



Sierra Outpost

2020 looks to be a busy year!

Dawn Johnson

Events to look forward to include:

- Backpack 2020
- Fundraiser extraordinaire
- Speech Trek 2020
- Tech Trek 2020



Dec 2 Leadership Team Meeting:
5:00pm, Mariposa Library

Dec 3 SIG– Book: 4:30pm,
home of Helene Fiske

Dec 6 Fundraiser Planning Meeting: 3:30pm
home of Sandi Gabe

Dec 8 Holiday Party: 2:00pm, home of Jill Rowney

Dec 14 SIG-Hiking: Led by Renea Kennec
2020

Jan 6 Leadership Team Meeting: 5:00pm,
Mariposa Library

Jan 7 SIG– Book: 4:30pm, home of Helene Fiske

Jan 8 SIG– Great Decisions: 5:00pm,
Home of Kim Monson

Jan 11 SIG– Hiking: Becky Mock, leader

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****Newsflash— This just in!!****

Speech Trek

Date: February 19, 2020

Topic: "Are men and women truly equal today, or are the suffragists of 1920 still suffering in 2020?"

Leadership Team



Happy holiday season to you all!

There is so much happening! November was and December will be such a social month!

November 14th was our first program event- Rural Access to Healthcare. It was informative and brought out the many issues involved. The discussion continued at the Mini Member Meet up on the 16th. We were a small but lively group led by Becky Mock.



There is a lot of activity going on in our AAUW branch right now. Tech Trek is in the planning stages for the 2020 camp. Speech Trek is already involving the girls and steaming ahead. Both of these programs will need member involvement at all levels!

The Christmas party is coming up! (See page 3).



Our December Leadership Team meeting is December 2nd at 5pm at the library. All members are invited to attend and give input. We have a representative from Reedley College's Oakhurst campus coming to meet and talk about a partnership with us. We are entertaining the possibility of hosting a student chapter at their campus.

See you soon and happy holiday season!

Your Leadership Team

(Submitted by Jody Sergienko)



Leadership Team



It's a Party! Annual Holiday Gathering



— Dina Lambert

'Twas 17 nights before Christmas, when all
through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
Appetizers and goodies placed on the table
with care,
In hopes that all AAUW Mariposa soon would
be there;

The leadership team nestled snug in their
beds,
While visions of sugar-plum wine danced in
their heads;
And Jill, in her 'kerchief, and new little cat,
Had just settled down for a long winter's nap,

When out on the lawn there arose such a
clatter,
She sprang from the couch to
see what was the matter.
Away to the window she flew
like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and
threw up the sash.

The sun would be shining,
being Sunday at 2,
the 8th of December, the sky
very blue,
When, what to her wonder-
ing eyes would appear,
Many AAUW members and

anxious spouses with cheer,

More rapid than eagles the leaders they came,
They whistled, and shouted, and called out by
name:

"Now, JODY! now, BECKY! now, DINA and
CINDY!

Let us inside where it isn't so windy.
Go, TRISH! Go, REBECCA and KIM!
Open the door, JILL, so we can join in!

Bring something savory or bring something
sweet,
And we all will have plenty to eat.
There's also naught better (we all tend to
think)
than to bring a bottle of a favorite drink.



Sunday
December 8
2:00 - 5:00 pm

Home of
Jill Rowney
4131 Silver Bar Road
(2.6 mi from Fairgrounds off
Ben Hur Road)



Come ALL and follow the many
carloads
To 4131 Silver Bar Road
Then we'll all celebrate— that's
right!

HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL, AND
TO ALL A FUN NIGHT"



Membership

Meet our Members

This month the spotlight shines on our own Sharon Enrico! As a founding member of the Mariposa AAUW branch, Sharon has been involved with many aspects of our organization. She did the newsletter, membership, served as president, was part of fundraising, mentoring and the SIG's. Most recently Sharon has been known as the Yard Sale Fundraiser Guru.

—Jody Sergienko

We asked Sharon to take the “way back” view and tell us why she joined AAUW. She replied that AAUW seemed like a good organization that supported women's rights and was a way to meet people at the same time. Over the years women's rights have made gains and yet there is still a long way to go! Sharon feels that organizations like AAUW give back to you what you put into them. And she has put a lot into our branch!!

The AAUW mission is still relevant today, so how do we bring more of our younger women in? Our mountain members are more silver than gold, and that is a trend nation-wide as well. Sharon thinks that our younger women feel like the organization doesn't reflect what



they need, or think they need. She tells us that our challenge is to offer our next generation opportunities relevant to their lives.

Next summer Sharon will be living full time in the Seattle area. While she will miss Mariposa and visit often, she will no longer be actively involved with our group. Our loss will be West Seattle's gain, if she can find a local organization with as much heart as ours!

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

[Jody Sergienko](#). Talk to you soon! 😊

Membership

November's "Mini Member Meetup"



—Becky Mock

A small, but lively group came to Pony Expresso on November 16 for our monthly "Mini-Member Meet-up." As these sessions generally go, we discussed many different topics. Foremost in our minds was the excellent Rural Health program that was presented by Mariposa AAUW on November 14. It was noted that there is a proposal to increase the sales tax in Mariposa County by 1% to help fund a new hospital needed by 2030 because of earthquake construction requirements. We discussed how important it will be to provide adequate information to the voters, not only about the necessity of having access to local health care, but the impact that losing the hospital would have on

Dates and Hosts:

- February 8, Rebecca Swisher
- April 25, Cindy Harp

the local economy in both job loss and revenue loss to local businesses. We discussed some of the general barriers to healthcare access in rural areas, one of them being accessible and adequate supermarkets. We also discussed the fact that today's children may not have the opportunity to have the economic security their parents enjoyed, and conversely, some of today's youth may also feel entitled to things without having put in the work to achieve them.

Fundraising



Yard sale team takes time to relax and visit after a very busy and lucrative (\$3837.85!!) weekend event. Left to right: Helene Fiske, Sara Robison, Sandi Gabe, Micki Finney, Sharon Enrico, Tiina Wilson and Jody Sergienko. Present but not pictured: Dawn Johnson and Cathy Owens (behind the camera lens)

We Sponsor Community Forums

Fundraising

Another magical event in the planning stages:

Is it Alice or the Mad Hatter?



This is one of the key questions we'll be pondering at our first fundraising meeting on **December 6, 3:30 pm at Sandi Gabe's home**. Refresh your memory on the characters, antics and costumes by watching Alice in Wonderland with Johnny Depp before we meet. Rent it for only \$2.99 from Amazon [HERE](#). Bring your calendars. Bring your imaginations. Help create the vision.

We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp

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Fundraiser

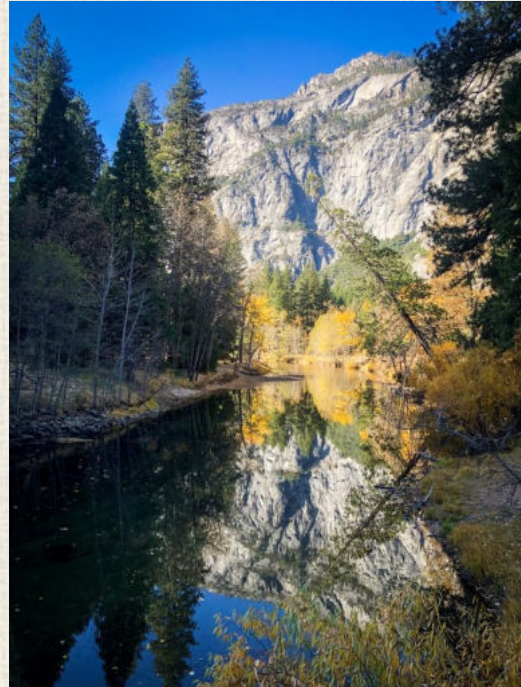
Auction Item from Moroccan Nights Guided tour through Yosemite's history– a personal perspective



— Kathy Chappell

On a beautiful fall day Kathy Chappell and her husband, Doug, guided Nickel and Dan Gross on a history tour up the Merced River Canyon through Yosemite Valley and onward to Foresta. Kathy's aunt, Shirley Sargent, wrote over 25 books on the history of Yosemite. Kathy, following in her aunt's footsteps, became a local history buff. Facts and historical stories about Midpines, Briceburg, Yosemite Valley Railroad, Portland Cement Mine, Clearing-house Mine, Savages' Trading Post, Incline Railroads #1 and #2, El Portal, Old Coulterville Road, and the many historical hotels were among the topics of the day.

Next stop was Church Bowl for a picnic lunch then onto Foresta which has a long history starting with the Miwok Indians, followed by historic ranches beginning in the 1870's.



After visiting the 1910 homestead of Theodore Solomon (The Flying Spur) which later was the lifelong home of Shirley Sargent (now owned by Kathy and her family), we ended the day at Little Nellie Falls.



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We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential

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 Open Eyes



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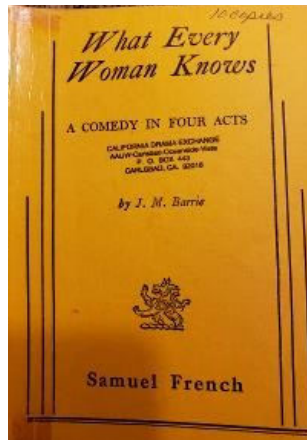
SIG: Play Reading

Contact [Dawn Johnson](#)

What does “Havers” mean, anyway?

—Dawn Johnson

In spite of short notice, four members of the Play Reading Group hunched over their tattered copies of *What Every Woman Knows*, written in 1906 by J. M. Barrie, the author of *Peter Pan*. (Based on the condition of the plays we received, it's likely we were reading that first edition.)



puffed-up ego, his lack of appreciation for her, and his attraction to the indolent and vapid Miss Sybil in the hopes that he will see her value in the end. And he does. And that's the end.

When we finished, we weren't really sure “what every woman knows,” although we guessed it was that there are subtle ways to get what

Although no one took flight or wrestled a crocodile, the play was surprisingly enjoyable. The plot involved a poor and humorless Scotch youth who broke into the home of a well-to-do family in order to read their books. They applaud his initiative and offer him a princely sum of money to get an education in exchange for agreeing to marry their plain daughter once he gets his start. Although dull and humorless, he becomes a successful politician, mainly due to her clever rewrites of his speeches and behind-the-scenes people skills. She puts up with his

we want. But what really intrigued us was the frequent exclamation of “havers!” We don't know what it means, but we intend to use it regularly.

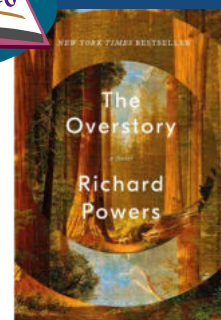
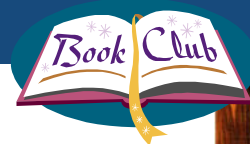
Watch your email for the next meeting of the Play Reading Group. We have a great time cold reading plays. No dramatic talent is needed, but if you do a good Scottish accent, we could have used you this month.

SIG - Book

Contact [Saralynn Nusbaum](#)

Our next meeting will be on
Tuesday, December 3, 2019 at 4:30 pm
at the home of Hélène Fiske where we will be discussing:

The Overstory
by Richard Powers


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We Value Education

SIG: **Great Decisions**Contact [Sandi Gabe](#)

The Middle East: Regional Disorder

—Marilyn Saunders

On November 13 Marilyn Saunders hosted a lively discussion on the turbulence of the Mideast. We did our best to discuss the "Regional Disorder" in the Middle East, however current events here in the USA kept intruding! In general, the view on the Middle East that prevailed throughout the discussion is that the situation is ever chaotic. The region's bitter history has been exacerbated by seemingly arbitrary borders drawn after the First World War. Those borders were drawn to serve the interests of the West rather than the tribes and historic countries in the region.

Of course, discussion included comparison of the Koran and the Bible, Christians and Muslims, and the current administration and its vision (or lack thereof) of the United States' role in the Mideast.

The issues proved to be larger than we could take apart in one discussion. Although we certainly did not solve any of the world's problems, our discussions always lead us to a better understanding of what is happening in our global community.

Our next meeting is on the calendar for Wednesday evening of January 8 at 5:00pm at the home of Kim Monson. We will be discussing Cyber Conflicts and Geopolitics.



We Inspire Life-Long Learning

SIG: International StudyContact [Tiina Wilson](#)**Yes, we have bananas— but should we?**

—Peggy Shainberg

We carpooled to Sue Overstreet's home for a meeting on bananas and our country's involvement in Central America. After appetizers and chat about some of the history of Bear Valley, Sue presented the history of the United Fruit Company. How

did the company turn bananas into a worldwide commodity? Even with a supply of cheap labor, it was able to take the banana, a fruit that ripened too soon and was difficult to ship, and turn billions in profit. Now the banana industry faces the

Panama virus that threatens the mono culture Cavendish. Gary Colliver presented on the many US interventions in Central America.

And of course we ended the evening with bananas, baked in orange juice, brown sugar and rum.

We will skip December and meet next on January 14.

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

The next two hikes will be:

- December 14— led by Renea Kennec
- January 11— led by Becky Mock

We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp [To Page 1](#)

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[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

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