously submitted, approved by email, & published in April newsletter.

REPORTS:

Membership: (Carolyn Baker/Bonnie Little)

- An analysis of reasons for members leaving the branch was circulated and discussed. 22 members resigned in 2015; reasons for leaving included relocation, death, cost, lack of engagement, and too busy. It was suggested that we create codes for “reason for leaving” and record them in our member database to help with retention analysis. It was also recommended to establish a minimum participation level and contact members, who did not meet that level, to encourage participation. Only one member who joined through the Shape the Future program has renewed in past years; it was suggested that we reach out to invitees and encourage them to renew. Four Shape the Future memberships are available this year. We are considering the following as possible honorees: Kim Monson, Carole Reiter, Lydia Lower, The Honorable Mike Fagalde, Vinita Bali, Audrey Davis and Thea Henry. Carolyn will prioritize the list and begin contacting. Each will be given two weeks to respond.
- A new member orientation is scheduled for April 9 at Donuts-A-Go -Go. Carolyn, along with SIG coordinators will make a brief presentation.
- A member event focused on gardening will be held on April 23 or possibly in the fall. Jill Rowney has offered to coordinate and the program will include a visit to Creekside Nursery.
- The annual meeting is scheduled for May 22 and will be held at The River Rock Inn. The budget is I be \$200 and will include appetizers. Sandi proposed that we publicize the event in the Gazette. For the meeting, we will recreate sign boards informing members of projects and special interest groups.
- The possibility of a murder mystery party in June was discussed. Carolyn will investigate and

(Continued on page 18)



[To Page 1](#)

(Continued from page 17)

bring details to the May Board meeting.

Publicity: (Cindy Harp)

Cindy Harp submitted an article on our Home Tour "Room with a View" fundraiser article for the Mariposa Gazette and SST.

Programs: (Karen Smith)

The March 10th program on raptors given by John McCamman, past California Condor Coordinator, was well attended. Karen estimates 25 – 30 attendees. This is the final program for the fiscal year.

Treasurer's Report (Sandi Gabe - In Dina Lambert's absence)

The 3/31/16 Treasurer's Report was circulated. To review, contact the Board Secretary for a copy.

Income –\$84.

Expenditures – \$732.

Ending cash balance - \$8,299

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

PROJECT UPDATES:

Tech Trek (Dawn Johnson)

New interview forms were created and face-to-face interviews were conducted by Betty Massey, Dawna Hunter, and Maddie Brown on March 12 in the Board of Supervisors' chambers. All eight candidates were interviewed; six were selected. A meet and greet with former campers and the six new campers is scheduled for May 15.

Speech Trek (Dawn Johnson)

Claire Gorham, Mariposa's Speech Trek first place winner was entered into the state semifinals contest. The judges named Gorham one of three state finalists invited to an all-expense paid weekend to the AAUW state conference in San Mateo. She is competing for first, second, or third place and at minimum will win \$500 for a third place finish. First place is \$1,500 and second \$1,000.

Home Tour (Sandi Gabe)

Eight homes are included in May 14 tour. Tickets will be available online in advance and Pioneer Market at the Visitors' Center and River Rock Inn on the day of tour. A banner will be

(Continued on page 19)

placed in town for Butterfly Days.

ACTION ITEMS (non-routine)

Mandatory Bylaws Amendments (Dawn/Sandi)

The branch bylaws, which were sent to the membership via email for approval on February 27, received membership approval. The approved bylaws will be forwarded to AAUW CA for certification.

Handbook Update. The Member Handbook was updated in accordance with the revised bylaw. Copies of both documents will be available on the website.

NEW BUSINESS:

Candidates' Forum for June Election

Sandi will send an email request for a coordinator for candidates' night. Kris Casto and Margaret Brandenburg have done in the past.

Town Hall/Board Recruitment action/transition plan (All)

The membership was invited to a Town Hall meeting on March 29 to discuss the branch's future leadership. There was a good discussion and exchange of ideas. Rebecca Swisher and Maddie Brown volunteered to serve as Co-Presidents for 2016-17. One open elected Board position remains – VP of Membership. It was mentioned that this position could possibly be a committee of 2-3 instead of just one person. Sue Gaunt has volunteered as membership liaison. We have two director at large positions available; Cindy Harp, Margarita King, and Bonnie Little have expressed interest.

Advertising in Newsletter

We now charge \$50/year and \$10/issue for a business card size ad to be placed in our newsletter. Our handbook states that the board must approve ads. Dawn made a motion that we modify the handbook to state that we will place community events on our calendar, subject to board approval, but we will no longer publish monthly ads for non-AAUW events. Carolyn seconded. Motion passed.

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 May Branch Buzz – Dawn Johnson

The next board meeting will be held on **May 2** at 4:00PM at the library.

The meeting was adjourned by Co-President Sandi Gabe at 5:58PM.



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Board of Officers— 2015-2016

Co-Presidents	Dawn Johnson dawnandjay.johnson@gmail.com Sandi Gabe sandi.gabe@hotmail.com
VP Membership	Carolyn Baker bakersacre@sti.net
VP Programs	Karen Smith smithandmartin@sti.net
Recording Secretary	Saralynn Nusbaum saralynn@rodagroup.com
Finance Officer	Dina Lambert dinallambert@gmail.com

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	Jetty Uebner
Member Support Cards	Anne Dolchanczyk
Membership Liaison	Bonnie Little
Newsletter Editor	Jill Rowney
Publicity	Cindy Harp
Speech Trek	Jill Harry
Tech Trek	Naoko Kada Debbie Peters
Website	Sandi Gabe

The Sierra Outpost, newsletter of the Mariposa Branch of AAUW, is published on the 1st of each month. It is available online in pdf format. If you cannot access the on-line copy please contact Jill Rowney. Deadline for submissions is the 25th of the month. Send information/questions to editor: jillrowney@yahoo.com

Send Girls to Science/Math Camp



To Page 1