Mariposa Branch

March, 2020



Sierra Outpost

## HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

# MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Don't forget to come to the Board of Supervisors' meeting in the County BOS room at 9:00 **this Tuesday, March 10** to support the official proclamation that March is "Women's History Month." This proclamation is sponsored by Mariposa AAUW and we need a show of force in the audience to support its message.

It will be announced at some time between 9-11 a.m. but is typically fairly early in the agenda.

Come and show your proud support!

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## Leadership Team meetings switched to Tuesdays at 5:00pm

If the date and time of the board meetings (first Monday of the month at 4:00) didn't suit your schedule, perhaps this new schedule will allow you to participate on the Leadership Team (LT). To accommodate most of the team members, the second Tuesday of the month at 5:00pm was selected. Hopefully this will allow more members

to have a more active role in running our local branch. IF this time is awkward for you and you would like to help out, let one of the LT members know. They are very accommodating! The new dates are listed at the top of the minutes on page 10.

## **Events Calendar 2020**

March 3	Sig- Reading: 4:30pm, nome of Heiene Fiske
March 4	Mad Hatter Party planning: 1:00pm, home of Sandi Gabe
March 7	SIG- Play Reading: 9:00am, home of Jill Rowney

March 10 Proclamation-March is Women's History Month: 9:00am,

Board of Supervisors' Meeting (BOS Chambers)

March 10 Leadership Team Meeting: 5:00pm, Mariposa Library

March 10 SIG-International Study: 5:00pm, home of Peggy Shainberg

March 11 SIG- Great Decisions: 5:00pm, home of Betty Massey

March 15 SIG- Wine: 3:00pm, home of Kim Monson

**April 14 Leadership Team Meeting:** 5:00pm, Mariposa Library

## Membership

### Next "Mini Member Meetup"

Our next member get together is Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am at the Pony Expresso. This is your opportunity to visit with members and talk about what is going on in our branch. Look for an email from Rebecca Swisher.



#### **Dates and Hosts:**

- April 25, Cindy Harp
- May 16, Kim Monson

## **Leadership Team Opportunities abound!**

**Leadership Team:** Are you wondering what you can do to be a little more involved in your AAUW branch???? Our leadership team is looking for any new volunteers who might be interested in being on the team for next year. There are big jobs down to small jobs that you can explore to be a part of this great group! If you are interested or *might* be interested, contact any of us: Jody, Cindy, Dina, Becky, Rebecca, or Trish (see <a href="majertal-page-14">page-14</a> for our email addresses).

## We Value Education



#### **Project**



## New branch project in the works

-Kim Monson

Your leadership team is planning to work with AAUW California on a new project as an alternative to Speech Trek. Since student

participation in Speech Trek. Since student participation in Speech Trek is dwindling throughout the state, Rebecca Swisher has proposed we replace it with a video competition. The students would work with the selected topic of the year, creating a video presentation that represents their views. Details are yet to be worked out, but students could work as a team, do their research, and create a video utilizing all available multi-media. Since Youtube videos have become quite popular to create, this should

be far more accessible to our student population. It could also be part of an English class assignment, a video class project, or individual effort.

We hope to pilot the new project this next school year. Not having to memorize and deliver a speech in person should appeal to more students. As Speech Trek coordinator, I am 100% behind this idea.



## **Fundraising**



## Mad Hatter Party



Saturday

August 8

5:00pm



## "Rural Access to Healthcare" Part 2, February 29

If you didn't get a chance to come to this outstanding program, look for a review in next month's newsletter.

## We Inspire Life-Long Learning



#### Tech Trek —Trish Darcy



## Selecting this year's trekkers—no small task

—Trish Darcy

We are in the process of selecting our candidates to attend this year's Tech Trek camp at Fresno State in June. When we started the process, we did not yet know the dates of camp. The dates were finally sent to us at the end of January and we found out that camp is the last week of school for our girls again this year. It was good to find out that that did not keep any of our girls from applying! They were happy to miss the last week of school to attend camp if they were selected. We did, however, lose several applicants who are participating in the Washington DC trip. The DC trip would leave the day after they got back from camp and these girls decided that two big, weeklong events back to back was too much and they chose to back out of applying to Tech Trek-understandably. We have this conflict every other year when the DC trip occurs.

Our Tech Trek project could not happen without the help of many of our members. Thanks to Barbara Silva for helping to coordinate this project with me. Being involved in Tech Trek is a great way to help your AAUW branch in a small, rewarding way. Thank you to all who have stepped up to help.

First of all, in January, we had our liaisons visit each school site to introduce the program to 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls. We had girls who attended last year's camp come and help us talk to the 7<sup>th</sup> graders to share what camp was all about. Thank you to the liaisons this year. We had Phyllis Weber again helping out the girls at El Portal and Yosemite. We had a new member volunteer to help at Catheys Valley. Rick Uebner stepped up to fill that gap for us and has said he is interested in doing it again

next year. I worked with the girls at MES and Woodland. This is such a rewarding experience working with these girls. It is fun to get to know them as we work on their applications and essays together. The applications were all turned in by January 31<sup>st</sup> ready for the scorers.

The next step is the scoring of the applications. This is always such a hard job! We do want to thank those members who stepped up to help out with this task, too. The scorers this year are: Carrie Lindstrom, Belinda Gilbert, Carol Hart, Dawn Johnson and Jody Sergienko. They read through the applications scoring the answers to questions and the essays. This is done blindly. All names and identifying information, as well as school site, are covered so the scorers do not know whose application they are scoring. These will all be completed by the end of February.

The next step will occur on March 7th. This is the interview day. This year our interviewers are Dawna Hunter, Becky Mock and Sara Robison. These members have offered to give up an afternoon to meet our candidates and interview them. The interview scores will be combined with the application scores and we will notify our lucky Tech Trekkers soon after that!

Tech Trek camp is such a wonderful opportunity for our Mariposa girls. They spend a week in the dorms and participate in many science and math activities. They gain life skills and hopefully something sparks their interest and they attend college in a few years ready to learn more!



#### **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.

## AAUW

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 Sponsor Community Forums



### sig: International Study

**Contact Tiina Wilson** 



## A view into the harsh realities of life in Guatemala and Honduras

—Beth Tomsick

Our International Studies group had a very interesting and lively meeting in our study of Central America on February 11. Charles (Chuck) Mosher, M.D. and Tiina Wilson teamed up to present their research on Guatemala and Honduras for us.

Tiina's talk on Guatemala, accompanied by pictures of that country, showed us the plight of much of the population where violence and poverty rule. Men have moved north to find work, and women and children have little protection from gangs and violence. The country has great natural beauty and has a large indigenous Mayan population. It has the most volcanoes of the seven countries in Central America. The United Fruit Company



Voces inocentes



Antiqua, Guatemala

exploited the land and the people for raising and exporting bananas, setting the stage for the vast gulf between rich and poor in these two "Banana Republics."

Chuck gave an account of Honduras where, unlike Guatemala, there is a large coast on the Caribbean and most of the population is mestizo, a mix of indigenous and people of European ancestry. Problems of corruption,

violence and interference in political affairs by the U.S. are similar to those of Guatemala. MS-13 and Barrio 18 gang members from Los Angeles were deported to Central America and now pose a danger to all. Hurricane Mitch in 1998 hit the Miskito Coast of Honduras and wiped out many of its farms and plantations of bananas, the country's major crop.

(Continued on page 7)

We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential



(Continued from page 6)

March, 2020

Of great interest to our group of 20 participants was Chuck's most recent trip to Honduras. He and another former Peace Corps volunteer worked with young people who were missing limbs or whose bones had grown abnormally. They were able to fit three children and a young man of 19 with prostheses so that they could walk upright for the first time.

Our group was inspired by the stories of these young people. We are grateful to both Chuck and Tiina for their excellent program.



Documentary film— traces 500 years of genocide of the Mayan people of Guatemala

## sig: Hiking



Contact <u>Trish Darcy</u>

No official hike was scheduled for February, but the following dates can be added to your calendar:

- March 14<sup>th</sup>— led by Dawn Johnson
- April 11<sup>th</sup>— led by Becky Mock

#### sig: Wine





The next Corks and Forks gathering will be on Sunday, March 15 at 3:00 at the home of Kim Monson. We will be tasting Syrahs accompanied by yummy appetizers.

## sig: Great Decisions

Contact Sandi Gabe



The next topic for discussion will be "Refugees and Global Migration" on March 11 at the home of Betty Massey. She and Belinda Gilbert will lead the discussion.

### We Open Eyes



## sig: Play Reading

Contact <u>Dawn Johnson</u>



## Guessing "whodunit" wasn't the hard part

—Dawn Johnson

No, the hardest part of reading last month's play was pronouncing the name of the character "Miss Ffoliot-Ffoulkers!"

TEN(!) of us gathered to read Agatha Christie's 1944 mystery "Murder on the Nile." And there was a murder all right, along with plenty of possible suspects, including a rich heiress, a thwarted lover, an all-knowing maid and a mysterious stranger. Oh, and some annoying bead sellers and a porter or two.

We switched parts easily even with 10 readers and 13 characters (well, including the bead sellers). The play has stood the test of time, and we found the comic relief to be,

well, comic. We paused near the end to guess whodunit. Some had it right, but had no idea why. Some had it right, but had no idea how. Some didn't have it right at all. SPOILER: it wasn't the bead seller.

Next month's play is "Laughter on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Floor" which is billed as a "new play by Neil Simon." That should give you an idea of when it was written. We always have fun reading Simon's plays, so watch your email for details of the next meeting of the Play Reading Group. We have a great time cold reading plays and no dramatic talent is needed. Contact Dawn at <a href="mailto:dawn-andjay.johnson@gmail.com">dawn-andjay.johnson@gmail.com</a> for info.



We Value Education



#### sig - Book

#### Our next meeting will be on

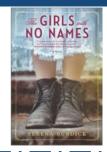
Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 4:30 pm at the home of Hélène Fiske where we will be discussing:

#### The Girls with No Names

by Serena Burdick



#### Contact Saralynn Nusbaum

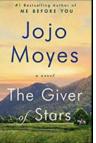


#### The Giver of Stars by Jojo Moyes

Discussion Review
—Saralynn Nusbaum

Based on a program that was instituted by Eleanor Roosevelt in the mid 1930's, *The Giver of Stars* is about a group of women in Kentucky that begin a traveling library that delivers books to rural areas on horseback. These "pack horse librarians" must overcome a number of obstacles on their way to bringing literacy to the masses, but they do so and tackle these challenges together.

Our main character is Alice Wright, a British woman who marries American Bennett Van Cleve, hoping to escape her stifling life in England. Alice soon discovers that her



handsome husband is not terribly interested in her and there are hints throughout the book that he's probably gay. To top it off, she and Bennett are living in Bennett's father's home and he is a total brute. Given this situation, Alice seizes upon the opportunity to become a pack

horse librarian.

In doing my research for our discussion, I discovered a plagiarism controversy surrounding the book's release. A book called *The Woman of Troublesome Creek* was published a few months ahead of *The Giver of Stars*. The author of that book felt that some of the details were suspiciously similar. Moyes denies having read that book. Hmmm....

#### The Lost Vintage by Ann Mah

Discussion Review

—Joan Lee

For our February discussion we read "The Lost Vintage" by Ann Mah. This is a page-turning novel-part love story and part mystery about a woman who returns to her family's ancestral vineyard in Bur-

gandy. She unexpectedly uncovers a lost diary, an unknown relative and a secret her family has been keeping since WWII.

It was an easy read better enjoyed with a glass of favorite wine and offered some interesting facts about life under Nazi occupation during the war.

## We Inspire Life-Long Learning



#### **AAUW Mariposa Branch**

#### **Board Meeting Minutes**

#### **Mariposa County Library**

February 11, 2020

**Team Meeting Dates** 

2020	
01/14	
02/11	
03/10	
04/14	
05/12	
06/09	

Meeting Called to Order at 5:05 p.m. by Jody Sergienko

#### Attendees:

Jody Sergienko, Co-President Dina Lambert, Finance Officer Rebecca Swisher, Recording Secretary Trish Darcy, Becky Mock, Kim Monson

#### Absent:

Cindy Harp, Co-President

#### **Guests:**

Jill Rowney, Sandi Gabe

#### Minutes (Rebecca Swisher):

January 14, 2020: Approved electronically and submitted to Jill Rowney for inclusion in the January/February newsletter.

#### **Updates:**

#### **Membership Update** (*Dina Lambert*)

Dina Lambert reported that there are a couple individuals who are planning on joining/rejoining.

#### Member Mini Meet-Up – April 25, 2020 (Cindy Harp is coordinating)

#### Membership Spotlight Article in Newsletter

Jody Sergienko stated that she can do this write-up. Rebecca Swisher recommended asking Margarita King, as she has been instrumental in the upcoming program. Jody will follow-up with Margarita.

#### Annual Meeting – June 7, 2020

Venue: Trish Darcy's house

Planners: This topic was deferred until closer to this event.

#### California State Conference – April 17-19, 2020

Attendees: Jody Sergienko, Rebecca Swisher, Cindy Harp

Those attending will book their own registration, etc. and request reimbursement from Dina Lambert. Trish Darcy moved that AAUW Mariposa cover at least half of the conference fees, hotel, and gas for driving to the event. Kim seconded. All in favor with no nay or abstentions.

## We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp



#### **Projects:**

#### **Dinner with a Scientist** (*Marilyn Saunders*)

There was no new update on this event; however, those present expressed interest in learning more about how this project is managed.

#### **Speech Trek** (Kim Monson)

Kim Monson reported that this event was cancelled due to low student participation. Future of Speech Trek: Jody Sergienko broached the topic of reimagining this project or using our resources on another task. Rebecca Swisher presented the concept of altering this project to be a multimedia presentation rather than a live speech. She will look into the AAUW New Project Grant that is due March 1<sup>st</sup>. The group will look into how to develop the guidelines of this project, and they will discuss via e-mail over the next few weeks.

#### Tech Trek (Trish Darcy)

Trish Darcy reported that there are seven viable applicants and that the DC trip students opted out. Scoring will be done next week and interviews will be held March 7<sup>th</sup>. She will arrange insurance for the interviews with Dina Lambert.

#### Backpack (Rebecca Swisher)

Rebecca Swisher provided an update regarding her communications with Cathy Owens. This will be Cathy's last year heading this project, and she has asked for someone else to take the lead. Cathy presented the idea of this being a four-person team. Kim Monson expressed interest in helping, and Rebecca Swisher stated she would again act as the liaison for the JCFHD Back2School event, although she has not yet heard details about this event.

#### **Fundraisers:**

#### "Mad Hatters Party" – August 8, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. (Sandi Gabe)

Sandi Gabe reported that the event will be outside at the Fairgrounds. We will use round tables, real china, and pastel colors. The dishes are being sourced from thrift stores. Trish Darcy will look into potentially borrowing dishes from other organizations. There will be a full dinner, so the cost of tickets will be \$40 in advance and \$50 at the door. There will be live and silent auctions as well as various games. We will be encouraging folks to be in costume and character. Please go to the Pinterest board if you are interested in seeing a visual representation of ideas for this event (<a href="https://pin.it/lFjYj+V">https://pin.it/lFjYj+V</a>)

#### Yard Sale - October 26-27, 2020

Dina Lambert stated that we need to put out a plea to members to help coordinate this event. Sharon Enrico will send this/these individual(s) information so that they are not flying blind.

#### Programs – Rural Access to Health Care:

#### Round II: February 29, 2020

Jody Sergienko reported that she will be out of town for a family emergency. She will send

## We Sponsor Community Forums



Becky Mock the information on the room reservation and insurance. Becky will coordinate set up the day of the event. Jody will give the banner and other paperwork to Rebecca Swisher who will make sure that she brings these supplies to the program.

#### Round III: March or May

The group decided that we would not do a third program due to other conflicting projects.

#### **College Partnership with Reedley College in Oakhurst** (*Cindy Harp*)

Cindy Harp has recommended that the leadership team coordinate a site visit to the college rather than expecting the dean to come to the leadership team meeting. The decision on this will be deferred until the next meeting.

#### **Finance Report** (*Dina Lambert*):

Dina Lambert reported that national had an error in how much money we are reimbursed for memberships: it was \$9.50 rather than \$15.00. She has contacted them, and it will be corrected in the future.

Income: \$9.50.

Expenses: \$124.34, including items for state dues, website hosting, and Tech Trek

Checking account ending balance: \$20,048.24

Jody Sergienko moved to approve the finance report as presented. Trish Darcy seconded. All in favor. No nays or abstentions.

**Status of Credit Card**: Dina Lambert submitted the application for leadership team members' signatures. Jody Sergienko, Becky Mock, and Rebecca Swisher signed the card application. Dina Lambert will submit the application to be processed.

#### **Old Business:**

#### **AAUW Member Participation Log Demo** (Jody Sergienko & Cindy Harp attended)

Jody Sergienko and Cindy Harp attended the WebEx on how to use this tool. The leader-ship team concurred about using this tool to track when our members participate in order to identify popular events as well as recognize the impact that dates and times have on participation.

#### **New Business:**

#### **AAUW California State Board Questionnaire:**

Sandi Gabe asked questions of the Leadership Team to provide feedback to the state board as well as encouraged members to look at the AAUW state board website.

#### **Women's History Month Proclamation**

Kim Monson read the proclamation. Rebecca Swisher moved that the Women's History Month proclamation be submitted with noted corrections. Trish Darcy seconded. All in favor with no nays or abstentions. Kim Monson will send an electronic copy of the proclamation to Rebecca Swisher for submission to the Board of Supervisors representative,

We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential



Rene LaRoche.

#### **Purchase of New Sound System**

Jody Sergienko broached the idea of replacing our current sound system with one that is more portable and storable. Dina Lambert requested that research go into ensuring that the new system meets the requirements of all of our events, including outdoor venues. Rebecca Swisher requested that three quotes be submitted that include cost, specs, and add on options as well as venue use. Dina Lambert stated that we could review these quotes electronically and make a decision through e-mail communications. The final decision will be reported out to members through the meeting minutes.

#### Officer/Leadership Team Candidates for 2020-2021 Year

#### **Nominations Committee**

Identification of nominations committee members was deferred.

#### **Task Coverage Needed:**

Membership:

Finance: Dina Lambert stated that she will not be able to serve next year, but she will be available to mentor the oncoming individual and to answer their questions.

Webpage:

Facebook: Trish Darcy is willing to mentor the oncoming individual.

Yard Sale:

#### Willing and Able to Continue:

Kim Monson – "New Rendition" of Speech Trek Rebecca Swisher – Recording Secretary Trish Darcy – Tech Trek, Member at Large, Branch Buzz Jill Rowney – Newsletter

#### **Leadership Meeting Lead:**

March 10, 2020: Cindy Harp (agenda); Trish Darcy (key).

#### **Branch Buzz:**

Trish Darcy

She will request that SIG leaders e-mail the names of participants to Jody Sergienko so that we can make use of the new AAUW CA tracking tool.

#### **Upcoming Dates:**

Rural Access to Healthcare Program Part II – Social Determinants of Health – Saturday, February 29, 2020 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., Board of Supervisors Meeting Room

Next Board Meeting – Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 5:00 p.m., Mariposa Library "Mad Hatters Party" – August 8, 2020 at 5:00 p.m., Mariposa County Fairgrounds

Meeting Adjourned at 6:23 p.m. by Jo

#### We Open Eyes





## Cindy Harp

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AAUW- Mariposa

www.aauwmariposa.com

Board Officers: 2019-2020

Leadership Team:

Trish Darcy

<u>Cindy Harp</u> Dina Lambert

Becky Mock Kim Monson

Jody Sergienko

Rebecca Swisher

Project Chairs/Coordinators

Advertising Sharon Enrico

Back Pack Project <u>Cathy Owens</u> &

Karen Rust &

Rebecca Swisher

Dinner With a Scientist Marilyn Saunders

Newsletter Editor Jill Rowney

Publicity <u>Jody Sergienko</u>

Social Media <u>Dina Lambert</u>
Speech Trek <u>Kim Monson</u>

Tech Trek Trish Darcy &

Phyllis Weber

Website <u>Dina Lambert</u>

Jill Rowney

Yardsale <u>Sharon Enrico</u>

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AAUW

https://aauw.org/

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: <a href="mailto:iillrowney@yahoo.com">iillrowney@yahoo.com</a>

We Value Education

