



Sierra Outpost

New program series begins:

Rural Access to Healthcare

Thursday, November 14

5:30pm

—Jody Sergienko

Mariposa AAUW will be presenting a series of programs on the issue of Rural Access to Healthcare. The first of these programs will be **November 14th at 5:30 pm** in the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors' chambers.

This program will focus on our healthcare here in the Sierra Foothills. While we each harbor our own ideas about our access to healthcare locally, the

speakers will provide a broader perspective. They will address areas such as:

- how our hospital, being a provider in a rural area, impacts the region
- how access is impacted in the foothills beyond our county.

The programs are free to the public and light refreshments will be served.

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Event calendar

Nov 4	Leadership Team Meeting: 4:00pm, Mariposa Library
Nov 5	SIG– Reading: 4:30pm, home of Helène Fiske
Nov 9	SIG– Hiking: Rebecca Swisher to lead
Nov 12	SIG– International Study: 5:00pm, home of Sue Overstreet
Nov 13	SIG– Great Decisions: 5:00pm, home of Marilyn Saunders
Nov 14	Program– Rural Healthcare: 5:30pm, Board of Supervisors' meeting chambers
Nov 16	Member Meetup: 9:00am, Pony Expresso
Dec 8	Holiday Party: Details forthcoming



Leadership Team

Falling into the rhythm of this year's activities



Autumn is definitely here—there's a new crispness in the air, leaves are turning color, and there is a feeling of anticipation for the approaching holidays! AAUW Mariposa is also gearing up, with various activities already underway and others well into the planning stages. Dinner with a Scientist was a rousing success, as always, and the first two "Member Mini-Meetings" were well-attended. The annual Yard Sale was a great success, with many helping hands, and high-quality merchandise.



Upcoming activities offer a range of opportunities for participating at whatever level interests you. The next Member Mini-Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, November 16, at Pony Espresso, hosted by Becky Mock. Come meet your fellow AAUW members for coffee and conversation. Find out what is happening in your AAUW and perhaps get to know some new faces!

We are presenting a series of three public programs on Rural Access to Healthcare. The first is coming soon, on November 14th. Invite your friends and come listen to experts on the local and regional situation in healthcare. Future programs will address a wider picture of the healthcare conundrum and address

potential ways to bring about policy changes to benefit rural communities.

Speech Trek is about to get underway. Kim Monson is the project leader and is looking for members interested in coaching some of our brightest and best high school students as they prepare their five-minute speeches for the competition. It is an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of these lively and talented students, and the time commitment is flexible. Contact Kim if you think you would enjoy helping a student polish their presentation.

Finally, we are still looking for a location for the annual holiday party. If your home is located fairly close to Mariposa, is large enough for a good-sized gathering, and you would be willing to host, please contact any board member. Better yet, come to the next board meeting on the first Monday of November at 5:00 at the library. All interested members are invited to attend.

We Value Education

Membership

Mini Member Meetup

Next casual get together is November 16 at 9:00am at the Pony Espresso. Enjoy camaraderie and discussions on a variety of subjects.. Politics? Rural health? Arts in Mariposa?



Dates and Hosts:

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

Meet our Members

“Meet Our Members” is a new newsletter feature. Your Leadership Team thought our members may want yet another way to get to know each other better. We plan to interview members and share their stories monthly.

Our first brave volunteer is **Rebecca Swisher!**

Rebecca, a native of Muskegon Michigan, has been an AAUW member since moving to the Mariposa area in 2010-ish. She doesn't quite remember the year, but she remembers joining the group at its fashion show fundraiser. The robotics demonstration put on by the Tech Trek girls really got her attention.

Why is Rebecca a member of AAUW? This group gives Rebecca a connection to her community, a means to be involved with others and feels like a “natural fit” for her. As an introvert it forces her out of her comfort zone and keeps her challenged.

Rebecca quickly took her involvement with AAUW even further, serving several terms as a member of the Board of Directors. Now, as a member of the new Leadership Team, Rebecca is finding additional ways to engage with more of our members and our community than joining SIGs alone.

So what don't you know about Rebecca from



Rebecca— in Singapore trying out durian fruit (described as “smelly but incredibly nutritious”)

her everyday AAUW involvement? While she comes across as strait-laced and steady, behind the scenes she is a closet thrill seeker! Rebecca has been bungee jumping, loves adventure sports and has sky diving on her bucket list. Next time you see Rebecca, say “Hi!”

Have a nomination for a “Meet our Members” interview? Send the suggestions to

Jody Sergienko. Talk to you soon! ☺



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Fundraising



YARD SALE - Everybody wins!

—Sharon Enrico

At 7:30 Saturday morning, October 26, a cluster of about 20 people was waiting anxiously to be allowed into the driveway and garage of the Fiske home. They pa-



Looking for treasures

tiently chatted among themselves until at 7:55 they were allowed to scoot into the lines of tables holding multitudes of treasures. The rush continued all day long. By 4:00 that afternoon we had around \$3000 in the cash box, and many satisfied cus-

tomers.

Sunday's slow pace still netted over \$500 and gave many people some super bargains as we tried to significantly decrease our inventory. Altogether a very profitable weekend for buyers and sellers alike.

This event is successful because:

- Bill and Helene offer their beautiful centrally located garage (and home).
- Members (and friends)



Finding treasures



Treasures about 'so high'

donate their treasures.

- So many members and community people buy from us.
- An incredible group of members volunteer their time to help set up and sell.

The exact total from the sale isn't complete because there are a few more items that might sell.

Thanks to all of you for making this the best year yet!

Fundraiser

Auction Item from Moroccan Nights

Pizza dinner at Don and Saralynn's is NOT ordinary!!



—Saralynn Nusbaum



The bidding was furious at the *souk* for our wood-fired pizza dinner. Francoise Upton and Kris Casto were

bidding against each other and then decided, "Let's just go together!" Life has a way of surprising us.

Sadly because Kris lost her husband Harold this summer, she asked us to invite others in her stead. Helen Willoughby Peck and Dan Horner were happy to come and eat pizza with us AND we were able to convince Kris to join us after all!

We scheduled our dinner for October so that we could enjoy dining *al fresco* in the comfortable autumn air sans mosquitos. We began our evening with a gorgeous Mariposa sunset accompanied by French 75 champagne cocktails, and a roasted eggplant and pomegranate seed dip. Next up were corn



cakes served with a sweet chili dipping sauce;

glasses were refreshed with Wente Riva Ranch chardonnay. For our salad course, we served a massaged kale salad topped with toasted almonds, parmesan cheese, and an olive oil and lemon dressing. Casto Oaks *Man's Best Blend* was our choice to accompany the kale salad and we took the opportunity to toast the memory of our good friend, Harold Casto.

Then on to the pizzas! There were five to choose from and were served alongside



Casto Oaks zinfandel and cabernet sauvignon:

- a traditional with tomato sauce, salami, mushrooms, kalamata olives, mozzarella, and parmesan
- prosciutto, caramelized onions, bleu cheese, fresh mozzarella
- sliced potatoes, caramelized onions, goat cheese, fresh mozzarella
- fresh mozzarella, arugula, lemon
- pizza margherita (tomatoes & mozzarella)

We Sponsor Community Forums



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Fundraiser

Auction Item from Moroccan Nights

Flan and coffee were served around the campfire for our dessert and our well-fed guests were sent on their way.

Thank you to our bidders Kris Casto, Si and Francoise Upton, and our guests Helen Willoughby Peck and Dan Horner. It was a delightful evening and Don and I look forward to a repeat performance!



Kris Casto amongst the amazing array of pizzas



Helen Peck, Francoise & Si Upton, Kris Casto, Saralynn Nusbaum, and Don Melcher



Fundraiser

Auction Item from Moroccan Nights

All that was missing was the oompah band!

—Dawn Johnson



The Johnsons (joined by Sandi and Jeff and Saralynn and Don) redeemed their auction purchase for an Oktoberfest evening hosted by Katrina, Heinrich, Olga, Helga and Elsie (AKA Kathy and Glenn Sutherland, Rosemary Caballero, Bonnie Little, and Micki Finney).

The event was in the Sutherlands' welcoming home, which is apparently located in the Bavarian Alps. When greeted by our buxomly costumed beer maids, and a hearty Alpine-shepherd-lad-turned mixologist, we felt like we had stepped into a Ricola commercial.

The entire evening proved that Americans can indeed outeat and outdrink Germans, even on their own holiday. Our beer maids served up a groaning table of traditional German foods which were authentically prepared. Our chefs had to practically climb over the Alps to secure foreign foods such as pretzel dough and the elusive "never-heard-of-it-at-Pioneer-Market" endive.

As the platters of meatballs, cheese-stuffed endive, Bavarian pretzels, Wienerschnitzel,

sweet and sour cabbage, applesauce, German potato salad and more kept emerging from the kitchen, our hosts gave us the history of the Oktoberfest celebration, its traditional foods and fun factoids. So, not only are they amazing cooks, they can write research papers.

After a trio of desserts, each of which had a higher calorie count than the national debt, we rolled off our chairs like German sausages and enjoyed a goofy photo session and some rigged party contests which assured



Don and Saralynn



Jeff and Sandi

We Open Eyes

Fundraiser

Auction Item from Moroccan Nights



Hosts: Micki Finney (Elsie), Bonnie Little (Helga), Glenn Sutherland (Heinrich), Rosemary Caballero (Olga), Kathy Sutherland (Katrina)

that every couple would go home with even more food.

And then.....there was the dancing. Keeping the night full of surprises, our hosts scorned the traditional German polka and instead taught us a folk dance. It was a thinly veiled version of the Chicken Dance with a couple of allemande lefts and a grapevine thrown in. No one did it right.

The only thing missing from our Oktoberfest dinner was an oompah band and an episode of "So You Think You Can Yodel?" Danke to the creative and talented hosts for a fantastic evening. If they offer a similar event at our next fundraiser, don't even bother trying to buy it. I plan to wildly overbid.



Jay and Dawn



Prost!! L-R: Don Melcher, Dawn Johnson, Jeff Gabe, Saralynn Nusbaum, Jay Johnson, Sandi Gabe

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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 Inspire Life-Long Learning



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SIG: Play Reading

Contact [Dawn Johnson](#)



—Dawn Johnson

The next play is scheduled to 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. We are still awaiting

the package of scripts, so the date and location for the reading are TBD. Keep watching your email.

To join the Play Reading Group, contact [Dawn Johnson](#). No talent required!

SIG: Wine

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



The wine SIG met Saturday, October 26, at the home of Cindy and Lynn

Harp. It was a lively group even before tasting started, with sixteen people in congenial conversation!

We tasted nine cabernet sauvignons, ranging from very full-flavored and fruit-forward through classic cabs, to one organic, light-bodied cab that was promptly labeled “Kool-Aid!” All of the wines rated 3.1-4.1 on the “Wine Snob” app, with the winners all rated at 3.8 points or above. Pretty impressive tasters!

After agreeing that there were no losers among the nine cabs, we voted for our favorites, with an unusual three-way tie for third place. The second-place winner was a French wine--Truffaut Sur De France Cabernet Sauvignon 2017--bought for a modest



L-R: Erik Sergienko, Cindy Harp, Carolyn Baker, Angie Heiss, Tiina Wilson, Kim Monson, Jody Sergienko

\$6.99 at Grocery Outlet in Oakhurst by Angela and George Heiss. The first-place winner was also a 2017 vintage, Precision Cabernet Sauvignon from Napa Valley, purchased at Costco for approximately \$17 (far lower than its retail price according to “Wine Snob”) by Sharon and David Moore.

Delicious and creative appetizers, hearty beef stew, and several truly decadent desserts rounded out the evening’s festivities.

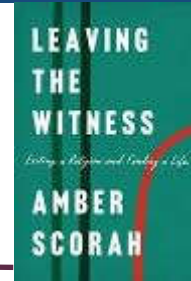


SIG - Book

Contact [Saralynn Nusbaum](#)

Our next meeting will be on
Tuesday, November 5, 2019 at 4:30 pm
 at the home of Hélène Fiske where we will be discussing:

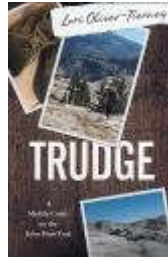
Leaving the Witness
 by Amber Scorah



Trudge

By Lori Tierney

Discussion Review by
 Saralynn Nusbaum



her perseverance and wit, and we get a glimpse into a not-so-easy trip. She brought along her trusty old hiking boots; their trail days are over and now, instead of providing support for feet, they serve as containers for flowers in

Lori's garden.

Our group read "Trudge" by local author and AAUW member Lori Oliver Tierney and Lori joined us! Trudge is the story of Lori's dream, which became reality, to hike the John Muir Trail. She shares relatable reasons for embarking on the trip in the summer of 2004, even though it was a 233-mile trek. Very early on we realize it is much more than a backpacking trip. Lori shows

Our group took an interest in the process of self-publishing and Lori filled us in on the details, pitfalls and the cost. Many authors lose money on their self-publishing forays but Lori has passed the breakeven point and is now in the black!

SIG: Great Decisions

Contact [Sandi Gabe](#)

The Middle East: Regional Disorder

The title of this month's topic appears to be a gross

understatement. With such turmoil that exists there, discussion is sure to be lively and engaging. We will be exploring the roots of the political division of the Ottoman Empire

following World War I and the conditions contributing to the current disorder. Anyone is welcome to join us on November 13 at 5:00pm at the home of Marilyn Saunders. Contact [Marilyn](#) or [Sandi](#) for more information.

We Sponsor Community Forums

**SIG: Garden**Contact [Micki Finney](#) or [Karen Smith](#)**Tiina Wilson's Garden Rocks It!**

—Karen Smith

Tiina invited the Garden Group over to give her some ideas on how to spruce up her garden. From what she described, we were expecting a vacant, empty lot.

Well, what we found was a charming setting with the house nestled within GIANT boulders! Tiina has created small interesting "New York" rock gardens bursting with showy flowers on lush foliage— you know, like Martha Stewart's garden.

We're not sure she'll be able to recreate her vision here in Mariposa with our dry conditions and blistering summer heat. We

praised her use of native plants, but they just aren't as showy as begonias, peonies and toad lilies.

We scampered up the hill to the pool area, also tucked in between massive granite slabs. The view to the north gave us a spectacular view of the smoke from the Briceburg Fire. It was a little unnerving because the black smoke matched the black granite rocks. Well, on a non-fire day I'm sure the view is spectacular!

Tiina treated us to a wonderful farro salad lunch and baklava. YUM!



L-R: Tiina Wilson, Karen Smith, Micki Finney, Betty Massey

We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential

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SIG: International Study

Contact [Tiina Wilson](#)



The next meeting of the International Study Group will be Nov. 12, 5:00 PM, at the home of Sue Overstreet. She and Gary

—Tiina Wilson

Colliver will be the presenters as we continue our study of Central America.

Interest Groups - Hiking

Contact [Trish Darcy](#)



Checking out the new trail at the Stockton Creek Preserve

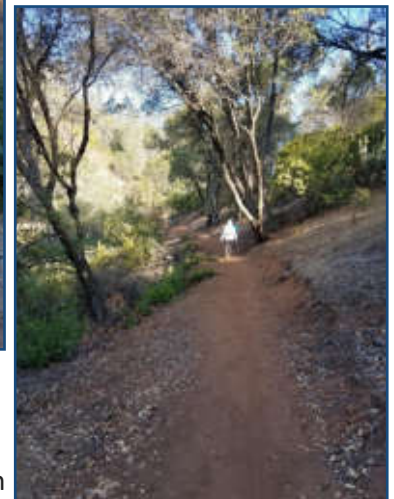
Last Saturday, Reva, Helene Fisk, and I hiked

the new trail at the Stockton Creek Preserve. It descends from the Water Treatment Plant to Stockton Creek, crosses the Creek, then proceeds uphill and comes out just below the Reservoir Spillway, where you can continue up to Slaughterhouse Rd and on to the Flume Trail, or cross back to the Reservoir Road and hike any of the other trails or head back down the road to the Water Treatment Plant. It was a nice cool morning and we enjoyed the views.



Above: Crossing Stockton Creek

Right: Starting up the south side of the creek.



Descending to Stockton Creek from the Water Treatment Plant



Getting close to the top, looking down-valley with the Reservoir Road visible across the valley on the right

The next two hikes will be:

- November 9 - led by Rebecca Swisher
- December 14 - led by Renea Kennec

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Minutes



**AAUW - Mariposa Branch
Leadership Team Meeting
Meeting Minutes
October 7, 2019 5:00 p.m.
Mariposa County Library**

Team Meeting Dates

2019	2020
07/01	01/06
08/05	02/03
09/09	03/02
10/07	04/06
11/04	05/04
12/02	06/01

Called to Order at 5:08 p.m.

Attendees:

Jody Sergienko,
Dina Lambert (presented reports and left due to fire evacuation order)
Cindy Harp, Rebecca Swisher, Kim Monson

Absent:

Becky Mock, Trish Darcy

Minutes:

August 5, 2019: Approval pending draft completion.

September 9, 2019: Approved by majority vote of the Leadership Team at today's meeting.

Updates:

Membership:

Member Mini Meet-Up – coordinating)

November 4th (Becky Mock

Current Membership:

No new report.

Directories:

Directories have been either handed out in person or mailed to members. Please let Dina Lambert know if you do not receive yours.

Holiday Party – December 8th

Leadership Team members are still looking to see if anyone is willing and able to host.

Volunteers are also needed to help with the planning of this event.

Annual Meeting – June 7th

The Leadership Team agreed to keep this topic on the agenda to ensure timely

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We Value Education

(Continued from page 14)

planning. They will address this topic in detail after the Holiday Party.

Membership Spotlight:

Jody Sergienko will interview Rebecca Swisher for the first spotlight.

Partnership with College/University:

Cindy Harp presented an update on this potential project. She spoke with Amanda, an administrator at Reedley College, who is excited about the possibility. Amanda referred Cindy to Darrin, from whom she is waiting to hear back. Cindy is continuing to look for demographic information on this school, including on-campus involvement of students and campus organizations currently present.

Projects:

Dinner with a Scientist (*Marilyn Saunders*)

Per Marilyn Saunders' update in the newsletter, this event again went really well.

Speech Trek (*Kim Monson*)

Kim Monson reported that she is planning on holding an informational meeting for the students the week of October 22nd. She will distribute applications at this time. A meeting for students and coaches will be planned for approximately one week after the informational session. The goal is to have students start their speeches before the winter holidays.

Tech Trek (*Trish Darcy*)

Deferred

Backpack (*Rebecca Swisher*)

No new report.

Fundraisers:

Yard Sale – October 26th – 27th (*Sharon Enrico*)

Jody Sergienko stated that publicity went out for this event. She will send Dina Lambert information for the Facebook update.

Programs – Rural Access to Health Care:

Links to YouTube videos will be included in newsletters and e-mails.

Round I: Rescheduled due to presenter availability

One speaker is available Thursdays in November. Jody Sergienko and Rebecca Swisher will follow up with other potential speakers.

Jody Sergienko will reconfirm with the Board of Supervisors meeting room once

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the date has been finalized.

Dina Lambert will rearrange for insurance.

We are still planning for drinks and finger food appetizers. AAUW can provide drinks, and we will ask for volunteers for snacks. Dina Lambert will send out this request.

Round II: January 2020

Round III: March 2020

Candidate Forum – May 14, 2020

Karen Smith has volunteered to assist with this event.

Finance Report (Dina Lambert):

Income: \$50.00

Expenses: \$756.38

Dina Lambert reported that the primary expenses were from printing and mailing directories and paying for insurance.

Checking account ending balance: \$16,528.62

Cindy Harp moved to approve the finance report as presented. Jody Sergienko seconded.

All in favor. No nays or abstentions.

New Business:

Leadership Meeting Lead:

Those present agreed to add this as a standing agenda topic.

November 4, 2019: Jody Sergienko

December 2, 2019: Cindy Harp

Branch Buzz:

Rebecca Swisher agreed to cover this month's Branch Buzz for Trish Darcy, as Trish is on vacation.

Upcoming Dates:

- October 26-27, 2019: Yard Sale
- Program "Part I: Rural Access to Health Care": Date To Be Determined
- November 4, 2019: Leadership Meeting; Mariposa County Library (EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ATTEND J)
- November 16, 2019: Member Mini Meet-Up; Pony Expresso (Becky Mock to Coordinate)
- December 2, 2019: Leadership Meeting; Mariposa County Library (EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ATTEND J)

We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp



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Leadership Team:

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[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

Project Chairs/Coordinators

Advertising	Sharon Enrico
Back Pack Project	Cathy Owens & Karen Rust
	Rebecca Swisher
Dinner With a Scientist	Marilyn Saunders
Newsletter Editor	Jill Rowney
Publicity	Jody Sergienko
Social Media	Dina Lambert
Speech Trek	Kim Monson
Tech Trek	Trish Darcy & Phyllis Weber
	Dina Lambert
Website	Jill Rowney
	Sharon Enrico
Yardsale	

AAUW

<https://aauw.org/>

We Sponsor Community Forums



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