



## Sierra Outpost

### Everything you need to know about 'Measure N' before voting

—Trish Darcy

A group of 13 gathered on Zoom the evening of September 23rd to gather information about our local hospital ballot measure ahead of the November election. The CEO of the John C. Fremont Healthcare District, Matthew Matthiessen, joined us as well as two members of the local group Mariposans for a Healthier Future, Beth Tomsick and Therese Williams. They each gave us their information and then allowed time for us to ask questions.

The ballot measure calls for a 1% sales tax increase to purchase a bond in turn funding a new hospital for Mariposa County. The state passed legislation in 1993 that requires all hospitals in the state to be up to earthquake standards by the year 2030. This would provide us the money to meet this requirement. The current hospital is almost 70 years old and the plan is to build a new, up to standards, hospital

next to it with a corridor connecting the two buildings. By law, not all hospital functions have to be in a facility that is up to earthquake standards, so they will be able to utilize the existing hospital for these functions, thus increasing useable space. Local contractors will be used for as many parts of the project as possible.

Beth and Therese talked about the activities of the committee. They are currently raising funds for advertising in the newspaper and on our local radio station as well as signs to put up around the county. You can visit their website at [yesonmeasuren.org](http://yesonmeasuren.org) to learn more about the measure. You can donate directly from the website or mail a check to PO Box 309 Mariposa, CA 95338.

The cost of this project will be \$45-50 million of which the majority will be raised through the measure-\$40 million of it.

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The rest will be generated through grants that will be applied for. Matthew said that there are not that many grants out there but they would go for whatever they could. He has also been actively seeking other funding sources as ideas come up to fund the remainder of the costs.

All in all it was a very informative meeting where we were given the opportunity to learn about why we need a new hospital and the plan for how it will be accomplished. We would have much rather gathered in person, but Zoom provided us with an alternate that proved to work just as well!

In case you need to review, the meeting was recorded. It was posted on our Facebook page AND on the website as well as [here](#).

## Leadership Team

# Now is NOT the time to be silent!

—Jody Sergienko

The following is a statement by AAUW CEO Kimberly Churches:

*America lost one of our most beloved role models tonight, a pioneering jurist and iconic feminist who blazed new trails, not only in her own life, but in the lives of the countless women she championed — and inspired. On behalf of AAUW and its members and supporters who recognized Justice Ginsburg with a 1999 AAUW Achievement Award, we extend our condolences to her family, her colleagues and to every American whose lives and hearts she touched. The nation owes it to her — and to all women — to honor her final wishes and refrain from naming a replacement until after a new president is inaugurated.*

This is the last month before a significant election. October is the last chance to speak out and have our voices heard in 2020. We, as individuals and members of the many organizations working to improve the lives of women, can still be heard.

No one needs to have a list of the many important issues at stake, or the gains that could be lost. What is listed below are the elected officials' contact information for

our area here in the Mariposa branch.

### **California State Assembly:**

State Assembly District 5:  
Frank Bigelow  
<https://ad05.asmrc.org/>  
State Capitol Suite #4153  
Sacramento, CA 94249 916-319-2072

### **California State Senate:**

State Senate District 8:  
Andreas Borgeas  
<https://borgeas.cssrc.us/>  
State Capitol, Room 3082  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: (916) 651-4008  
Fax: (916) 651-4908

### **Other State Level Officials:**

[http://www.legislature.ca.gov/legislators\\_and\\_districts/legislators/your\\_legislator.html](http://www.legislature.ca.gov/legislators_and_districts/legislators/your_legislator.html)

### **Federal House of Representatives:**

[https://www.house.gov/representatives#state\\_ca](https://www.house.gov/representatives#state_ca)

Distict 4:  
Tom McClintock  
<https://mcclintock.house.gov/>  
Office 2312 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: 202-225-2511  
Fax: 202-225-5444

District 12 & Speaker of the House:  
Nancy Pelosi  
<https://pelosi.house.gov/>  
Office 1236 Longworth H.O.B.  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: (202) 225-4965 Hours: M-F 9-5:30pm

Federal Senate:  
<http://www.senate.gov/states/CA/intro.htm>

Dianne Feinstein  
<https://www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/>  
331 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Main: (202) 224-3841  
Fax: (202) 228-3954  
TTY/TDD: (202) 224-2501

Kamala Harris  
<https://www.harris.senate.gov/>  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Phone (202) 224 – 3553  
Fax (202) 224 – 2200

It is time to write, call, and hit the links above and email. Post on Facebook and tag your elected officials. Hashtag them on Twitter. Stalk them on Instagram. Tell those elected to represent you. Tell them what you want them to hear, and do it loudly!

**Be heard!**

## Board to Branches



### Notes from AAUW California Board

—Cindy Harp

*Excerpts from September 2020 State 'Board to Board'*

**Dianne Owens**, President, AAUW California, [statepresident@aauw-ca.org](mailto:statepresident@aauw-ca.org)

Our webinars are going very well. Join us in October for four! Click [HERE](#) to register on our California website.

Keep the questions coming to ASK US FIRST at [askusfirst@aauw-ca.org](mailto:askusfirst@aauw-ca.org) to get an answer to any question. If one of our Leadership Team members does not know the answer, we will find out for you

#### AAUW FUND

#### AAUW FUND VIRTUAL LUNCH WITH THE FELLOWS/GRANT RECIPIENTS

**Judy Cavin Brown**, Director, AAUW Fund Committee Chair, [aauwfund@aauw-ca.org](mailto:aauwfund@aauw-ca.org)

As we shared with you in the August B2B, the 2020-21 Fund luncheons will be replaced by two webinars, which will be held on two dates at one location—your computer. While we will miss the social gathering aspect of the luncheons, the webinars may afford the opportunity for those hampered by distance or other physical constraints to participate. There will be different speakers at each event so you are welcome to attend one or both webinars. Please note these dates in your branch calendars: Saturday, October 10th and Saturday, October 24th. Both webinars will begin at 1:00 pm. Don't forget to register for the Zoom webinars by clicking [HERE](#).

#### CALIFORNIA IS IN IT TO WIN IT!

Provided by **Charmen Goehring**, Northern California Legacy Circle Liaison, [charminme@yahoo.com](mailto:charminme@yahoo.com)

Reminder! We have launched a statewide branch competition which started July 1st and ends November 30th that will help branches work towards Five-Star status as well as help to ensure AAUW's future. We are encouraging members to become [Legacy Circle](#) members and the branch with the highest number of new members during the contest period will be deemed the winner. In addition to announcements across social media and on the state AND national websites, the winning branch will have a special Zoom video strategic update with AAUW California President, Dianne Owens, AAUW Director of Development, Heather Miller, and other special guests.

Becoming a Legacy Circle member is quick and easy and comes with perks, the most important of which is knowing AAUW will be here in the future. Let the competition continue!

#### BRANCH ASSISTANCE

#### AN OFFER YOU CAN'T REFUSE

**Crystal Stebbins and Carol Holtzgrafe**, Directors, [branch@aauw-ca.org](mailto:branch@aauw-ca.org)

Your Branch Assistance team, Crystal Stebbins and Carol Holtzgrafe, will be happy to offer any help your branch may want in understanding,

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We Inspire Life-Long Learning





(Continued from page 3)

publicizing to your members, and/or fulfilling requirements for the Five-Star Program. Our methods include joining a virtual branch meeting or offering explanations in writing.

This program was designed by AAUW National to help branches with mission-based programs, membership, fund-raising, plus a few other exciting endeavors— and to be rewarded for doing them.

Contact us at [branch@aauw-ca.org](mailto:branch@aauw-ca.org)

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## COMMUNICATIONS

### THE AAUW CALIFORNIA DIRECTORY & ADMIN PACKET ARE NOW AVAILABLE!

**Tracey Clark**, Director, Communications Committee Chair, [communications@aauw-ca.org](mailto:communications@aauw-ca.org)

In addition to creating our next issue of the new *California Connection*, the Communications team has been hard at work finalizing and publishing both the [2020-2021 AAUW California Directory](#) and the [AAUW California Administrative Packet](#). (ed. The 2nd published link was not transferrable). The password (**aauwca**) is required to access the California Directory. Both are posted on the website and everyone who requested a printed copy will receive it in mid-September. The Directory contains the listings of state committee members, the AAUW California calendar, the webinar schedule, and more.

The Admin Packet contains a wealth of information pertinent to the upcoming year.

Speaking of the webinar schedule, two exciting and informative webinars were held last month:

*Speech Trek 101 and Racial Injustice; Understanding It, Recognizing It, Talking About It.* Both were recorded and can be found on the website [here](#) along with our upcoming webinars for this month: *Waging a Successful GOTV Campaign and Show Me the Money: Fundraising Ideas for a COVID World.* Remember to register so a personal Zoom link can be emailed to you!

If you have any questions regarding the Directory of the Admin Packet, please contact Julika Barrett in the AAUW California Office at 916-448-7795 or at [office@aauw-ca.org](mailto:office@aauw-ca.org) and she can assist you.

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## DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

### ARE YOU BIASED? Not Me. Recognizing Implicit or Unconscious Bias

**Elaine Johnson**, Director, [diversity@aauw-ca.org](mailto:diversity@aauw-ca.org)

Each of us has experiences that have an effect on our attitudes. We might not even recognize them ourselves. Yet, we each take actions that have a negative effect on some others around us. AAUW has recently had webinars both at the national and state levels that bring to our attention the need for recognizing our own intrinsic biases. Once we increase our awareness, we can be open to making change and having an effect on making change within our branch and our AAUW organization.

Recognizing implicit bias helps us move into an appreciation for others and increases our ability to be more diverse and inclusive in our AAUW membership.

All of the AAUW California state committees are contributing to an understanding of diversity, inclusion, and social justice.

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**We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp**





Board to Branches

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## PUBLIC POLICY

### PUBLIC POLICY INVITES YOU TO REVIEW AAUW CALIFORNIA'S PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

**Kathleen Harper**, Director, and **Sue Miller**, Public Policy Committee Co-Chairs, [publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org](mailto:publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org)

In even-numbered years, AAUW California undertakes a review of our Public Policy Priorities. This is an important document, as it provides the context for determining the bills on which AAUW California will take positions in the 2021-2023 legislative sessions.

We are going to use an electronic survey to solicit every member's input on the priorities, and make suggestions for revisions or deletions. This survey will be sent out in September. It lists the priorities and asks members to agree with the current statements or to offer suggestions for changes. Responses are due by November 15th.

The California Public Policy Committee will review and revise the priorities in December and prepare a draft for approval by the AAUW California Board. That document will be put on the ballot and sent to all members in April 2021 for final approval.

All branch members are encouraged to participate in the survey and add their voice.

The Equal Pay Bill, SB973 Jackson, co-sponsored by AAUW California, was passed by the Legislature! It is now on Governor Newsom's desk for signature.

### POLICY COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES POSITIONS ON NOVEMBER BALLOT MEASURES

The AAUW California Public Policy Committee has reviewed the 12 Propositions that will be on the November ballot and is making a SUPPORT recommendation on seven that relate to our priorities and mission:

#### **Prop 14—Stem Cell Research**

(access to quality health care)

#### **Prop 15 — Property Taxes**

(funding for education)

Large commercial properties over \$3 million will be assessed at current market value.

#### **Prop 16 — Affirmative Action**

(educational opportunity; social justice)

Reinstates race, ethnicity and country of origin as considerations for school admittance and government employment.

#### **Prop 17 — Voting for Parolees**

(expansion of voting rights)

Allows people on parole to vote once their prison sentence has been completed

#### **Prop 18 — Voting at 17**

(encourages voting)

Allows 17-year-olds to register and vote in primary if they will be 18 by the general election

#### **Prop 21 — Rent Control**

(affordable housing)

Authorizes local governments to place rent control measures on houses older than 15 years

#### **Prop 25 — Cash Bail**

(social & economic justice)

SB 10 relies on risk assessment in determining if a suspect will be held in custody instead of cash bail; a "yes" vote keeps SB10

The committee takes a "NO POSITION: on:

#### **Prop 19 — Property Taxes**

#### **Prop 20 — Parole Restrictions**

#### **Prop 22 — Gig Workers**

#### **Prop 23 — Dialysis Clinics**

#### **Prop 24 — Consumer Privacy**

More detailed information on each of these propositions, including who sponsored and who

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We Sponsor Community Forums



(Continued from page 5)

supports and opposed each, can be found on the Public Policy page of the AAUW California website.

Please remember: branches do not have to adopt the supported measures but they cannot oppose them; similarly, individual members may choose to support or oppose any propositions, but they may not act as representatives of AAUW in doing so.

## Local Measure N Forum

Click [here](#) to review.



## Project: Tech Trek



## As the Seasons Change, so do Tech Trek Plans Again. And Again.

—Trish Darcy

The committee has been formed and has met to begin the planning for the June 2021 event for our 5 girls from last year. We brainstormed a lot of fantastic ideas and began making lists. We got very excited about some of them and went off on some fun tangents! The lists began to look long, so we opted to end the meeting and begin again in October to further our plans. We were all excited and happy to continue further planning.

And then..... We got an email from AAUW California Tech Trek that due to continuing COVID concerns (We all share these as well. This just seems to be going on and on and is making planning difficult.) the camp for 2021 would be a virtual camp. We are very excited that there will be a statewide event for our girls. We will begin the selection process for

these girls after the first of the year. The virtual program was tested last summer and went well, so this is a proven and successful program that our girls will be able to participate in for this summer.

What does that mean for our 5 girls from last year, you may be asking yourself? We asked ourselves the same thing. We are not exactly sure. What we do know is that there are still to be no in person gatherings until further notice. At this point, since we have no idea when that will be, we will not be able to plan an in person event for these girls until such time as we can gather together. Fingers crossed for things to settle down enough for us to be able to make a decision, stick with it, and move forward with plans. Flexibility is our theme for sure!

We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential

# Membership

Bonnie Little, Dina Lambert

## WELCOME!

### A new member joins the ranks

—Bonnie Little

Our newest member is Karen Sutton. Although Karen comes to us from the Bay Area, she is no stranger to our foothills. Her grandmother was born in 1903 in Grub Gulch, a mining town near Ahwahnee on the old stagecoach route to Yosemite. The family homesteaded near Yosemite Forks, and still has a cabin in Oakhurst. Karen has her BA from UC Santa Cruz and her Ph.D from UC Davis. She is an adjunct professor at a community college in Gilroy, teaching exclusively online. Karen is also a genealogist, and helps others trace their backgrounds and write their family histories. Her hobbies include travel, crochet, photography, watercolor painting, camping, hiking, and watching football, especially the 49ers. We extend a hearty welcome to Karen, and look forward to her involvement with AAUW. Even though these days, every activity is virtual, we hope to “see” her soon!



Above: Karen and her husband, Andrew, enjoy a beautiful day at the Rose Bowl football game on January 1, 2020

## Event Calendar

- October 5            **Leadership Team Meeting:** 5:30pm, via Zoom
- October 14        **SIG– Great Decisions:** 5:00pm, via Zoom
- October 20        **SIG– International Study:** 5:00pm, via Zoom
- October 27        **SIG- Book Group:** 4:30pm, via Zoom

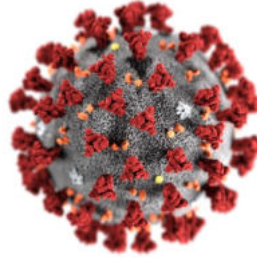


We Open Eyes

## Health

### Covid Corner

#### Mariposa status reduced to “tier yellow”



-Jody Sergienko

Autumn is here! The leaves are beginning to change and so has our COVID Blueprint for a Safer Economy level.

<https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/>

Mariposa is now in the yellow zone! This is the least restrictive of four tiers that the state has ascribed for the amount of COVID activity in a given county. Tiers range from the most restrictive purple through red and orange to yellow. At each tier, restrictions on each of the business sectors becomes more relaxed.

All sectors of businesses are open, from hotels having full occupancy to bars being allowed to serve indoors. Businesses are open: you can dine out, tourists can visit, and small groups are allowed. What does that mean for us? With every relaxation in sector guidance, the individual responsibility to reduce risk through wearing masks, maintaining social distancing and other measures increases.

While our low case rate and testing positivity rate allowed us to do this, we risk developing new cases as people from areas of higher transmission come visit.

Do not let your personal risk reduction strategies get lax! Every county in the state with the exception of Alpine has a higher rate of COVID cases than we do. Mono and

Tuolumne Counties are in the Orange Tier. The counties in the San Joaquin Valley are in the Purple Tier. That is the most restrictive zone. The virus is widespread there.

All of this disease transmission means we won't be back to “normal” soon. Until there is a safe and effective immunization and herd immunity of an estimated 70% of the US population (<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/coronavirus/in-depth/herd-immunity-and-coronavirus/art-20486808>), this virus will continue to spread in waves.

The Mariposa County Unified School District is making plans for in person instruction in October. While the specific details are being developed, the plans will include screening of students and means to identify cases and prevent further spread in the schools. Given we are in the Yellow Tier, this is a good time to implement this.

We stay in the yellow tier for only as long as we can prevent the virus wave from crashing over us. Movement back to the orange tier would require us to have more than one case a week or an increase in our test positivity percentage above 2% for two consecutive weeks. Stay safe - mask up, wash your hands, maintain a social distance, get tested, and take care of each other.

We Value Education



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

Becky Mock



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

### Garden Group

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  
2020-2021**

### 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.

### What’s Your Passion?

**Photography?**

**Movie?**

**Ukaldies?**

**Wine and Whine?**

(nothing fancy– just afternoon get-togethers to visit)

**Travel Tips?**

**Meditation?**

**Writers Anonymous?**

**E-power?**

(share new e-device tips)

### Wine Tasting

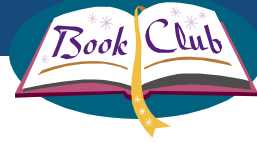
Carolyn Baker, Cindy Harp



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.

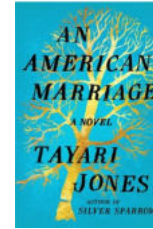
We Inspire Life-Long Learning

## SIG - Book

Contact [Saralynn Nusbaum](#)

Our next meeting will be on  
**Tuesday, October 27, 2020 at 4:30 pm**  
 at our own homes via "Zoom" on the internet where we will be  
 discussing:

***An American Marriage***  
 by Tajari Jones



Discussion:

***The Splendid and the Vile***  
 by Erik Larson  
 —Notes By Sara Robison



When Erik Larson moved to New York City, he began to ponder how families throughout history have dealt with horrendous events such as 9/11. In *The Splendid and The Vile*, Larson relates just one year, May 1940-41, the first year Winston Churchill served as English Prime Minister and the year the city of London was the target of the German Blitz. He settled on the Churchill family and the Churchill Cabinet in his depiction of a tumultuous time in history. Throughout fifty-seven consecutive nights of bombing followed by six months of intermittent attacks, the reader learns how the Churchill family, the average Londoner, and people in other bombed cities

survived and held strong. Larson credits Churchill's success with his strong character, though bullying and ill-tempered at times, as well as his courage, confidence, and possession of a sense of humor.

These qualities taught the English people the art of being fearless. Using primary resources from Churchill, his family, members of the Cabinet, and staffers, and visiting other historical archives, Larson spent more than four years researching and writing this book. Though 500 pages long, the style of short chapters, some only a page in length, and changes of tone alternating between the English and German viewpoint all help to keep the reader interested in turning the page. Our group enjoyed a virtual discussion of this engaging and informative book. And any history buff would certainly enjoy it as well.



## SIG: International Study

Contact [Tiina Wilson](#)

—Peggy Shainberg

We had our first meeting for the year. We did miss meeting in person for appetizers and wine but we still had a social time with wine even if on zoom. Tiina Wilson facilitated the meeting and kept us on point.

We decided that our meetings will be on the third Tuesday at 5:00 pm.

The country this year will be Egypt. We

discussed several subjects to look at, geography, ancient and modern history and politics, culture, art and literature. More subjects may come up as the year progresses.

Next month's meeting Will be October 20th. Rufina Roberts will present on geography and the Nile.

We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp

SIG: **Garden**Contact [Karen Smith](#)

## Smoke keeping you out of your garden?

---Karen Smith

Ok, it's still horribly smoky and who wants to be outside? Not me! So, I have been doing some research on 'burning' gardening questions.

### Is Coca Cola good for plants?

Sugary soda pops are not the most ideal choices for use as fertilizer. ... Therefore, pouring soda on plants, such as Classic Coca Cola, is inadvisable. Coke has a jaw dropping 3.38 grams of sugar per ounce, which would certainly kill the plant as it would certainly be unable to absorb water or nutrients. Much like the human body!

### Touching Plants

Plants can feel you touching them—and sometimes they don't like it. ... "Within 30 minutes of being touched, 10% of the plant's genome is altered." Unlike mobile organisms, a plant cannot flee a threat. Instead, they have a highly sensitive threat-response-system, sort of a plant's version of an

immune system. That is, of course, unless the plant is a Venus Fly Trap in which case it can bite you if you make them mad. I would love to have a hug now and again! Darn this Covid-19 and no hugs from friends.

### Communication

The forest really does hum with life. Though often too low or too high for human ears to detect, insects and animals signal each other with vibrations. Even trees and plants fizz with the sound of tiny air bubbles bursting in their plumbing. I have that problem at times! And there is evidence that insects and plants "hear" each other's sounds. They gossip, especially the oak trees. You can't believe anything they say!

### Ouch

Plants feel pain too. Researchers find an ultrasonic 'scream' is emitted when stems are cut or if species are not watered enough. A

team of scientists at Tel Aviv University have discovered that some plants emit a high frequency distress sound when they undergo environmental stress. With all this smoke, my garden is SCREAMING! And so am I, my husband is starting to get worried.

### No Hair of the Dog

Since plants do not have a brain like humans, they cannot get drunk. It is not possible for flowers to be hungover the next day after a watering can of beer. Maybe I'll come back as a plant.

Namaste.

**Next month: 90 Beautiful Garden ideas Using Old Plastic Bottles**

We Sponsor Community Forums

## SIG: Play Reading

Contact [Dawn Johnson](#)



### The Play Must Go On!

—Dawn Johnson

Defying COVID and the Creek Fire, the play readers managed to meet via Zoom to read “Enchanted April,” written by Mathew Barber and based on a 1922 novel by Elizabeth von Anim. With each person grasping a copy of the play that they picked up from a box at Micki’s garden gate, we were able to switch parts seamlessly and see everybody on screen. It was almost like our regular meeting, except we didn’t drink coffee, eat cookies or see each other below the waist.

“Enchanted April” was anything but enchanting. Most of our readers agreed that the 2003 movie was much better, being enriched by the grand scenery of Italy. The story centered on two London housewives in boring marriages who pool their savings to rent a villa in Italy and reluctantly recruit a pair of difficult upper-class women to share

the cost and experience. Predictably, they clash and then bond and start to bloom, but things change when the men show up. The dry wit and clever staging of the play didn’t translate too well to Zoom, but we found a few chuckles. We were so happy to read together again that the 150-page “Medicare for You” publication would have been fun.

Next up is “Disgraced,” which promises to be a thought-provoking look at Islamophobia....And it takes place at a dinner party?

The Play Reading Group has a great time cold reading plays. No dramatic talent is needed. Contact Dawn at [dawn-andjay.johnson@gmail.com](mailto:dawn-andjay.johnson@gmail.com) for info.

## SIG: Great Decisions

Contact [Becky Mock](#)



The Great Decisions SIG met via Zoom for a planning meeting on September 9. After

looking at all of the interesting topics in the 2020 and the 2021 Foreign Policy Association Great Decision Briefing Books, the group has decided to meet once per month on the 2nd Wednesday. Each meeting will start with a presentation of DVD documentary published by the FPA for each topic. After the DVD

viewing, the group has a lively discussion on the evening’s topic. Our first discussion topic will be “Climate Change and the Global Order” and will be October 14 at 5:00 pm via Zoom. Until AAUW sanctions in-person meetings, we will continue to meet with Zoom. If you think you might be interested in joining our discussion group, consider crashing our October Zoom meeting. Just let [Becky Mock](#) know.

We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential

SIG: **Hiking**

Contact [Trish Darcy](#)



# Signs of fall: hikers explore creative solutions



Above and Right: Trish got these two shots while hiking Allred Road-notice the blue sky!



Below: Dawn snapped this shot of the deer right out her front door!



Above: Jody caught this photo while walking her dogs.

We Open Eyes

**AAUW - Mariposa Branch**

Member Mixer &amp; Leadership Business Meeting

September 13, 2020

3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

**Members:**

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

**Additional Attendees:**

Becky Mock  
Dawn Johnson  
Karen Smith  
Peggy Shainberg  
Marilyn Saunders  
Veronica Gross  
Beth Tomsick  
Jacqui Dozier  
Saralynn Nusbaum  
Jill Rowney  
Tiina Wilson

*There were also others who arrived that Rebecca Swisher missed noting.*

**Welcome:****Leadership Team Member Introductions (*Dina Lambert*)**

Dina Lambert reviewed the agenda for this meeting, including the process for using Zoom and a brief tutorial on how to access the audio/microphone. - She described the following individuals' roles:

- Jody Sergienko, Co-President
- Cindy Harp, Co-President
- Bonnie Little, Membership: Communications between Bonnie and Dina are occurring through phone and e-mail due to COVID-19.
- Rebecca Swisher, Recording Secretary
- Dina Lambert, Finance Officer
- Kim Monson, Team Member

- Trish Darcy, Team Member
- Full Team and Assigned Duties (*Dina Lambert*)

Dina Lambert stated that this group includes the Leadership Team members as well as the other essential members who are leading projects:

- Backpack Project: Rebecca Swisher & Kim Monson
- Tech Connect: Rebecca Swisher & Kim Monson
- Tech Trek: Barbara Silva & Trish Darcy
- Dinner With A Scientist: Marilyn Saunders
- **Publicity (VACANT)**
- Fundraising: Sandi Gabe
- Advertising: Dina Lambert
- Newsletter: Jill Rowney
- Goodwill Ambassador & Member Liaison: Anne Dolchanczyk

## **2020 – 2021 Updates:**

### **Programs for 2020 – 2021**

- **John C. Fremont Hospital Measure N Virtual Event (November Ballot) (*Trish Darcy*)**

Trish Darcy reported that this event is scheduled for September 23, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. It is being held at the request of Therese Williams for Matthew Matthiessen, CEO to present information on Measure N. Our own Beth Tomsick is one of the “Mariposans for a Healthier Future” committee members, and she will be presenting as well. Trish reminded those present that AAUW is not formally supporting either side, but is hosting this event in order for voters to access information on this measure. The event will be held over Zoom, and AAUW Mariposa will post links to it on its Facebook page and website. Trish will also send out the link via e-mail to all members. She explained that Zoom was selected over Facebook, as Zoom can be held completely virtually while Facebook requires some in-person coordination. There will be time for Q&A, and the process for submitting questions has yet to be finalized. Marilyn Saunders suggested that questions be submitted through the chat box on Zoom in order to track them and ensure they are answered. Beth concurred that this would be the best method for question submission. Attendees will be coming in through the waiting room, so AAUW will know who is attending.
- **Local College Students Support (*Jody Sergienko*)**

Jody Sergienko reported that she has been talking with her children and their friends as well as some of her friends who are all college students. They have voiced struggling with virtual learning this semester/year. There have been three underlying themes to these conversations, including feelings of:

  - Uncertainty: Students do not know what the world is going to look like and are unsure of whether their studies will be beneficial in the future.

We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp

- **Being overwhelmed:** Students are feeling challenged with how to manage their time and balance different aspects of their life (e.g., work vs. school, relevancy of major, etc.)
- **Disconnection:** Students report that they are not receiving communications from colleges about current and future plans. They feel separated from their peers and their families are not able to empathize with their current experiences.

Jody stated that she has obtained several suggestions, including providing:

- **Financial support** (i.e., gas cards)
- **Emotional support:** Provide ways to connect with professionals in their field of studies (e.g., mentoring on how to get started in their chosen careers, coping with change, assessing pros and cons of chosen field, navigating college life vs. student life)
- Attendees voiced support for a mentoring project. Those present discussed whether to approach this as a program or a mentoring group. Saralynn Nusbaum recommended starting with an introductory program and then moving to individualized 1:1 mentoring.
- A couple concerns about this project were also noted. For example, Becky Mock questioned the direction to guide students. Jody said that training is available and could be coordinated. Kim Monson voiced that the message to convey to students is the importance of being willing to try and fail and learn from experience.

### **Seven (7) SIG Groups & Leaders for 2020 – 2021**

- **International:** Tiina Wilson  
Tiina Wilson submitted an electronic update, which Dina Lambert read. This group's next meeting will be September 22, 2020 via Zoom. At this meeting, they will decide which country/countries to explore this year, goals for the group, and how to proceed with meetings.
- **Book:** Saralynn Nusbaum  
Saralynn Nusbaum reported that this group is meeting by Zoom and that the day and time has been flexible. The meeting starts with a check-in and then moves on to the book discussion. This SIG rotates leaders each month. The discussion leader for the following month brings ideas of books to read, and the group decides which one. Their next book discusses racial roadblocks.
- **Hiking:** Trish Darcy  
Trish Darcy reported that typically she sets up a Google doc, and each SIG member selects a month and plans a hike for the group, which results in variety. This group did a miles competition last year after COVID prevented in-person hikes. This year, there were several ideas for the SIG hikes. The group will start with themed hikes, including "signs of fall." Folks will hike and send pictures to Trish



with photos denoting autumn. Other ideas that the group hopes to incorporate over the year are scavenger hunts and geocache. Once in-person is allowed again, we will move back to the Google doc planning process.

- **Play Group:** Dawn Johnson

Dawn Johnson stated that this will be the third year for this SIG. They get together once a month and cold read a play. Plays rotate among AAUW branches, so she receives a box with ten plays, which tend to be older and classics. At the reading, the group randomly assigns parts and switches around to allow everyone to participate. Their first meeting was by Zoom last week. Dawn left the plays at one person's house with a sign in and sign out sheet, and everyone picked up their own book. They read the play, and then folks returned the plays, and Dawn picked them up and mailed them to next branch. "Enchanted April" was the last play, and "Disgraced" is on the docket for next month. The day and time of their meeting is flexible due to varying arrival of the box of plays. Dawn notifies folks via e-mail of when the next reading will be held.

- **Great Decisions:** Becky Mock

Becky Mock reported that this SIG is a discussion group on pertinent topics. They use the briefing book published by the Foreign Policy Association. There are about eight different subjects pertinent to global situations. The planning meeting happened last week, and this SIG will start meeting monthly. They start by watching the documentary program on each topic, and then they discuss it. They will be meeting via Zoom until AAUW clears groups to meet in person. Upcoming topics are:

- October – Environment
- November – Modern slavery and human trafficking
- December – Artificial intelligence (AI)

- **Gardening:** Karen Smith

Karen Smith reported that this SIG has not been active since the pandemic began due to a previous focus on going on field trips as well as the weather and smoke impacting individual gardening. She will work on figuring out ways to meet virtually. She has been sending information to members to assist with gardening. This SIG's members gave kudos to Karen for her efforts in enabling this group to connect.

- **Wine:** Carolyn Baker & Cindy Harp

Cindy Harp reported that this is really a wine and food group. They have not been able to meet in-person, so they held one Zoom party where members had their own food and drinks and caught up. There are some ideas for future virtual gatherings, including creating COVID wine lists, Zoom parties, and continuing socialization. Cindy and Carolyn want to energize this group in a new way this year and continue to connect with each other. However, they are looking forward to

returning to in-person gatherings.

- **Additional Means of Connecting:**

- **Mariposa Fiber Arts Group:** Saralynn Nusbaum

Saralynn Nusbaum reported that although this is not an AAUW group, this group provides means to connect with others through creating art during COVID.

- Bonnie Little reminded those present that if they are interested in starting a new SIG group, to please let her know. Also, members can join SIGs at any time: they just need to let her or Dina Lambert know, so that they can add them to the group list.

### **Fundraisers for 2020 – 2021**

- **Mad Hatter Fundraiser** (*Bonnie Little*)

Bonnie Little presented an electronic report from Sandi Gabe. Preparations were under way, but are now on hold until the COVID pandemic allows for in-person gathering.

### **Projects for 2020 – 2021**

- **Backpack Recap** (*Rebecca Swisher and Kim Monson*)

- Cathy Owens led this event this year as her last one. Kim Monson reported that the alternate approach to this event went really well with nearly all the backpacks being donated by members. We distributed 40 backpacks at the Mariposa event and 15 at the Coulterville event. Rebecca Swisher reported that the remaining 5 backpacks were given to Mariposa Safe Families, as this organization had families approach them who were unable to attend the events who were in need of backpacks.
- **Successes:** Rebecca Swisher reported that parents were thankful for the support and the ease of obtaining supplies, especially since COVID had made everything else so challenging. Kim Monson stated that the recommendation is to provide additional backpacks next year, as those set aside for the events were rapidly distributed.
- **Areas for Improvement:** Dawn Johnson voiced concern that AAUW was not co-branded on this event. Others concurred with this statement. Rebecca Swisher stated that she has already had communications with the lead for this event and has been assured that next year will be different. She plans to have greater participation in the planning of this event so that she can preview flyers and ensure that AAUW headlines this event.

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

Marilyn Saunders reported this is usually held at the UC Merced campus, which is closed for the fall and spring semesters. She considered doing something on Zoom, using breakout rooms; however, when she looked at what professors and professionals were going through trying to adjust to COVID, she didn't feel right about add-

We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential

ing burden to their workload. She will monitor for the potential to hold this in the spring, but it is unlikely that this event will be held in 2020-2021.

- **Tech Connect** (*Rebecca Swisher and Kim Monson*)

Kim Monson reported that Tech Connect is based on Speech Trek and uses the Speech Trek topic. However, rather than memorizing and presenting a live speech, students will have the opportunity to get creative using a video presentation. She talked with Celeste in late July who voiced support of this project. AAUW needs to create a video to present this contest to students, and Celeste will send it out to them. Rebecca Swisher will send out a request for committee participation.

- **Tech Trek** (*Trish Darcy and Barb Silva*)

Trish Darcy reported that there were five girls picked for Tech Trek this year whose camp was cancelled. The committee met via Zoom to plan a special event for these girls. There were many fabulous ideas, and the committee decided to put together a local event here in Mariposa, which will have the added benefit of supporting local businesses. Kim Monson offered her vacation rental with AAUW Mariposa covering the cleaning fee. The girls will get the experience of being away from home. Kim and Dawna Hunter are strong participants in the committee and will be working to make this as much like a Tech Trek camp as possible.

- **Tech Trek 2020 – 2021:** Trish Darcy reported that AAUW state has asked branches to wait until January 1, 2021 to see where COVID is before sending out requests for applications. State is working on figuring out how to do Tech Trek virtually. Stanford has already cancelled camp for next summer, so we need to be prepared for it to be cancelled elsewhere. There are a couple options open to us if this event is cancelled at the state level: 1) not hold any Tech Trek and 2) select girls and provide a camp locally for both groups. The committee's next meeting will be in October to disburse tasks.

- **Scholarship** (*Trish Darcy and Kim Monson*)

Trish Darcy reported that one of the Bay Area AAUW branches gives a scholarship to college juniors and seniors. She has submitted example paperwork from that branch to the Google drive. Support for AAUW Mariposa providing something similar exists among the Leadership Team. We need to figure out the details of this program. Marilyn Saunders asked about including women who are re-entering college. Dawn Johnson appreciates that both of these ideas serve groups that are normally underserved. Trish and Kim will work on creating a committee to iron out details.

## September 2020 Leadership Business Meeting

- **August 2020 Minutes** (*Rebecca Swisher*): Rebecca Swisher reported electronically that the August 2020 meeting minutes were approved virtually and submitted to Jill Rowney for inclusion in the September newsletter.

• **Finance Report** (Dina Lambert)  
August 2020 Finance Report:

		Mariposa AAUW Treasurer's Report August 31, 2020			
	Aug-2020	Fiscal YTD	Fiscal Budget	YTD Variance	
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	\$ 19,208.21	\$ 18,926.76			
<b>INCOME</b>					
<b>Dues</b>					
National	\$ 59.00	\$ 472.00	\$ -	\$ 472.00	
State	\$ 40.00	\$ 180.00	\$ -	\$ 180.00	
District	\$ 30.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 1,125.00	\$ (825.00)	
<b>Total Dues</b>	<b>\$ 129.00</b>	<b>\$ 952.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,125.00</b>	<b>\$ (825.00)</b>	
<b>Donations</b>					
Undesignated	\$ 6.00	\$ 6.00	\$ 100.00	\$ (94.00)	
Designated:	-	-	-	-	
Backpack	-	-	1,157.00	\$ (1,157.00)	
Tech Trek	-	-	250.00	\$ (250.00)	
Tech Connect	-	-	93.00	\$ (93.00)	
Dinner w/ Scientist	-	-	500.00	\$ (500.00)	
<b>Fundraisers</b>					
Yard Sale (Cancelled)	-	-	-	-	
Spring Event (Mad Hatter)	-	203.00	2,000.00	\$ (1,797.00)	
<b>Ads</b>					
	-	-	100.00	\$ (100.00)	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 135.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,161.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,325.00</b>	<b>\$ (4,816.00)</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
<b>Dues</b>					
National Dues	\$ 59.00	\$ 472.00	\$ -	\$ 472.00	
State Dues	\$ 40.00	\$ 180.00	\$ -	\$ 180.00	
<b>Total Dues Expended</b>	<b>\$ 99.00</b>	<b>\$ 652.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 652.00</b>	
<b>Administration</b>					
Directory	-	-	300.00	\$ 300.00	
Awards/Gifts	-	-	150.00	\$ 150.00	
Insurance	-	-	400.00	\$ 400.00	
Postage	-	-	300.00	\$ 300.00	
Supplies	-	-	200.00	\$ 200.00	
Nametags	-	-	-	-	
Website Hosting / Google Acct	\$ 6.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 88.00	
Phonevite	-	-	25.00	\$ 25.00	
Meetings	-	-	200.00	\$ 200.00	
Chamber Dues	\$ 120.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 120.00	-	
<b>Member Events</b>					
Holiday Event	-	-	375.00	\$ 375.00	
Annual Mtg/Brunch	-	-	200.00	\$ 200.00	
<b>Programs</b>					
Facilities	-	-	100.00	\$ 100.00	
Hospitality	-	-	75.00	\$ 75.00	
Miscellaneous	-	-	250.00	\$ 250.00	
<b>Projects</b>					
Backpack	-	185.55	1,800.00	\$ 1,614.45	
Tech Trek	-	-	9,200.00	\$ 9,200.00	
Speech Trek	-	-	1,100.00	\$ 1,100.00	
Dinner w/ Scientist	-	-	1,800.00	\$ 1,800.00	
<b>Funds Assessment</b>	-	-	1,100.00	\$ 1,100.00	
<b>Leadership Development</b>	-	-	2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	
<b>Marketing</b>	-	-	200.00	\$ 200.00	
<b>Equipment</b>	-	-	1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	-	-	300.00	\$ 300.00	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 225.00</b>	<b>\$ 969.55</b>	<b>\$ 21,295.00</b>	<b>\$ 21,629.45</b>	
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$ 19,118.21</b>	<b>\$ 19,118.21</b>			

We Value Education

- Income: \$135.00
- Expenses: \$225.00 (e.g., website, chamber dues, national and state dues)
- August 2020 Finance Report: Approved via vote done through Zoom poll. All in favor with no nays or abstentions.
- **Membership Update** (*Bonnie Little*)

Bonnie Little reported that there are currently 73 paid members. Nine did not re-new from last year (four moved, four provided no reason, and one stated they will probably rejoin next year). The directory is a work in progress. Please let Bonnie know if there are any changes to your contact information. Also, let her know if you want to start a new SIG.
- **Vote on Proposed 2020 – 2021 Budget** (*Dina Lambert*)

Dina Lambert presented the proposed 2020 – 2021 Budget. Projections for donations are similar to last year’s budget. Expenses will increase from last year (e.g., mailing out all directories to members, Zoom subscription, potential for two Tech Trek groups, purchase tech equipment to support Tech Connect).

Discussion:

  - Becky Mock asked about having the directory available in an electronic format. Dina Lambert stated that in the past members have voiced concerns about the ease of their information being shared if it is in an electronic format, so the decision was made to continue printing hard copies.
  - Dawn Johnson asked about the grant received for Tech Connect. Dina Lambert reported that it was received last year so it is reflected in this project’s beginning budget.
  - Vote to Approve 2020 – 2021 Budget: Done via Zoom poll. All in favor (12) with no nays or abstentions.

**New Business:**

Peggy Shainberg shared information about how voters can track their ballots. Dina Lambert will send out this information to all members via e-mail.

**Q&A**

None.

**Closing Comments** (*Cindy Harp*)

Cindy Harp thanked everyone for attending and participating on behalf of the entire Leadership Team. She encouraged attendance at future monthly Leadership Team meetings and asked folks to contact project leads if they are interested in planning and implementing. Stay safe!

**October, 2020 Newsletter Assignments:**

- Member Profile:  
Kim Monson
- Lead Article (Admin Overview):  
Jodi Sergienko
- Board to Board  
Cindy Harp will submit for the October 2020 newsletter.
- COVID Update:  
Jody will submit.

**Leadership Meeting Lead:**

- October 2020: (agenda) Jody Sergienko

**Branch Buzz (*Trish Darcy*):**

- Trish Darcy will send out the Branch Buzz

**Action Items:**

- Ensure AAUW is Co-Sponsor of Back to School Event: **DUE March 2021** (Rebecca Swisher)
- Purchase PA System and AV Equipment:

**Upcoming Dates:**

- Wednesday, September 23, 2020 - John C. Fremont Hospital Measure N Virtual Event (November Ballot) – Via Zoom at 6:00 p.m.
- Monday, October 5, 2020 – AAUW Mariposa Leadership Team Meeting – Via Zoom at 5:30 p.m. – Everyone is welcome!

# Coming Soon!

Watch your mailbox for our 2020-2021 directory.

We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp

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



**Cindy Harp**  
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<p>AAUW- Mariposa <a href="http://www.aauwmariposa.com">www.aauwmariposa.com</a> Board Officers: 2020-2021</p> <p>Leadership Team:</p> <p><a href="#">Trish Darcy</a> <a href="#">Cindy Harp</a> <a href="#">Dina Lambert</a> <a href="#">Bonnie Little</a> <a href="#">Kim Monson</a> <a href="#">Jody Sergienko</a> <a href="#">Rebecca Swisher</a></p> <p><i>The Sierra Outpost</i>, 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:jillrowney@yahoo.com">jillrowney@yahoo.com</a></p>	<p>Project Chairs/Coordinators</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Advertising</td> <td>open</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Back Pack Project</td> <td><a href="#">Kim Monson &amp; Rebecca Swisher</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dinner With a Scientist</td> <td><a href="#">Marilyn Saunders</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Goodwill Ambassador</td> <td>open</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Newsletter Editor</td> <td><a href="#">Jill Rowney</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Publicity</td> <td><a href="#">Jody Sergienko</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Social Media</td> <td><a href="#">Dina Lambert</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tech Connect*</td> <td><a href="#">Kim Monson &amp; Rebecca Swisher</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tech Trek</td> <td><a href="#">Trish Darcy &amp; Barbara Silva</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Website</td> <td><a href="#">Dina Lambert</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Yardsale</td> <td>open</td> </tr> </table> <p>AAUW      <a href="https://aauw.org/">https://aauw.org/</a> AAUW California      <a href="http://www.aauw-ca.org/">http://www.aauw-ca.org/</a></p>	Advertising	open	Back Pack Project	<a href="#">Kim Monson &amp; Rebecca Swisher</a>	Dinner With a Scientist	<a href="#">Marilyn Saunders</a>	Goodwill Ambassador	open	Newsletter Editor	<a href="#">Jill Rowney</a>	Publicity	<a href="#">Jody Sergienko</a>	Social Media	<a href="#">Dina Lambert</a>	Tech Connect*	<a href="#">Kim Monson &amp; Rebecca Swisher</a>	Tech Trek	<a href="#">Trish Darcy &amp; Barbara Silva</a>	Website	<a href="#">Dina Lambert</a>	Yardsale	open
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