



## Sierra Outpost

### Virtual Holiday Party coming soon!

—Bonnie Little

Have you all marked your calendars for **Sunday, December 13th, at 2:00?** We will be celebrating via Zoom and we hope to have as many members join in as possible! It will be a fun way to catch up with each other and add some enjoyment to the holiday season. This is NOT a business meeting! So get into your comfy clothes, grab a beverage if you wish, settle in, and be part of the fun. The Zoom invite has already



Anyone who attends the Zoom gathering will have their name put into a drawing for a little door prize!

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been sent, but is included at the end of this article. A reminder email will be sent the day before the party. Getting onto Zoom is easy and instructions on how to set up a Zoom account are in this month's newsletter. One lucky Zoomer will win this Christmas basket filled with goodies. You do not need to participate in the Secret Santa exchange to be part of the party. For those of you who ARE participating in the Secret Santa gift exchange, please be sure to send your gift in time to arrive before December 13th. Try to resist the

*(Continued on page 2)*

**Sunday, December 13th, at 2:00**

(Click [here](#) for Zoom information)

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temptation to open your gift early! We will open gifts together at the end of the party for the big reveal. If you are mailing a gift, feel free to put Trish Darcy's address as the return address.

Hope to "see" all of you on December 13th!



December 13, 2020 2:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81218702705?pwd=eEVPTG9DdzZZUkYzU0FFbi9wKzZYUT09>

Meeting ID: 812 1870 2705

Passcode: 079174

## Leadership Team

—Cindy Harp

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to the almost -end of 2020, a year that I think we all anticipate seeing in the rear-view mirror! But wait—there's more! Don't forget to log into our virtual **Holiday Gathering** coming this Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> via Zoom ([link here](#)).

You may have noticed that this newsletter did not arrive on your desktop on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December as usual. In order to include the "Board to Branch" news which is taken from the AAUW State "Board to Board" newsletter that arrives around the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month, we have decided to change the date of the newsletter to the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month. We will see how that works for everyone, and if we need to, we can adjust again. We also encourage those who are interested in the larger organization's activities to visit the state and national AAUW's websites for videos and webinars offering information and training aligned with our mission.

If you have been paying attention, you will be aware that this year we started a new project called **Tech Connect** that is meant to replace

and/or build upon the Speech Trek project. Tech Connect is intended to use the same topic and basically the same structure as Speech Trek, but with a twist: instead of memorizing and giving a speech, students are asked to produce a video presentation on the topic. We still need two coaches to assist the students in structuring their thoughts and presentations. If you would like to participate as a coach for our students, please contact Kim Monson ASAP. Time is of the essence! Coaching can be via phone, email, and Zoom. No technical/filmmaking expertise required!

Your board has been busy tracking the impacts of the Covid-19 lockdown on all of our programs. In addition, we have been planning for a more dynamic spring, including investigating timely topics for our public programs, the potential of starting an annual scholarship program for students who are in their third or fourth year of college, and participation in the AAUW 5-Star Branch program. What's that, you ask? See the

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We Value Education



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explanation below.

While we are all hunkering down to await the Covid vaccine and hopefully, the end of our physical estrangement from each other, let's look forward to a joyful season of giving and a Happy New Year!

### **The 5-Star Program** (—by Trish Darcy)

AAUW National has a 5-Star Program that rewards branches for planning their year around AAUW's strategic plan that promotes advancing gender equity for women and girls. We have been looking at the 5 areas to focus on and what we need to do to earn a star or two (or 3 or 4 or 5!). The 5 areas are: Programs, Advancement, Communications and External Relations, Public Policy and Research, and Governance and

Sustainability. We will be looking at the criteria in these areas to see what we already do that fits and what we can align more closely to AAUW's strategic plan. We think this will help us structure our planning for the Mariposa Branch and offer opportunities for members who want to help raise the profile of the branch while engaging with the organization's mission. Here is a link to the website if you would like to read more about it and watch a video featuring a couple of branches that have attained the 5-Star Award.

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/5-star-program/>

Intrigued? Keep watching for more info to come, either in newsletters or your monthly Branch Buzz.

## Event Calendar

December 9	<b>SIG: Great Decisions:</b> 5:00, via Zoom
December 10	<b>SIG— Play Reading:</b> 4:30, via Zoom
December 13	<b>Holiday Gathering:</b> 2:00pm, via Zoom
December 31	<b>SIG— Hiking:</b> Deadline for submitting photos of rocks
<b>2021</b>	
January 4	<b>Leadership Team Meeting:</b> 5:30pm, via Zoom
January 5	<b>SIG- Book Group:</b> 4:30pm, via Zoom
January 13	<b>SIG: Great Decisions:</b> 5:00, via Zoom
June 13, 2021	<b>Annual Meeting:</b> 2:00pm, format TBD



We Inspire Life-Long Learning



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## Board to Branch



### Notes from AAUW California Board

—Cindy Harp

#### FROM DIANNE'S DESK

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

This is the time of year when I start looking forward to the possibilities of a NEW YEAR. I am shopping, baking, and preparing for the holidays and, also, looking forward to a new beginning.

*I am looking forward* to working with our new marketing consultant, Dowitcher DESIGNS, and learning how all of us can make AAUW California more visible in our golden state.

*I am looking forward* to working with our new advocacy firm, MVM Strategies, and preparing for our virtual Lobby Day in late March. I hope you will all join us that day.

*I am looking forward* to our April 17, 2021 virtual Annual Meeting with exciting speakers, new awards, and our Speech Trek contest. Be sure to join us to see some new twists.

*I am looking forward* to seeing everyone in person again in the summer or fall of 2021. The timing is still unknown, but we will all look forward to that.

*I am looking forward* to saying "Goodbye 2020." It was not the greatest year, but we

learned a lot about Zoom, webinars, and more techie stuff than we thought we needed to know.

Have a wonderful and safe holiday everyone! Be kind to yourself and others!

#### NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS

**Janice Lee**, Nominations & Elections Chair, [nominating@aauw-ca.org](mailto:nominating@aauw-ca.org)

#### BET YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS...

##### **Bold, Brave, & Brilliant!**

These are the leadership traits we are looking for in candidates to fill three open positions on the 2021 AAUW California Board of Directors.

- President-Elect (one-year term 2021-2022) during the second year of the president's term, followed by a two-year term (2022-2024) as president
- Chief Financial Officer (two-year term 2021-2023)
- Director (two-year term 2021-23)

We bet that You have these leadership qualities. If you have been thinking about getting more involved at the state level with AAUW and have been enjoying and learning

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from all the webinars this year and appreciate all the programs planned to meet AAUW's mission, then contact the Nominations & Elections Committee.

Deanna Arthur, Charlene Goehring, and Janice Lee are here to cheer you on and to answer your questions at [nominating@aauw-ca.org](mailto:nominating@aauw-ca.org).

It's a collaborative, fun, action-oriented time to be part of AAUW California's leadership team.

Click [HERE](#) for details on "How to Proceed," but we are also happy to guide you through the process personally and to give you the inside scoop!

## PROJECT OVERSIGHT

**Jim Doty**, Director, Project Oversight Committee Chair, [oc@aauw-ca.org](mailto:oc@aauw-ca.org)

## LOOKING FOR THE NEXT GREAT PROJECT

We have had word of several project ideas under development and eagerly anticipate further word. Do you have an idea for a project that could enhance the mission of AAUW in 2021-22? Perhaps you are already developing one. Could you use a little financial help? Applications for state funding, up to \$500, are due on March 1, 2021. Any member, branch, or AAUW affiliate may apply. Click [HERE](#) for directions and application forms.

Did your branch receive a state grant funding

prior to 2015? The POC (Project Oversight committee) would like to hear from you. What was the project? Is the project still ongoing? If not, why not?

Write to me at [oc@aauw-ca.org](mailto:oc@aauw-ca.org).

There has never been a time when adaptation and innovation have been needed more. Start now.

## PUBLIC POLICY

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

## AAUW CALIFORNIA PUBLIC POLICY TEAM ANNOUNCES FIRST VIRTUAL LOBBY DAY!

On March 24, 2021, AAUW California in conjunction with our new advocacy firm MVM Strategy Group, will be conducting a virtual Lobby Day with our legislators in Sacramento. This is a terrific opportunity for branch members to get involved in the public policy process by helping the state Public Policy (PP) Committee advance our legislative goals for 2021-22. It's also a great way to meet your local legislators and let them know how you, through AAUW, are helping their constituents in your communities.

We are asking branch PP chairs (or presidents, if your branch doesn't have a PP chair) to help us recruit participants. Please have interested branch members register [HERE](#) by January 8, 2021.

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**We Sponsor Community Forums**



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Finally, all participants will be given full training in a Zoom webinar on March 22, 2021, at 7:00pm. Click [HERE](#) to register for "How to Talk to Your Legislators."

#### Important Dates:

- January 8, 2021- Last day to register to Participate in Lobby Day
- March 22, 2021- Lobby Day training webinar
- March 24, 2021– Lobby Day

#### TITLE IX

**Provided by Linda Slater**

#### TITLE IX- BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS 2020

On Monday, January 21, 2021, at 7pm AAUW California will present this important educational webinar for our members to bring Title

IX/Gender Equity back to a level where our members are "keeping their eyes on equity." Members will learn all about Title IX and how to exercise their voices to "see something and say something" so that they will become more effective as advocates for protecting our students. Click [HERE](#) to register for the webinar.

The speakers include:

- Kiki Williams, Executive Director of Student Experience and Equity Compliance at San Francisco Unified School District.
- Kim Turner, Senior Staff Attorney for Legal Aid at Work. She works with the gender equity and LGBT rights program.
- Jean Reed, Co-President of Petaluma AAUW Branch. She will discuss the AAUW San Jose Sports Equity Community Project.

## Project: Tech Connect



### AAUW Mariposa is piloting a new project. Have you experience with creating videos?

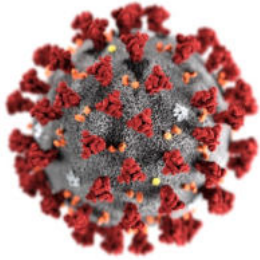
—Kim Monson

Our branch is beta testing a new AAUW project. It is the brain-child of our own Rebecca Swisher and is called Tech Connect. We hope it will take the place of Speech Trek because the old program is dwindling in participants. We had to cancel our project last year due to lack of participation.

The objective of the student participants is to create a video addressing the Speech Trek prompt. This year the prompt is, "Has social media helped or hindered the breaking down of barriers for women and girls?" We are looking for mentors with some video experience and perhaps some storytelling ability. Please contact Kim Monson if you are interested in helping out.

**We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential**

## Health



### Covid Corner

-Jody Sergienko

## New meaning for “Home for the Holidays”

### Regional “Stay at Home” order for December

Thanksgiving kicked off the holiday season and also kicked off the latest surge of COVID-19 cases. As a result, all of us here in Mariposa will be spending a great part, if not all, of December in a regional “stay at home” order - <https://covid19.ca.gov/stay-at-home-except-for-essential-needs/>. What does that mean for us here in Mariposa AAUW?

Home for the holidays has taken on a new meaning. Our stay at home order from the state asks all of us to keep our circle closer, smaller at home. Just as in the spring with the “shelter in place” order, don’t go out unless it is a necessary trip. When you do go out, wear a mask, wash your hands before and after, and keep your distance from others. Unlike last spring, when you are out in our local communities you can assume that someone else out there walking around has the COVID virus. There is community transmission, yes, even in Mariposa. Should you get sick, there may

not be any bed left in the hospital for your treatment.

Check out the Mariposa numbers here on our county dashboard– [click here](#).

And find more information here at the Public Health web page– [click here](#)

Your AAUW Leadership Team here and our leaders at both the state and national levels are working to keep AAUW connected safely. We are hosting our annual holiday event virtually this year. All of our SIGs are meeting via Zoom as well. National and state are hosting webinars.

COVID is not going away with the tolling of a new year. And the hope that the vaccines bring will be slow to materialize locally. So please don’t let your guard down. We are planning that the spring and summer will still have the COVID virus threatening our health.

Stay safe, keep in touch, and see you soon.

...’Home for the Holidays’ has taken on a new meaning...



We Open Eyes

## Membership

Bonnie Little, Dina Lambert



### Spotlight on Veronica Gross

—Kim Monson

Among close friends and family Veronica Gross goes by the sobriquet, Nickel. When I asked her how that came about, she said her aunt coined it from combining the middle of “Veronica Lynn”, her first and middle names.

Veronica, the second of eight children of the Rowney family, is no stranger to Mariposa. She grew up here, graduated from Mariposa County High School, and is planning to return to live in a brand new home that she and her husband, Dan, are currently building. She was the first of the eight siblings to graduate from college (Cal State Hayward), receiving a BA in art and earning a teaching credential in post-graduate work.

For 30 years she taught art, photography and English for the East Side Union High School District in San Jose. She fostered creativity and artistic sensibilities in every student lucky enough to be in her classes. As with many teachers, Veronica has stayed in touch with some of her stand-out students of whom she is especially proud.



Peggy Shainberg, recruiter extraordinaire, introduced Veronica to AAUW (and, by the way, to her husband, Dan).

Veronica and Dan have been living in Los Gatos, California, where they raised their daughter, Katie. She has been retired from teaching 22 years, which has enabled her to spend more time painting watercolors, backpacking, skiing, and gardening. Her watercolors are on display in town at Casto Oaks winery tasting room. Check them out there or go to her website

[www.VeronicaGrossArt.com](http://www.VeronicaGrossArt.com) !

## 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?**

**Ukualadies?**

**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: Great Decisions

Contact [Becky Mock](#)

## Shedding light on human trafficking

—Betty Massey

“

The subject for this month’s Great Decisions Zoom meeting was “Human trafficking.” Six of us were able to attend. It was a lively discussion. The biggest surprise to most of us is that sex trafficking is only a small part of the “human trafficking” problem though it receives the greatest amount of attention. We all noted that there are no reliable statistics on any of the types of trafficking though it is believed to be in the multimillions. An interesting fact was that the tighter the borders between countries, the greater the amount of trafficking for sex due to the vulnerability of the men and women forced to rely on traffickers/smugglers to transport them.

There were a few key points that stood out. To be considered trafficking, there must be an element of deception or coercion in getting the victim to be involved. In many countries, children are considered victims only up to 15 years of age for forced labor, bondage, prostitution, armed conflict, drug trafficking, and hazardous work. In the United States, children involved in the sex trade are considered victims up to 18 years of age.

Modern slavery is alive and well, including young boys, teenage boys, and adult men as well as females. Generally, the victims are offered adequate housing, jobs, and trans-

portation to work. But then the cost is inflated, their travel documents may be forged, and their passports taken from them and kept by their employer. At times they are unable to leave because they are isolated due to jobs that take them to remote areas such as those in mining, fishing, and forestry. The work is hazardous and at times boys are used as they can get into small places for mining or in obtaining water in shallow wells. One half of the slaves are from Africa and are usually found in agriculture, fishing, and forestry. Often the boys’ or teens’ families encourage them to accept jobs to aid the family due to economic desperation.

It was clear that we individually gain from the modern slavery as it occurs along supply lines in manufacturing and keeps the price of goods down. Our government encourages businesses to check and not use resources that use slave labor but there isn’t a requirement that they actually do it or any penalty if they knowingly use such resources. There is a website that lists goods produced by child labor: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/reports/child-labor/list-of-goods>.

If you are interested in joining the Great Decisions Group and hearing about upcoming meetings and their topics, contact [Becky](#)

We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp



## SIG: International Study

Contact [Tiina Wilson](#)

### Egypt: Land of many religions but no religious freedom

—Tiina Wilson

For our November meeting, Gary Colliver gave a power point presentation about the history of religion in Egypt. He also talked about some of the pressing environmental issues in Egypt today.

We looked at Egypt's early polytheistic history, the rise of Christianity there, and then the shift to Islam after the Arab conquest.

Tradition has it that St. Mark brought Christianity to Egypt around 43 C.E. This branch of Christianity developed into the unique Egyptian form known as Coptic Christianity. Due to disputes concerning the nature of Christ, it split from the rest of Christendom, resulting in a rivalry with the Greek Orthodox Church.

The Arab invasion brought Islam to Egypt but the religion was not forced on them. Egyptian Christians and Jews were allowed to practice their own religions as long as they paid a special tax. Islam was gradually adopted by increasing numbers. Sunni Islam became the dominant religion and Shia Islam is a small minority. About 10% of the population has remained Coptic and they are the largest Christian community in the Arab world today, numbering about 10 million. In the Arab world, the Copts continue to be severely persecuted. About 1% of Egypt's population is Jewish, Protestant, or Catholic. These minority religions, along with Shia Islamic, are officially recognized but they are also persecuted. There is no religious freedom in Egypt today. There are three

unrecognized and prohibited religions: Hinduism, Bahá'í Faith, and another form of Islam called Ahmadiyya.

Egypt's environmental problems include, but are not limited to, water scarcity, air pollution, damage to historic monuments, animal welfare, and deficiencies in waste management. As examples: air pollution in Egypt is from 10–100 times the acceptable world standard, the Nile Delta is currently under threat from rising sea levels caused by climate change, the looming controversies about the construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam. Relations between Ethiopia, Sudan (both downstream of the dam), and Egypt are tense and negotiations over these issues continue.



*Coptic Cross*

The Egyptian Coptic Orthodox Church uses the Julian calendar therefore, their Christmas is celebrated on January 7.

**"Merry Christmas"**

Written:

عيد ميلاد مجيد

Pronounced: Īd mīlād mağīd.



## SIG - Book

Contact [Saralynn Nusbaum](#)

Our next meeting will be on  
**Tuesday, January 5 at 4:30 pm**  
 at our own homes via "Zoom" where we will be discussing:  
***The Color of Water***  
 by James McBride

***The Book of Longings*****By Sue Monk Kidd**

Discussion notes by Kendra Wilde



December's Book Group's discussion was on *The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd. "...Sue Monk Kidd is an award winning and number one bestselling author. She has written *The Secret Life of Bees*, *The Invention of Wings*, and many more. *The Book of Longings* is about a young woman named Ana who married Jesus and her "bold struggle to realize the passion and potential inside her, while living in a time, place, and culture devised to silence her ..."

Sue Monk Kidd had been exploring feminist theology for years and her exploration in the topic inspired her novel. Her main character, Ana, is Jesus' wife. The author shared these thoughts: "Of course, I don't

know if Jesus actually had a wife. The Bible is silent on the matter. There are reasons to support both the belief he married and the belief he didn't marry. But believing that Jesus had a wife was never the point. What mattered to me was imagining he had a wife. I think there is a need in the human psyche to imagine this missing wife. In a way she symbolizes the missing feminine within religion. I was inspired by how reimagining the past, creating an alternate history, so to speak, might open up new ways of seeing and thinking. The largest inspiration, however, was the character of Ana herself. If Jesus actually had a wife, she would arguably be the most silenced woman in history. I woke up everyday wanting to give her a voice."

I am sure this book will be one that women discuss for years to come on how the Western world would be different if Jesus had married and/or his wife was included in the Bible.

**We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential**

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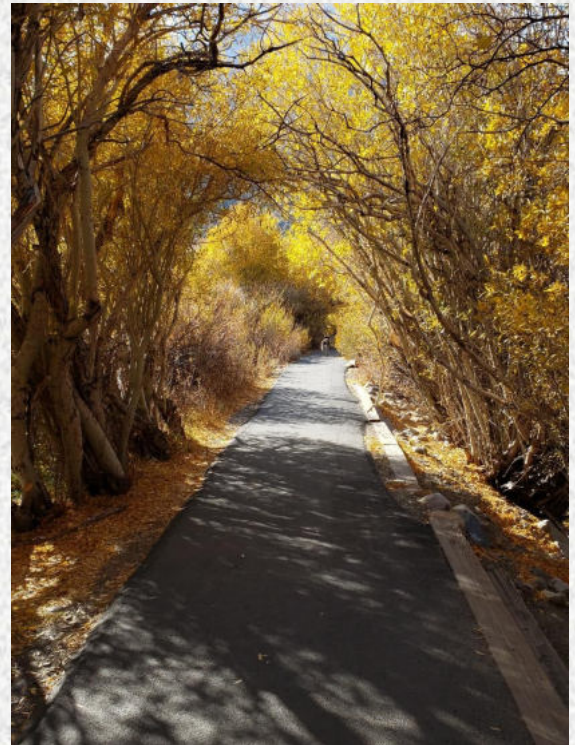


**SIG: Hiking**Contact [Trish Darcy](#)**Wildlife: hikers explore on their own**

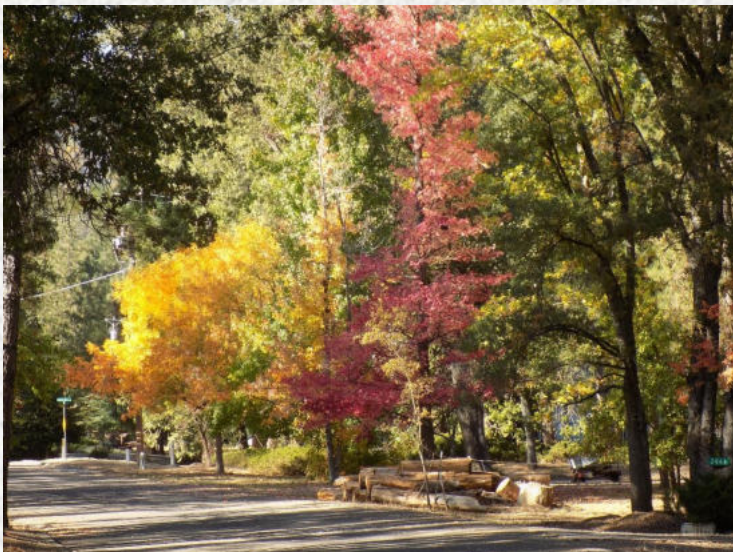
This month's subject was trees. Hikers captured some beautiful examples on their cameras.



Kim Monson- "Streeter Mountain"



Dawn Johnson- "Convict Lake"



Kim Monson- "Ponderosa Basin"



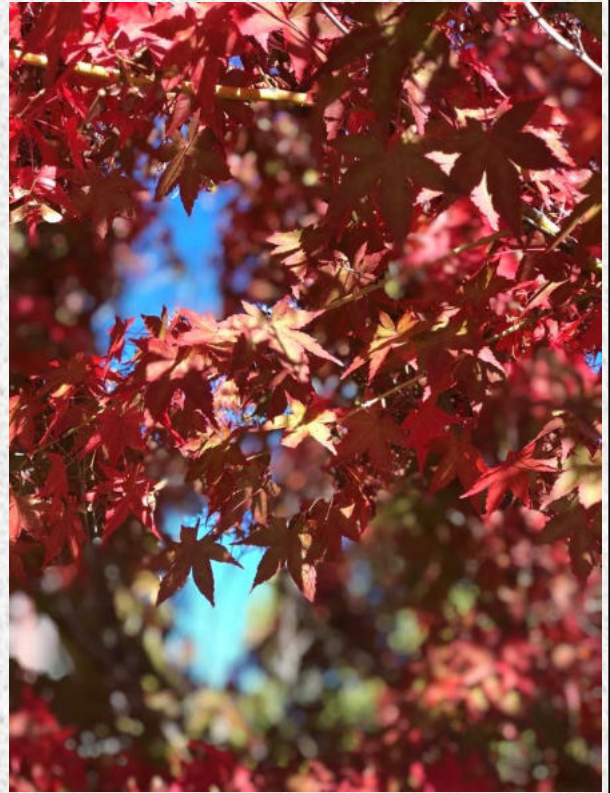
Gary &amp; Reva Colliver- "Black Oak at the Reservoir"





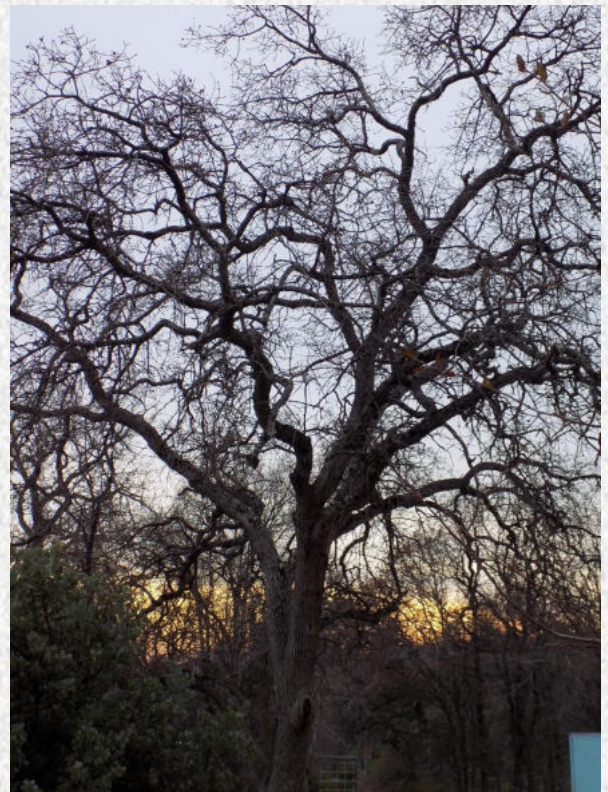
Above: Jody Sergienko- "Yosemite Dogwood"

Right: Jody Sergienko- local tree



Above: Trish Darcy- "Devil's Slide" at Half Moon Bay

Right: Kim Monson- "Streeter Mountain"



We Value Education





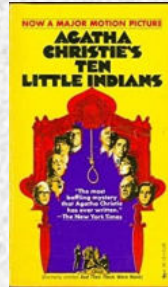
**SIG: Play Reading**Contact [Dawn Johnson](#)**“Ten Little Indians” with only five little readers**

—Dawn Johnson

Agatha Christie’s play “Ten Little Indians,” based on her 1939 novel, is also known as “And Then There were None.”

And after three hours of reading, there were almost none in the Play Reading Group either.

We started with a small Zoom group that dwindled as the evening wore on. The remaining stalwart readers juggled so many parts that we had no idea who was reading whose lines. It was a classic Agatha Christie who-dun-it with the usual cast of characters stranded in a mansion on a remote island. And then, surprise! Someone is murdered. And then someone else. And then someone else. And then someone else. You get the point. The “ten little Indians” were knocked off one by one in mysterious and often gruesome ways for unpunished crimes and



sins they committed in their pasts. The manner of their deaths followed a nursery rhyme and included poisoning, drowning, skull crushing, shooting, and remarkably, being crushed by a giant clock shaped like a bear.

In all, the play had some worthy moments, but it was a long and sometimes tedious read and by the end, we may have been eyeing one of those options for ourselves.

Our next play is “A Raisin in the Sun,” the groundbreaking and award-winning study of the dreams of three generations of a Black family in 1950’s Chicago. This one will be a powerful read. Watch your email for date and Zoom details. To join the Play Reading Group, contact Dawn Johnson at [dawn-andjay.johnson@gmail.com](mailto:dawn-andjay.johnson@gmail.com). No dramatic talent needed!

The following SIGs are on hiatus. Contact the SIG chair for information and/or ideas.

**Garden**Contact: [Karen Smith](#)**Wine Tasting**Contact: [Carolyn Baker](#)Or [Cindy Harp](#)

**We Inspire Life-Long Learning**

**AAUW - Mariposa Branch**

Leadership Business Meeting

November 2, 2020

5:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

**Members:**

Cindy Harp, Co-President

Bonnie Little, Membership

Dina Lambert, Finance Officer

Kim Monson

Rebecca Swisher, Recording Secretary

Trish Darcy

**Absent:**

Jody Sergienko, Co-President

**Guests:**

No guests present at this meeting.

Meeting called to order at 5:37 p.m. by Cindy Harp.**Minutes** (*Rebecca Swisher*)

- Rebecca Swisher reported that the October 2020 meeting minutes were approved electronically and submitted to Jill Rowney for inclusion in the November 2020 newsletter.

**Membership Update** (*Dina Lambert, Bonnie Little*)

- Bonnie reported that the current membership is still 74 members. She received the materials for new members from Dina Lambert and will be updating them to be current.

**Finance Report** (*Dina Lambert*)

- Dina Lambert presented the October 2020 financials.  
October 2020:
  - Total income: \$45.00 (dues)
  - Total expenses: \$132.00 (\$126.00 reimbursement to Bonnie Little for postage for mailing directories; \$6.00 website)
  - Balance: \$18,498.49
- Trish Darcy moved to accept the October 2020 report as presented. Kim Monson seconded. All in favor with no nays or abstentions.

**Standing Projects:****Dinner with a Scientist** (*Marilyn Saunders*)

On hold.

**Backpack** (*Cathy Owens, Kim Monson & Rebecca Swisher*)

Deferred until time to discuss this 2020-2021 summer event.

**We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp****To Page 1**

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

- **2020 Tech Trek Event:**

Trish Darcy stated that she received a response via e-mail from state in regards to the Leadership Team's e-mail requesting state to relook at the plan for the 2020 girls. AAUW California replied that they are examining the plan for 2021 Tech Trek. Trish will keep AAUW Mariposa apprised of the outcome.

- **2021 Tech Trek Event:**

AAUW California will be holding this as a virtual event with the details still being finalized.

**Tech Connect: Multimedia Messages** (*Rebecca Swisher and Kim Monson*)

- Kim Monson reported that she sent the pitch to the school. Trish Darcy saw it on the high school website. Kim said that one person signed up by the deadline. She called Kathleen Leonard who will try to push the program again. The student who signed up is also going to try to get others involved. Kim stated that we will extend the deadline, as the goal is to have at least four participants. A group discussion occurred regarding the potential for students to be burnt out on computer activities this year due to their virtual learning. Rebecca Swisher recommended that even if there are not many students able to participate that we take this time to work with them and use this opportunity to test out the program and get detailed feedback.

- **Special Projects Fund (SPF):**

Dina Lambert reported on the SPF as a pass through for tax deductible donations for projects. She said that the paperwork has been submitted and that we are waiting on the final approval from AAUW California. In order for Tech Connect to be a sanctioned 501(c)(3) tax deductible project, all of our budgeted money for this project, including donations as well as branch budgeted funds, will be sent to AAUW California, and AAUW California will manage the funds based on our submitted requests. (Per IRS ruling, all monies have to be sent through and processed by AAUW California's SPF to be tax deductible.) AAUW California will take 5% of the income from this SPF to manage these monies. The SPF is an ongoing commitment with a required \$1,000 annual contribution for Tech Connect. Dina Lambert discussed the possibility of using SPF for other projects/programs in the future.

**Fundraisers:****"Mad Hatter's Party"** (*Sandi Gabe*)

On hold

**Programs:****Support for Local College Students** (*Jody Sergienko*)

Deferred

**Scholarships** (*Trish Darcy*)

We Sponsor Community Forums

Trish Darcy stated that this might not be the year to start this program, as there is the need for a committee and members to sit on the committee. Challenge to do this during a pandemic. Need to develop a completely new program. Need to talk to counseling office to figure out how to contact students in their junior and senior years of higher education. Dina Lambert reminded those present that we could pursue SPF for this program as well.

**APHA Racial Equity Guide webinar series** (*Rebecca Swisher*)

On hold

**Mental Health in the Time of a Pandemic** (*Jody Sergienko*)

Rebecca Swisher recommended that the Leadership Team check with Jody Sergienko to see about the details of this program. She said that she has a contact she can ask about holding a session on this topic.

**Old Business:**

**Purchase of New PA System and A/V equipment—Jody**

Deferred.

**New Business:**

**Branch Newsletters**—AAUW CA wants to know if we want to share ours, and whether anyone wants to receive newsletters from other branches.

- Trish Darcy reported that Leadership Team received e-mail from AAUW State stating that they will post our newsletter on their website. Cindy Harp will respond to this e-mail saying we are interested and asking what we need to do to make this happen.
- **Five Star Program** – link below - *Trish*

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/5-star-program/>

Trish Darcy presented this program. She does not think that AAUW Mariposa could get the five stars, but it looks like a good way to structure the Leadership Team's planning for this year in adhering to AAUW mission and goals. Trish volunteered to look through and delineate what we could do to achieve the stars over the next couple weeks. Then folks can sign up for the different tasks that interest them. Cindy Harp recommended that we open up this list to the membership to participate in these tasks.

**Newsletter Assignments:**

**Member Profile:**

December 2020 – Kim Monson will interview a member and write-up the information for December's newsletter.

**Lead article** (Admin Overview):

December 2020 – Cindy Harp & Trish Darcy will collaborate on this article.

**We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential**



**Board to Board:**

Cindy Harp will send by eblast after the first of the month, when received from State. It will no longer appear in newsletter because of timing.

**Holiday Party:**

Bonnie Little will submit information on how to sign in to Zoom along with information about the gift basket.

**COVID Update:**

December 2020 – Rebecca Swisher checked with Jody Sergienko who said that she will write this article for the December newsletter.

**Leadership Meeting Lead:**

December 2020: (agenda) – Cindy Harp

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

Trish Darcy will send out the Branch Buzz

**Action Items:**

Task Description	Reason a Priority	Deadline	Assigned To	Next Step
Coordinate Holiday Party	Provide opportunity for social interaction among members	December 1, 2020	Trish Darcy & Others	Provide details of event to members via newsletter.
Establish Partnership with Reedley College in Oakhurst	Align AAUW Mariposa goals with AAUW National	ON HOLD	Cindy Harp	TBD

**Upcoming Dates:**

December 13, 2:00 p.m. – Holiday Zoom!

June 13, 2021, 2:00 p.m. Annual Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m. by Cindy Harp. Seconded by Dina Lambert. All in favor with no nays or abstentions.

We Open Eyes



## Zoom Tutorial

**Are you signed up for Zoom? Here's how!**

Our AAUW Virtual Christmas Party is on  
**December 13th at 2:00.**

We hope to have every member join in on the fun. If you have not used Zoom before, here are some tips to get you started:

1. Visit [zoom.us/sign-up](https://zoom.us/sign-up) and enter your email address. You will receive an email back, and you just need to click "Activate Account." It's free and easy!
2. After you have activated your account, join the zoom party by clicking on the [link here](#). (There have been several emails with this the meeting ID and the password as well, but you should be able to go directly to the party by clicking on the link above. Trish will send out another on December 12th).

That is all you need! Don't miss the fun and a chance to win a basket of goodies!

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Board Officers: 2020-2021

**Leadership Team:**

[Trish Darcy](#)  
[Cindy Harp](#)  
[Dina Lambert](#)  
[Bonnie Little](#)  
[Kim Monson](#)  
[Jody Sergienko](#)  
[Rebecca Swisher](#)

*The Sierra Outpost*, newsletter of the Mariposa Branch of AAUW, is currently published on the 10th 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 3rd of the month. Send information/questions to editor: [jillrowney@yahoo.com](mailto:jillrowney@yahoo.com)

**Project Chairs/Coordinators**

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

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>

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