





# Sierra Outpost

## Project grant approved!

Tech Connect: Multimedia Messages is a "go" with AAUW California



We are excited to announce that AAUW Mariposa was one of two branches selected to receive monetary support from AAUW California's Project Oversight Committee! The competition was fierce, with the other grant applicants presenting exceptional project ideas. The honor was announced at the 2020 AAUW California State Annual Meeting that was held virtually on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, and our project is now featured on the AAUW California website at https:// www.aauw-ca.org/2020-

We will receive \$500 to help implement our new, technol-

state-project-grants/

ogy-based version of Speech Trek, which encourages high school students to develop and present multimedia productions based on Speech Trek themes. This coming year's topic is fitting for our new endeavor, and we look forward to guiding students through the creation of videos that address the question: "Has social media helped or hindered the breaking down of barriers for women and girls?"

If you are excited about this new program and would like to provide input into its development, please contact Rebecca Swisher or Kim Monson. We look forward to

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working on this exciting venture with you!

Addedum: Kim Monson presented the project idea to Celeste Acevedo, MCHS principal, who is excited to support our endeavor with the high school students.

To learn details of the California AAUW Annual Meeting, click <u>here</u> for a link to materials that include a video of the meeting and winning Speech Trek candidate.

## **Leadership Team Notes**

## **Happy Spring from your Leadership Team**

-Jody Sergienko

These have been trying times for all of us. Some of us are affected more than others. While we are all stuck here at home, there are many out in public trying to help life keep moving forward. Any day now our local and state governing officials will be announcing the plan for reopening society.

This will not be back to a life-as-we-knew-it for quite a while— if ever. The reopening of our community will be in a three-phase approach. The first will be opening only some of our local businesses while continuing to maintain social distancing. People will be asked to stay six feet from each other and to gather in groups of ten or less. Wearing masks out in public will be encouraged. It is already required in some parts of California. Restaurants will be take-out and, if wishing to serve in their dining area, will need to accommodate the social distancing guidelines. Those individuals who are at high risk of complications or dying from this virus will be asked to continue to shelter at home. Finally, if there is an upswing in cases then the community will be asked to return to sheltering at home.

To help our members navigate this time we have compiled a list of resources for you.

News and gossip are easy to come by. Good factual information can be found at the following sites:

## **Mariposa County Health Department:**

http://www.mariposacounty.org/
Directory.aspx?DID=19

Mariposa County Health Department's dedicated web page for the COVID information:

http://www.mariposacounty.org/1592/COVID-19-Information

## Mariposa Chamber's Facebook page:

http://www.mariposachamber.org

#### **Mariposa County Chamber of Commerce:**

www.mariposachamber.org

This page also has dedicated links to resources for individuals and businesses.

# Mariposa Chamber of Commerce fact sheet:

https://bit.ly/BusinessStatusCOVID19

Many of us can work from home and many of our tasks can be put on hold, but we cannot function without replenishing our groceries. Our Chamber has set up a grocery delivery service staffed by volunteers in partnership with Pioneer Market for those who are at high risk and can't get to the store safely. Individuals can request a delivery at (209) 966-2456 which will be monitored by Chamber staff. Chamber staff will get detailed information on the order including preferred brand of items.

(Continued on page 3)



## **Leadership Team Notes**

# Check our Facebook and <u>website</u> pages for announcements and most current news.

In addition you can order groceries online at Raley's in Oakhurst:

https://www.raleys.com/stores/raleys-hwy-49-oakhurst-california/

As always our AAUW branch is a close community and we are here for each other. Please feel free to contact any of us on the

leadership team if you need help, resources, or even just to talk. We are still meeting via Zoom and all who are interested are encouraged to join us!

Stay safe, stay sane and stay healthy! We hope to see all of your smiling faces when we celebrate the return of community life.

## Nominating Committee recommendations for 2020-21

In order to fulfill our obligation to present the Leadership Team nominations to the AAUW Mariposa Branch membership at least 30 days in advance of voting, we are providing the list of nominees for the 2020-2021 Leadership Team as follows:

- Cindy Harp, Co-President
- Jody Sergienko, Co-President
- Dina Lambert, Finance Officer, Co-Membership
- Rebecca Swisher, Recording Secretary
- Bonnie Little, Co-Membership
- Kim Monson
- Trish Darcy

Depending on the governor's stay-at-home order and recommendations from our Public Health Officer, the current Leadership Team will announce later in May whether we will have the opportunity to vote in person at our Annual Meeting or if we will vote virtually. Be on the lookout for future e-mail communications regarding this event!

## We Inspire Life-Long Learning



## Membership



## **Meet Our Members**

## **Spotlight on Karen Rust**

—Cindy Harp

Karen joined AAUW in 2014 when Carolyn Baker was Membership Chair. The two knew each other from their time working together in Mariposa Schools. Karen became interested in AAUW through the Tech Trek project in which two of her three daughters participated over the years.

Karen received her BA from Wheaton and her Masters' degree in social work from

George Williams College. She applied her training as a social worker in schools, and for a time worked in schools in San Mateo County, working with deaf and mentally challenged students. When Karen's daughters were young, she took a 10 year hiatus to be a full-time mom, and then returned to work as a counselor in Mariposa schools.

Professionally, one of the accomplishments of which Karen is most proud is having obtained grants and other community-based funding to establish and sustain the Mental Health Initiative, which focused on prevention of mental health issues by providing services to very young children.

Karen is married to Willy Rust, who recently retired from a 26-year career with the National Parks Department in Yosemite and Falls Church, VA. Together they have been enjoying travel and the outdoors. Presently, Willy is away for an extended family project, and taking care of their daughter, who has contracted



COVID-19. In the meantime, Karen has discovered the joys and feelings of accomplishment with a home improvement project: painting the living room and kitchen! (Watch out, Willy, this can become addictive!) Karen belongs to the Hiking and the Corks & Forks Wine SIGs. She has sampled a couple of other SIGs, but like many of us, decided that she could only manage two groups

and still keep her life in balance. One of the highlights of her participation in the hiking SIG is a "three-waterfall hike" in Yosemite, with lunch at the top of Nevada Falls, and ending at Glacier Point—where, Karen says, "You have to keep an eye on Naoko!"

During this time of staying sequestered against the pandemic, Karen has discovered a new joy, taking part in a "Kinder Zoom" with grand-daughter Lupine (age 5), who lives in Helena Montana. What is a Kinder Zoom? It is an arrangement whereby Karen and a couple of other adult relatives sign up on a regular weekly schedule to provide lessons to Lupine via Zoom. Karen's subjects are Art, English, and Yoga. However, Karen insists Lupine is really teaching the yoga class: Lupine picks yoga poses for Karen to do, and then Lupine does them as well. As Karen says, this has been an opportunity to grow closer to her granddaughter, and it makes them both happy!

## **Events Calendar 2020**



link to a meeting via one of the internet group meeting options

May 13 SIG Book: 4:30pm, online discussion via Zoom

May 21 SIG Great Decisions: 5:00pm, online discussion via Zoom

June 7-12 Tech Trek: CSU Fresno—cancelled

Aug 8 Fundraiser-Mad Hatter Party cancelled for 2020

Tech Trek —Trish Darcy



# Alternative to the cancelled 2020 Tech Trek camp sought

—Trish Darcy

Our Tech Trek committee worked very hard this year to select the five girls who would get to attend camp at Fresno State this summer. We had great expectations for these girls, but COVID-19 had different plans for them. At this time AAUW California has notified us that there will be no camp this summer for these girls. We completely understand and support the need to cancel the camps this summer for the safety of our girls. Branches throughout the state had the chance to weigh in as to whether these girls would get to attend camp the summer of 2021. Our Mariposa branch voted to allow these girls to attend at that time. Unfortunately, the majority of the branches voted that these girls would NOT be allowed to attend Tech Trek. We will instead start next year with selecting a new set of 7th graders to attend the summer of

2021. This information saddened us immensely. We so wished these girls would have the opportunity to participate. With that being said, we as a branch want to find a way to make it up to these girls in some way. We have, as a committee and with the Leadership Team, already been throwing out ideas of ways to compensate this year's selected campers. We will be developing a committee to brainstorm ideas, choose the best idea, and then carry out our choice. This will be an excellent way for members to get involved in many different ways-both big and small. If you have ideas, please watch for announcements asking for volunteers. We are looking at doing this for the girls during the summer of 2021 so that we do not have to worry about any limitations from the virus.

## We Sponsor Community Forums



## **Shelter-in-place offerings**

Those of us in SIG Great Decisions who subscribed to the Foreign Policy Association's educational curriculum series received the following invitation to share this amazing opportunity with our community. Peruse through these 22 outstanding video offerings they posted to Youtube by clicking on the link below.

# Foreign Policy Association

Many participants from libraries to classrooms and houses of worship have asked to share this year's television series with their broader community during this public health crisis. We have decided to release this season of *Great Decisions* on YouTube to provide a single link to post online and share with your community.



During this period of isolation, groups across the country are using teleconferencing tools from Google Hangouts to Zoom to continue their discussions online. Please encourage your community to debate, discuss, and decide. In a democracy, it takes an informed public to inform policy.

Link: Great Decisions television series on YouTube



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 <u>Sandi Gabe</u>



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 Open Eyes



# SIG

## sig: Hiking

## Contact Trish Darcy

## Hikers compile over 750 miles!

—Trish Darcy

Members of the hiking group continue to complete their spreadsheet with steps and miles walked. As they enter their daily amounts, they watch the numbers increase daily. We miss visiting with each other and exploring new and old trails, especially during this wildflower-filled spring. However, we know that we will eventually get back to being able to hike together and look forward to that time. Here are some pictures of recent adventures of our members.

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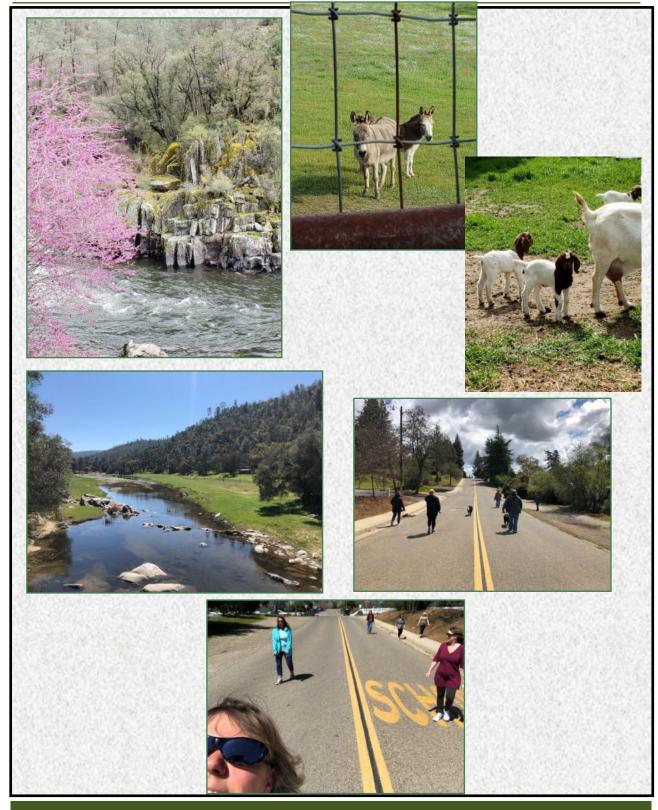






We Value Education





We Inspire Life-Long Learning



## sig: Play Reading

moving

## Contact <u>Dawn Johnson</u>



# How to walk 4000 miles without

—Dawn Johnson

The play Reading Group demonstrated COVID creativity and experimented with a way to "read" this month's play "4000 Miles." We watched a YouTube video of its production by a regional theater group and then Zoomed into an online discussion. This was a fairly contemporary play for us (written after the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic!) It concerned a young man who bicycled across the country to "find himself"

and wound up on the doorstep of his feisty, but lonely, 91-year-old grandmother. It's a play about finding connections in unlikely places. The group found it distracting to watch the poorly filmed stage production (think of people crossing in front of the camera) instead of reading aloud. But we found it interesting to talk about how different the characters' appearance and delivery were compared to

our mind's eye when we read the play on our own. We even took an online trivia quiz about the play, which added some delight until we saw that we only got a B+.

The Play Reading Group agreed to shelter the rest of our plays back in their home at the Southern California branch for the rest of the year. But we plan a Broadway revival next fall.

## sig: Wine

Contact Carolyn Baker or Cindy Harp



Corks and Forks has been quiet, as have the other SIGs, but on Saturday, April

25<sup>th</sup>, member Allison Byerley hosted a Zoom wine tasting for an intimate group of 10. We each quaffed our own preferred varietal and our own favorite noshes, while carrying on lively conversation. It wasn't like meeting in person, but it was a close second, and all

—Cindy Harp

expressed appreciation for the opportunity to visit with each other and catch up on the news.

At this time, we are contemplating another Zoom tasting in May, and hoping that by June we may be able to meet in person, with appropriate distancing and safeguards, such as bringing our own wine and treats. More to be decided later, so watch for an email!

## We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp



## sig - Book

## Our next meeting will be on

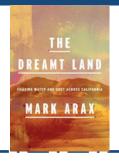
Tuesday, May 13, 2020 at 4:30 pm at our own homes via "Zoom" on the internet where we will be discussing:

#### The Dreamt Land

by Mark Arax



## Contact Saralynn Nusbaum



#### Next Year in Havana

by Chanel Cleeton

Discussion Review
—Becky Mock

For our April book discussion, we read **Next Year in Havana**, by Chanel Cleeton. This was our first meeting after the shelter-in-place conditions, so we utilized Zoom for our discussion. I would say it went well, though I think we all prefer the face-to-face discussions. We are, however, thankful that technology allows us to carry on in some manner. The novel was about two women: Marisol, an American-born Cuban descendent and her grandmother, Elisa, who was born in Cuba and fled to the US with her family after Castro took over. Elisa had passed away and had asked that her favorite granddaughter, Marisol, take her ashes back to Cuba to spread them. Both of these women were members of privileged families. However, the privileged life they both shared made it difficult for most of us to relate to either one of them. Many of us

in our group had always thought of Cuban refugees as being less wealthy, so there were many aspects of the story that were surprising. The novel switched back and forth between Marisol's present-day Cuba visit and the pre-Castro Cuba in the

late 1950's when Elisa was only 19. Marisol was able to discover many of her grandmother's secrets including finding out that her biological grandfather was not the grandfather she knew in the US, but was actually a Cuban freedom fighter in the revolution.

The group found the novel interesting and easy to read while highlighting some of the history of the Cuban revolution that we may not have understood before. Our next Book SIG meeting is Tuesday, May13 at 4:30 pm, and our book for discussion in <a href="The Dreamt Land">The Dreamt Land</a> by Mark Arax.

## We Sponsor Community Forums



AAUW - Mariposa Branch Leadership Team Meeting Meeting Minutes April 14, 2020 6:00 p.m. Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Meeting Called to Order at 6:04 p.m. by Cindy Harp.

#### **Attendees:**

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

#### Absent:

Jody Sergienko, Co-President

## Minutes (Rebecca Swisher):

March 10, 2020: Approved electronically and submitted to Jill Rowney for inclusion in the April newsletter.

#### **Updates:**

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

• Dina Lambert stated that one member rejoined at the last program. Membership roster now totals 82.

#### Member Mini Meet-Up

- This event has been canceled for April.
- No other Member Mini Meet-Ups have been scheduled for the rest of the year.

#### **Membership Spotlight Article in Newsletter**

- Those present discussed potential members to ask for permission to interview for the newsletter.
- Cindy Harp will contact individuals and write up the article for the newsletter.

#### Annual Meeting – June 7, 2020

- The determination of whether AAUW Mariposa will have an in-person annual meeting will be deferred until next month to enable the Leadership Team to make the decision based on the most current COVID-19 information. However, the Leadership Team will submit the Board member nominees in May's newsletter in order to fulfill the bylaws timing requirements. The 2020-2021 budget will be approved at the June 2020 meeting.
- Should an in-person meeting be held, the following information holds:
- Venue: Trish Darcy's house.
- Planning: Deferred until next month

#### California State Conference – April 18, 2020 via Zoom, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

#### Attendees:

- Jody Sergienko Unknown if able to attend.
- Rebecca Swisher Planning to attend.
- Cindy Harp Planning to attend.



#### **Projects:**

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

No new update.

#### **Backpack** (Rebecca Swisher)

• Rebecca Swisher reported that a Back to School event meeting was held last Friday, but she was unable to attend. Rebecca Swisher will submit the meeting information to Kim Monson who will help coordinate AAUW's participation in this event.

## **Tech Trek** (*Trish Darcy*)

Trish Darcy reminded those present that Tech Trek has been cancelled for this summer due to COVID-19. She wrote up AAUW Mariposa's response to questions regarding proposed plans for next year's Tech Trek and submitted it to state leadership. AAUW Mariposa's first choice was to run two separate camps, one for 7<sup>th</sup> and one for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, although this was not presented as an option. There has been no communication regarding the final decision on what the plan is for next year.

**Tech Connect: Multimedia Messages** (new and improved Tech Trek) grant application status (*Rebecca Swisher and Kim Monson*)

• Rebecca Swisher reported that she has not heard back from AAUW state regarding the status of the grant application.

#### **Fundraisers:**

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

Postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic.

**Yard Sale** – October 26-27, 2020

• Becky Mock stated that she will <u>help</u> with planning this event; however, she needs guidance. Dina Lambert will send an e-mail requesting assistance in co-chairing this event. Sharon Enrico will be able to send supporting documentation.

#### Programs:

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

• Cindy Harp reported that she has not heard back from Darrin, and she anticipates that we will not be able to move forward until the pandemic response ends.

## Finance Report (Dina Lambert):

- Purchase of New PA System and A/V equipment
  - ♦ Dina Lambert stated that she is still researching options.
- National's error in how much money we were reimbursed for memberships: it was \$9.50 rather than \$15.00.
  - ♦ Dina Lambert stated that she has not heard back from AAUW National. She will request assistance from Sandi Gabe to obtain a correction.
- Status of Credit Card

## We Open Eyes



Dina Lambert stated she submitted the application to Yosemite Bank. She will follow up with Matt on the status of the application.

#### Purchase of Zoom

Dina Lambert reported that the membership fee for Zoom has been purchased.

This application is available for members to use should they request. However, at this time, AAUW Mariposa does not have tech support available to assist individuals with use of this application.

Finance Report (corrected)

Dina Lambert reported that she made the previously discussed and approved changes to the historical finance reports and put copies in the AAUW Mariposa finance binder she maintains.

March 2020 Finance Report

Income: \$100.00 from membership fee and donation.

Expenses: \$125.50

Checking ending balance: \$19,723.74

Becky Mock moved that the March 2020 finance report be approved as presented. Kim Monson seconded. All in favor with no nays or abstentions.

#### **Old Business:**

## **AAUW Member Participation** Log

- Previously, the Leadership Team requested that this program be used for tracking involvement in AAUW activities (e.g., virtual meetings)
- Those present determined to encourage the use of this log in the future. The Leadership Team will revisit this once things are back on track.

#### **New Business:**

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

Nominations Committee results to date

- Cindy Harp reported that she is waiting to hear back from one potential candidate, but that the other person she approached declined. She will follow up with two additional people.
- Trish Darcy stated that she has not heard back from one person yet, but is
  guessing that she would not be available. Trish reported that the other people
  she spoke to were already busy with other boards/committees.
- Rebecca Swisher reported that the individual she approached declined to join the leadership team, but did express interest in assisting with a project/ program.
- Becky Mock stated that Bonnie Little may be interested in helping with Membership. Becky will get back to Bonnie and have her contact Dina to discuss this role.

## We Value Education



Current Leadership Team members' availability for 2020-2021 Year

Kim – Available.

Rebecca – Available.

Trish – Available.

Dina – Available in a limited capacity.

Cindy – Available.

Becky - Not available.

Jody - Potentially available.

# Women in White Non-partisan march to celebrate the anniversary of "right to vote" (Kim Monson)

• Kim Monson stated that this is still a possibility; however, no finalization of plan has been determined.

## Path to Wellness (Rebecca Swisher)

Canceled due to pandemic.

J. C. Fremont's "Transforming Women's Health" event, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 (Trish Darcy)

Canceled due to pandemic.

## **Leadership Meeting Lead:**

- May 12, 2020: (agenda) Cindy Harp; (key) not needed, as this will be held via Zoom. However, Becky Mock is available to get the key if the plan changes, and we have an in-person meeting.
- Those present decided to meet at 6:00 p.m. because work schedules have made the 5:00 p.m. time challenging.

#### Branch Buzz (Trish Darcy):

• Discussion of topics to include was held. Will include cancellations as well as virtual meetings and get togethers.

#### **Upcoming Dates:**

- California State Virtual Conference April 18, 2020 1:00 3:00 p.m., Virtual meeting (see e-mail from state for registration information)
- AAUW Mariposa Leadership Team Meeting May 12, 2020 6:00 p.m. (note time change), Zoom meeting (see link on website)
- Annual Meeting June 7, 2020 (tentative)

Meeting Adjourned at <u>6:53</u> first by <u>Cindy Harp</u> and second by <u>Kim Monson</u>. All in favor with no nays or abstentions.

## We Inspire Life-Long Learning





www.harpins.com

http://www.jcf-hospital.com/



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Tech Trek

AAUW- Mariposa

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

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** Kim Monson Speech Trek

> **Trish Darcy & Phyllis Weber**

Website **Dina Lambert** 

Jill Rowney

Yardsale **Sharon Enrico** 

AAUW https://aauw.org/

## We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp

