



## Sierra Outpost



## YARD SALE October 26-27

Are objects flying out of your closets as fast as the days are flying by? The annual AAUW yard sale is just around the corner on **October 26-27**. So, box up items that will find new homes and leave you with space on your shelves to purchase more treasures!

Bring those boxes to Helene Fiske's house (the white house on the corner of 6th Street & Jones) anytime the week before the sale. If you need help with unloading your goodies, give

—Sharon Enrico

Sharon Enrico a call at 966-3062 or 617-9879.

If you have something large, like furniture, send a picture and description to Sharon. We can try to sell it online ahead of time to save from having to move it twice.

An email will be coming your way soon with details on how to help with setup, selling and cleanup.

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## Event calendar

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>Oct 1</b>     | <b>SIG- Book:</b> 4:30pm, home of Helene Fiske                         |
| <b>Oct 7</b>     | <b>Leadership Team Meeting:</b> 4:00pm, Mariposa Library               |
| <b>Oct 8</b>     | <b>SIG-International Study:</b> 5:00pm, home of Beth Tomsick           |
| <b>Oct 10</b>    | <b>Program has been postponed, details forthcoming</b>                 |
| <b>Oct 12</b>    | <b>SIG- Hiking:</b> Stockton Creek Trail (led by Gary & Reva Colliver) |
| <b>Oct 26-27</b> | <b>Yard Sale:</b> home of Helene Fiske                                 |
| <b>Oct 26</b>    | <b>SIG- Wine:</b> 5:00pm, home of Jill Rowney                          |
| <b>Nov 9</b>     | <b>SIG-hiking:</b> Rebecca Swisher to lead                             |
| <b>Nov 13</b>    | <b>SIG- Great Decisions:</b> Details forthcoming                       |
| <b>Nov 16</b>    | <b>Member Meetup:</b> 9:00am, Pony Expresso                            |



## Leadership Team

### Leadership team now complete

Our team is COMPLETE! Thanks to Trish Darcy for joining as the 7<sup>th</sup> member of the Mariposa AAUW Leadership Team. Your team consists of Trish Darcy (Tech Trek Chair), Becky Mock (Programs Chair), Kim Monson (Speech Trek Chair), Jody Sergienko (Co-Admin and Publicity Chair), Cindy Harp (Co-Admin), Dina Lambert (Finance and Membership), and Rebecca Swisher (Recording Secretary).

As we roll into fall be on the lookout for email messages or other modes of communication from any one of us about our upcoming events. We were planning a program on Rural Healthcare slated for October but have not been able to secure all of the speakers in time so be looking for emails on the new date for this insightful program. And don't forget our Annual

Yard Sale October 26-27! Be on the lookout for those reminders. We are hoping to see many of you at these and other future events.

You should all have received your membership directory by the time this newsletter is published. The directory contains a boatload of information on our branch. Not only do you have information about each member, you have contact information for our Special Interest Groups (SIG), our Leadership Team, our signature projects, and ride circles. Do you ever wish to attend one of our events but want to ride share with a fellow AAUW'er? Refer to the ride circle section of the directory for a listing of members who live close to you and give them a call.

See you at our next event!

Trish Darcy



Becky Mock



Kim Monson



Cindy Harp



Jody Sergienko



Dina Lambert



Rebecca Swisher



## Membership

### Mini Member Meetup

—Dina Lambert



With 12 of us in attendance we could have had our own courtroom drama rendition of “12 Angry Men” and called it “12 Well-Informed Women!” Don’t get me wrong ... we were not angry, nor did we have any drama, but there sure WAS a lot of information dispersed.

**Juror #1**, Cathy Owens, talked about the success of our backpack project. We were able to donate 60 backpacks this past year. 44 were distributed at various JC Fremont Health Fairs and 16 were given to various Mariposa County schools to distribute to children in need. Many of our members volunteered for this project by providing supplies, financial support, and/or by helping fill the backpacks with supplies. We will be putting out a plea for committee members in the next newsletter for the chance to join this wonderful project.

**Juror #2**, Marilyn Saunders, was next to let us know that there will be approximately 50 female students from MCHS attending Dinner with a Scientist on September 18<sup>th</sup> at University of California, Merced. She talked about the list of the scientists scheduled to have dinner and talk with these young ladies. This is a wonderful avenue for these young ladies to explore the multitude of STEM careers by asking questions of these scientists about their own careers and the path they took to get there.

**Juror #3**, Trish Darcy, talked about the success of Tech Trek that was held the last week of the 2018-2019 school year at

#### Dates and Hosts:

- November 16, Becky Mock
- February 8, Rebecca Swisher
- April 25, Cindy Harp
- May 16, Kim Monson

California State University, Fresno. This is a week-long science and math camp for girls at the end of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. The girls got to select from a range of courses from robotics to forensics. Trish is looking for one of our computer savvy members to join her committee.

**Juror #4**, Micki Finney, reported on the upcoming yard sale to be held at the home of Helene Fiske (corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Jones) the weekend of October 26-27. We will again offer many of the bigger items to purchase online. Helene will allow people to drop off their donations a week ahead of time. Please, no adult clothing since it just doesn’t sell!

**Juror #5**, Jody Sergienko, gave a brief report on the upcoming program on “Rural Healthcare Access.” Details are still being worked out, but plans are to have a panel of speakers, each with their own perspective on the rural healthcare crisis.

There was a bit of cross examination during this hour-long meeting but all in all we left full of caffeine and full of knowledge. We won’t know the verdict of future mini member meetups until this year is up so we encourage all members to attend to help us make the decision. The next one will be hosted by Becky Mock on November 16<sup>th</sup>.

## Project

# Dinner With a Scientist

—Marilyn Saunders



The young women were more involved and intense at this year's Dinner with a Scientist than ever. We couldn't drag them out of there

to get them back to MCHS by 8:00 p.m! They have always been engaged, but this year the girls were ready to dig in. They signed up promptly this year which gives an indication that the program is more valued than ever. In fact, 49 girls signed up. With three unable to make it at the last minute we took 46 to the event. Here is a smattering of evaluation quotes:

- ...most valuable was to talk to women without being judged...
- ...I benefitted because I am trying to keep my options open and learn

more about math and science careers, and this opened opportunities...

- ...I learned so many more new things it blew my mind...
- ...I learned about fields of science I didn't know about before...
- ... I was able to ask all the questions I had about the different sciences...

Most valuable:

- ...getting to talk to the Amazing Women and learning more about college and careers...



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We Send Girls to Sci-



## Project: Tech Trek



"...It was the experience of a lifetime!..."

Dear Mariposa Branch,

Thank you so much for sending me to Tech Trek! I have really enjoyed this week. My core class, structures, is awesome! We made bridges, towers, and newspaper structures! I have made some awesome new friends and was paired with an amazing dorm mom and counselor. I really appreciate that you raised this money so that my friends and I could go to Tech Trek!

-Abby Vancary

Dear Mariposa Branch,

I am so thankful for this amazing opportunity! Tech Trek was so much fun! I love it, and already miss it! I got paired up with an amazing dorm buddy too! I have made so many friends I will miss! I have learned so much! My favorite parts were when we got to learn how to code the Spheros! Also when we went to Calvin Crest and got to learn more about the nature around us! The women here are so smart and so amazing! I loved it. ~~Thank you~~

Dear Mariposa Branch,

I'd like to thank you for sending me to Tech Trek. I've really enjoyed being here. My favorite part of being here was my core class. I've learned a lot about building and stability. I've made a lot of new friends. Thank you again for sending me. It was the experience of a lifetime.

Love,  
Kiana Brown

Dear Mariposa County Branch Continuers,  
Thank you so much for giving me the chance to go to this amazing camp. My favorite part of camp was my core class. I loved doing all the projects. I'm so, so, so thankful to be here and extend my knowledge & service.

Thank you again so much,  
Riley Poor

Dear Mariposa County Branch,

Thank you for giving me the wonderful opportunity to go to Tech Trek. I had an awesome time. I liked meeting new people, going to Calvin Crest, and doing the labs, and core class. Again thank you for giving me this opportunity. I enjoyed every moment of it.

Sincerely,  
JJ Bolter

## SIG Overview

## Special Interest Groups

### International Study Tiina Wilson



Learn about a country, a culture, and a people. We study one country each year and meet monthly.

### Book Group Saralynn Nusbaum



This group meets monthly to discuss both fiction and non-fiction books members chose to read the previous month.

### Great Decisions Sandi Gabe



This discussion group meets 6-8 times per year to discuss a set of topics developed by the Foreign Policy Administration (FPA).

### Garden Group Micki Finney, Karen Smith



The Gardening group meets to discuss a wide range of topics such as the challenges of gardening in the foothills.



Mariposa, CA Branch

**Special Interest Groups  
2019-2020**

### Play Reading Group Dawn Johnson



"The play's the thing!" Meets monthly to do cold readings of various plays that are shared by several California branches.

### Hiking Group Trish Darcy



The hiking group meets monthly to enjoy each other's company while hiking new trails in and around Mariposa and Yosemite.

### Chess Group Kim Monson



### Wine Tasting

Carolyn Baker, Cindy Harp



The Corks and Forks Wine group meets monthly to experience different types of wines and enjoy them with appetizers and meals paired to complement the varietal being tasted.

**We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential**



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## SIG: Play Reading

Contact [Dawn Johnson](#)

## Shooting for a goal with "Soccer Moms" —Dawn Johnson

In spite of confessing to having no idea what "offsides" means in soccer, four of us tackled (whoops, that's football) the short comedy "Soccer Moms" by Kathleen Clark. As luck would have it, the play only had three characters, so with one person reading the stage directions, everyone was able to read the same part throughout and "get into" the character. The play is about three women who must play in a mothers vs. sons soccer game. They are conflicted about whether to let the kids win or not, but are really metaphorically questioning their lives, roles, marriages, and



futures. The play is never going to win a Tony, but it gave us some spunky dialogue, plenty of laughs and some food for thought. As usual, the conversation also strayed to such unrelated topics as ripening pears and exploding doughboy pools. See what you missed?



The next play will be "What Every Woman Knows" by J.M. Barrie. Since it premiered in 1908 (pre-women's suffrage!), one can only guess what that was. The date and location for the reading are TBD, so watch your email. To join the Play Reading Group, contact Dawn Johnson. No talent required!

## SIG: Great Decisions

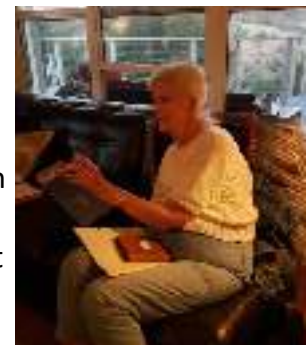
Contact [Sandi Gabe](#)

## The Rise of Populism in Europe

The Great Decisions interest group met at Sandi's house where we had a lively discussion on "The Rise of Populism in Europe." We read and follow the list of topics selected by the Foreign Policy Association and published in Great Decisions. Each year we select five topics from the list of current subject areas to study.

After appetizers and conversation we watched the Foreign Policy video, then discussed, "what is populism?" and how it has contributed to nationalism and anti-immigration; how anti-pluralist rhetoric is a hallmark of populism and that we should try to be more open and listen to different points of view.

—Peggy Shainberg



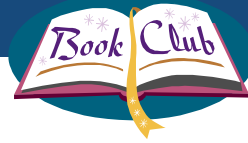
Our next meeting will be November 13 to discuss "The Middle East: Regional Disorder."

We Open Eyes



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## SIG - Book

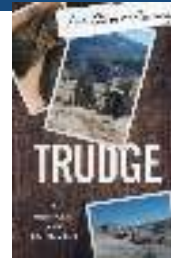


Contact [Saralynn Nusbaum](#)

Our next meeting will be on  
Tuesday, October 1, 2019 at 4:30 pm  
at the home of Hélène Fiske where we will be discussing:

**Trudge**

By Lori Tierny



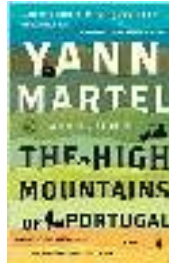
### ***The High Mountains of Portugal***

By Yann Martel

Discussion review by Jill Rowney

Reading Yann Martel's prose is akin to listening to a delightful piece of music, eating a delectable morsel, or musing over a beautiful painting. The writing itself is simply a wonderful experience. But then he weaves a trio of unlikely tales, dealing with loss and resulting grief:

*"Some people never laugh again. Others take to drink," Martel writes. "Walking backwards, his back to the world, his back to God, he is not grieving. He is objecting."*



*Because when everything cherished by you in life has been taken away, what else is there to do but object?"*

Martel weaves humor, religion, and bizarre fantasy into each of the three - stories that really DO ultimately relate to each other. The book might leave the reader a bit unsettled, but that almost warrants a second or third reading!

Ron Charles of the Washington Post published a [review](#) of *The High Mountains of Portugal* that might whet your literary appetite.

## SIG: Wine

Contact [Carolyn Baker](#) or [Cindy Harp](#)



### September gathering: A taste of Malbec

—Carolyn Baker

On Sunday, September the 8th, the AAUW wine group meet in the patio of Dennis and Carolyn Baker. Ten wine group aficionados sampled various bottles of Malbec wines. We had an amazing array of gourmet food and wine, as well as some very lively conversations. In case, you are interested in trying some of our top ranking Malbecs, **Andean Moon** placed third, **Crios** placed second, and the top ranking Malbec was **Undaunted**.



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We Value Education





SIG: **Garden**

Contact [Micki Finney](#) or [Karen Smith](#)

## Off to See the Green Wizard

—Karen Smith

The long and winding road that leads to Intermountain Nursery was just that, long and winding, but no one got car sick. We arrived excited and ready to buy everything we could cram in the back of Dawn's SUV.

It was fun wandering around trying to figure out what the plants will look like come April when they are in full bloom. Let's face it—most native plants look pretty ratty this time of year. The nursery staff was terrific and patiently answered all our questions. I was a bit amused when I inquired about how to cut back a hedge-like plant that I have in my garden. The really nice young man answered

by saying they use a weed whacker and whack the heck out of it. Ok, I can do that! Maybe I'll whack the whole garden.

Dawn purchased a lovely little California Buckwheat with two graceful tendrils topped with fuzzy flower heads. The plant was Zen-like in appearance. Wait until it grows up to a massive bush, she'll be surprised!

We finished our ramble through the nursery and bid au revoir to Saralynn, Don and Jeanne as they headed to Fresno. The rest of us headed for lunch at the Wild Fig, a café with lovely outdoor garden seating in

*(Continued on page 10)*



L

to R: Jeanne MacDonald, Betty Massey, Dawn Johnson, Tiina Wilson, Saralynn Nusbaum & Don

We Inspire Life-Long Learning



To Page 1

**SIG: Garden**Contact [Micki Finney](#) or [Karen Smith](#)*(Continued from page 9)*

Coarsegold. The conversation drifted to plants, gardens, books, nutria, Kissing Bugs, Valley Fever, rattle snakes, scorpions and chickens. Maybe not in that order, but did you know chickens eat mice whole? I think we grossed out Tiina Wilson, our New York transplant.

So it was another fun outing with the garden

group. Now we just have to plant all that we bought!

Upcoming garden events:

- Master Gardeners Fall Plant Sale on October 5th from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
- Landscape Design on October 12th at the Board of Supervisors chambers
- Clovis Botanical Garden will have its annual plant sale October 20th from 9:00am to 2:00pm

**SIG: International Study**Contact [Tiina Wilson](#)

The International Studies Group met on September 10 to set the program for this year's study on Central America. Local former

Mariposa teacher and administrator, Len Bryant, who lived in Costa Rica for seven years, was in attendance and the group looks forward to hearing from others who

—Tiina Wilson

have traveled to countries in that region. Hosts were set for most of the year's meetings so now the group can concentrate on researching the seven countries and learning as much as possible about them. The next meeting will be at Beth Tomsick's at 5244 Highway 49 North at 5pm on Tuesday, October 8.

**Interest Groups - Hiking**Contact [Trish Darcy](#)**Destination- ghost town**

—Trish Darcy

On September 15th five two-legged members and one four-legged member of the hiking group set out to

explore the old ghost town of Bennetville. Elaine, Mike, Trish, Dawn, and Jay and their dog, Maddie, met at 8:00 for our adventure. It was a beautiful drive through Yosemite

with very little traffic. We even saw a coyote cross the road right in front of us with a small rodent in its mouth!

We arrived at the trailhead adjacent to Tioga Lake just outside Tioga Pass. The weather was overcast and a bit chilly-46°! Neverthe-

*(Continued on page 11)***We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp**[To Page 1](#)

## Interest Groups - Hiking

Contact [Trish Darcy](#)

*(Continued from page 10)*



less we headed out on the trail passing several small lakes and getting gorgeous views of the neighboring mountains with snow still on them.

Arriving at the mine tunnel we learned that this was mined in the 1880's but never really gave much silver. Silver is found where the metamorphic rock meets the granite as it does all along the crest of the Sierra.

We continued along the trail to the next lake up and decide it was beautiful, snapped pictures and continued on. Around the next bend

we got to Shell Lake and decided it, too, was stunning. We had lunch there, snapped more pictures and continued walking. Shortly we came upon Fantail Lake. The views of Mt. Conness were amazing. We snapped more pics and Trish and Maddie even went wading in the lake!

Deciding that it was a steep climb beyond that, we turned to head back making a detour in the "town" of Bennetville. The Forest Service has reconstructed two of the buildings of a town that once boasted 10,000 people! We walked through the barn and assay office and sat a while to enjoy the view before heading back to the cars. A six mile round trip day was a fabulous way to spend our time!



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## Interest Groups - Hiking

Contact [Trish Darcy](#)



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AAUW- Mariposa

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

Board Officers: 2019-2020

## Leadership Team:

[Trish Darcy](#)  
[Cindy Harp](#)  
[Dina Lambert](#)  
[Becky Mock](#)  
[Kim Monson](#)  
[Jody Sergienko](#)  
[Rebecca Swisher](#)

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

## Project Chairs/Coordinators

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Advertising             | <a href="#">Sharon Enrico</a>                   |
| Back Pack Project       | <a href="#">Cathy Owens &amp; Karen Rust</a>    |
|                         | <a href="#">Rebecca Swisher</a>                 |
| Dinner With a Scientist | <a href="#">Marilyn Saunders</a>                |
| Newsletter Editor       | <a href="#">Jill Rowney</a>                     |
| Publicity               | <a href="#">Jody Sergienko</a>                  |
| Social Media            | <a href="#">Dina Lambert</a>                    |
| Speech Trek             | <a href="#">Kim Monson</a>                      |
| Tech Trek               | <a href="#">Trish Darcy &amp; Phyllis Weber</a> |
|                         | <a href="#">Dina Lambert</a>                    |
| Website                 | <a href="#">Jill Rowney</a>                     |
| Yardsale                | <a href="#">Sharon Enrico</a>                   |

AAUW

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We Open Eyes



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