



Sierra Outpost

Maintaining a healthy mind during an unhealthy pandemic

We know that these times are difficult and we have been struggling ourselves these days! When we were wondering what to put together for a program this month, we realized the answer was right in front of us! We are all struggling with keeping our mental health "healthy" during these times. Join us at lunch (and feel free to eat your lunch during the

program!) on Thursday, January 14th from 12:00-1:00 to learn what you can do to keep yourself mentally healthy! Jody Stanners will join us and give an hour-long presentation on Zoom to give us advice and strategies we can implement.

Please share this with your friends and family and ask them to join us!

Mental Health in the Time of a Pandemic

Day: Thursday
Date: January 14
Time: 12:00pm (PST)

Here is the Zoom link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86708333390?pwd=WENacGFqOVEycW4ra3VnTmFCeEdMdz09>

Meeting ID: 867 0833 3390
Passcode: 236777

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Happy New Year!

Take care of yourself!

MENTAL HEALTH IN THE TIME OF A PANDEMIC

Join AAUW Mariposa for a Lunch and Learn with Jody Stanners. This will be an introductory discussion about mental health awareness and crisis management with a focus on self-awareness and interventions we can implement to help manage our own health during these challenging times.

See [page 1](#) for details .

We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp

Leadership Team

Being together – even when physically apart^t

—Jody Sergienko

I think we have said this before, still...it is okay to not be okay right now. Not long ago I was going through a rough patch and reached out to some friends in other parts of the country. In addition to grounding me, it

answer to that. For me it was to continue to reach out far and wide to friends and family. Every day I send out texts, PMs, emails and handwritten letters. Sometimes I can connect with a phone call!

“...It is okay to not be okay right now...”

was really good for them too. I found out that all across the spectrum people were verbalizing that they were just not okay. There is a generalized feeling of anxiety, “nothing seems to be going right,” or it is simply hard to get through the days. Some of us are facing physical health issues or economic struggles. Yet even those of us who are doing “okay” in those areas are still experiencing stress. Then we wonder, “Why am I stressed when I am not going hungry and have a safe place to live?”

It is because we care.

How do we show that we care when it is not safe to gather? Each of us will find our own

The other common theme is that we feel like we are living our lives on hold, or we are living with the fear of the unknown. Some of us are totally tired of “Zoom this and Zoom that!” Others are “don’t know how or even want to do anything online.” But there is so much out there! Sometimes it only takes a few minutes of connection with someone you know.

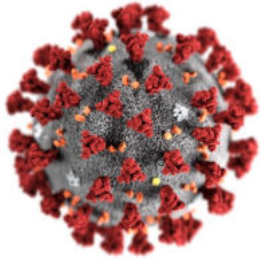
We are all in this together, while we are apart. Reach out, make that connection.

Event Calendar

January 13	SIG- Great Decisions: 5:00, via Zoom
January 14	Program: “Mental Health in the Time of a Pandemic” 12:00-1:00pm, via Zoom
January 19	SIG- International Study: 5:00pm, via Zoom
January 31	SIG- Hiking: Deadline to submit hiking photos to Trish
February 1	Leadership Team Meeting: 5:30pm, via Zoom
February 2	SIG- Book Group: 4:30pm, via Zoom
February 10	SIG- Great Decisions: 5:00, via Zoom
June 13, 2021	Annual Meeting: 2:00pm, format TBD



Health



Covid Corner

-Jody Sergienko

Even a vaccine can't guarantee our safety

New Year ... same old pandemic! Well, not quite the same for us here in Mariposa. COVID has finally gotten its hold on our community. As small as we are, with cases rising you can pretty much assume someone you know or know of has been exposed. Even with the vaccine now being distributed nationally, the only way to slow this spread is to separate to 6 feet or more, mask up, clean up, and stay home.

But what about vaccines? The question on everybody's mind is "when will we get the vaccine?" Our county is on track and administering vaccinations as fast as the vaccines come in. The vaccination planning team has a tiered system breaking down who gets what and when. Our frontline health care workers and EMS have already been vaccinated.

Next up is Tier 1B, planned to begin January 11th. This includes frontline essential workers such as fire and law enforcement. For the general public, it includes those 75 years and older; 65 years and up who have underlying high-risk medical conditions.

The full list can be found by clicking [here](#). Heading this list are those who have cancer, COPD, kidney failure, heart conditions severe obesity, and smoke.

Timing for Tier 1C is yet to be determined. That category includes other essential workers such as grocery staff, people 65 years and older (without underlying medical

conditions), 16 to 64 year-olds with underlying medical conditions.

So, say you fall into one of the tiers and you want to be vaccinated? There will be a form posted on the community health COVID page, which will also tell you where and when you can get a vaccine.

All that said, just know that we cannot count on any of the vaccines to stop this disease. As a community, we cannot count on it to keep us intact or safe. I give you this quote from the New York Times that sums up what needs to be done.

"As I've explained before, the biggest factor that will determine how many more people die from the virus isn't likely to be the precise effectiveness of the vaccines or even the speed of their rollout. The biggest factor is instead likely to be how much we reduce the spread of the virus over the next few months, through a combination of mask wearing, social distancing and [expanded testing](#). Those efforts can cut caseloads — and, by extension, deaths — more rapidly than a mass vaccination campaign can."

Your leadership team encourages every one of us in AAUW and our community to go to <https://www.lhi.care/covidtesting> and sign up for testing. Our local testing site is out of the back of the senior center, 5246 Spriggs Lane up near the hospital. There is no charge to the person being tested.



On the lookout for those who might enjoy being in on the planning stages!

—Trish Darcy

Now is the time we begin looking forward to our **board** for next year. If you are interested in holding a board position, let one of us know. Also, we are looking for “members at large” that would be interested in being a part of the board and help us with our planning process as we lay out items for next year. Let one of us know if that interests you!

Check our **Facebook** page and our **website** periodically to see what’s happening:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/aauwmariposa>

Website: <https://mariposa-ca.aauw.net/>

Ideas available from other branches

—Cindy Harp

Many AAUW California branch leaders send their branch newsletters to AAUW California to share with other branches. Submitted newsletters are available to those AAUW members and leaders who have requested access to them and are a great resource when looking for new ideas and programs that might be useful to other branches. If you would like to be on the list to receive copies of the newsletters, please send your request to webteam@aauw-ca.org and AAUW California will add you to the list to receive these every month.



Hats off to our SIG leaders!

—Bonnie Little

Our Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are one of the strongest parts of our AAUW branch and a great way to keep members involved. Leaders help plan meetings and content to keep group members interested and informed. Thank you to these fantastic leaders who keep our groups going:

- Book Group – Saralynn Nusbaum
- Gardening Group – Karen Smith
- Great Decisions Group – Becky Mock
- Hiking Group – Trish Darcy
- International Group – Tiina Wilson
- Play Reading Group – Dawn Johnson
- Wine Tasting Group – Carolyn Baker and Cindy Harp

Do you have an idea for a new Special Interest Group that you would like to coordinate? If so, send your ideas to the [Leadership Team](#).



Project: Tech Trek



A virtual Tech Trek planned for 2021

It has been a wait-and-see the last few months as we find out what Tech Trek will look like this year and how that will affect us and the five lucky girls we selected for last year as well as this year's selection.

What we do know at this point is that the camp will be a virtual camp. AAUW California will be using a model that was created and used by a branch in Southern CA last year, so it is a tested program. I attended a Zoom meeting where they explained to us what it would look like. It certainly will not be the in-person camp we have been used to in the past, but I was impressed with the program they put together! There were interviews with girls who attended and they were glowing! So... this seems a viable choice for us this year. I don't have all the details yet, as the details need to be approved by state and the packets of information still need to be sent out to me.

I do know that I will need help in the following areas:

1. Scorers-this will all be done electronically this year. I will send you the applications electronically and you will fill out the score sheets elec-

—Trish Darcy

tronically and send them back to me. I don't know exactly what this will look like, but if you are interested in being a scorer, don't let the tech part scare you away! I can make it work for you!

Interviewers-this will be done via Zoom and your score sheet will be sent to me electronically. Again, don't let the tech part scare you away. I will work with you!

Email tbdarcy1@gmail.com if you would like to help with either one of these or if you have questions.

Also, they are looking for people who would like to teach a workshop for the camp(s). If you are interested in putting together a workshop, let me know and I will send you a link to complete an application. They will need "dorm moms" as well. I have no idea what that will look like, but if you are interested, let me know and I can send the details that I have.

Thanks again in advance, for your help with this program! We could not provide this opportunity to these well-deserving girls without your support!

Project: Tech Connect



Two videos submitted for your perusal– take out your pens!

—Trish Darcy

Our new **Tech Connect** program is up and running! We have two girls who have submitted their videos. Kim is creating a YouTube channel for them to upload the videos to and then she will send all our membership the link! You will have the opportunity to ALL be a part of the

scoring this year. She will email the instructions and scoring rubric to us all. We certainly hope many of you choose to be a part of this program, but, of course, it is not required. If you choose not to score them, we hope you at least take a look at them and see what the youth of today put together!

Membership

Bonnie Little, Dina Lambert



Spotlight on Beth Waldow

—Kim Monson

Member Beth Waldow was born and raised in Arlington, Virginia. She then attended George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia where she majored in biology. After graduation, Beth went to work for the park service. She met husband Kevin Cann (yes, our former county supervisor) when they were both working for the Cuyahoga National Recreation Area in Ohio. They also worked at Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico, before being transferred to a posting back east, and then finally moving to Yosemite National Park, which is how they came to settle in Mariposa.

Beth and Kevin have three children, Alex, Ben, and Stacy, all of whom flourished in the Mariposa school system. When Stacy, the youngest, entered high school, Beth decided on a career change and enrolled in San Joaquin College of Law where she earned her J.D.

Beth currently works for the District Attorney's office here in Mariposa, where she is one of four attorneys including the elected District Attorney, Walter Wall. Beth tells us that her job has been quite challenging since Covid hit because trials are not allowed.



Laws have changed during the emergency to allow those trials to be put on hold until the danger of infection has passed.

Beth enjoys backpacking, gardening, reading, and cooking but is mainly a workaholic. She says Covid hasn't bothered her personal life too much because when not working or hiking, she's quite the homebody. We certainly appreciate her efforts to keep our community safe.

We Open Eyes

2020 Holiday Party Fun

—Bonnie Little



That was a really good time. Thanks so much for the leadership team to plan and get us together on zoom for our annual holiday party. Lots of faces in the squares, some with amazing headgear and Rudolph noses. Lots of good interesting conversation on lots of different subjects. It was so good to see you all and thank you, thank you so much for the gift basket.

—Peggy

Our holiday party was a great way to celebrate the season! Thanks to Trish Darcy who organized the Zoom event and created the Secret Santa gift exchange. Party conversation was lively, as we caught up on everyone's news, with a bit of local Mariposa news as well. We learned how to use some of the online filters to add antlers and Rudolph noses to our faces. It was fun to "see" everyone's faces and even some new hairdos!

The optional gift exchange was held at the end of the party, and kept most of us guessing who our mysterious

gift givers were. As gifts were opened, there were many oohs and aahs. Gifts of wine and chocolate seemed to be abundant. Who would have guessed?

Peggy Shainberg was the winner of our holiday gift basket and she was very surprised when her name was pulled out of the hat. Peggy said she had never won anything in this way. Her basket was promptly delivered to her by a socially-distanced elf.

As much as we enjoyed the virtual event, fingers are crossed that the next holiday party in December of 2021 will be held in person!



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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

January 1, 2021

Dear Branch Leaders,
I love New Year's Day! It is a new beginning with a thoughtful look back at the old year and a promise of new and exciting things to come. I always make New Year's resolutions and am in the process of writing my "21 things to accomplish in 2021!"

There is a lot to be thankful for in 2020. #1- We made it through the year. #2- I am proud of the creativity and resilience all of you had as you planned your branch programs and activities on Zoom, a new platform for many. #3- You developed new fundraisers or tweaked tried and true ones to fit the reality. #4- You kept in touch with your members to encourage them to learn new technologies, so they could participate. With big **GOODBYE** to 2020, we can look forward with hope for a better 2021! We must remain patient and meet virtually for several more months, but there is "a light at the end of the tunnel." Won't it be fun to give our family and friends a big hug in late summer/early fall?

We have new opportunities and renewed hope in 2021 to support our work for women and girls. And we have the first

woman to be elected as U.S. Vice President for starters!

As you embark on 2021, remember these words from Ruth Bader Ginsberg, "Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you."

Save the date for the Annual Meeting, April 17, 2021.

BRANCH ACTIVITY OF THE YEAR

Sandi Gabe, AAUW California Webmaster, Assistant to AAUW California President, Dianne Owens, 2021 AAUW California President-Elect Candidate, sandi.gabe@hotmail.com

WANT TO BRAG ABOUT A TERRIFIC BRANCH ACTIVITY?

Now is your chance to apply for the Branch Activity of the Year Award and put forward a signature activity that your branch presented between February 28, 2020, and March 1, 2021. This is your branch's chance to showcase and share an activity that is novel, inspirational, reproducible, and promotes AAUW's mission and image. The activity may be a one-off program or event or a sustained recurring project for which your branch is known.

What are the awards?

There will be two awards. Winning branches

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will be honored with a small prize and recognition at the 2021 AAUW California Annual Meeting, on the state website, in social media, the California Connection, and other AAUW communications.

Winners will be contacted by March 31st.

Note: winners will be expected to provide a 5 -10 minute presentation at the Annual Meeting on April 17th. Assistance with your presentation will be available.

Click [HERE](#) to apply. Deadline: March 20, 2021.

AAUW FUND

Judy Cavin Brown, Director, AAUW Fund Committee Chair, aauwfund@aauw-ca.org

AND THIS YEAR THE HONORS GO TO....

Named Gift Honorees

Every year the AAUW California Fund Committee honors members who have done outstanding work in supporting our programs and goals. A Named Gift is a special way to honor an individual, a group, or an organization giving extraordinary service to AAUW.

Branch Named Gift Honoree

Branches can make a nomination for each \$750 contributed by the branch or branch members on or before December 31st.

State named gift Honoree

This award is given to an AAUW member who has done outstanding work to promote the programs and goals of the AAUW Fund and/or AAUW California. Please submit only one nomination per branch.

Click [HERE](#) for the forms and submission instructions. All nominations must be submitted by the deadline of February 15th.

LEGACY CIRCLE

Charmen Goehring and Judy Horan, Legacy Circle Liaisons, legacy@aauw-ca.org

CALIFORNIA IS IN IT TO WIN IT!- EXTENDED!

We are pleased to announce that our statewide branch competition, which started July 1st, has been extended to June 30th in hopes that it will help branches work towards 5-Star status. 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 Owen, 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. We look forward to welcoming you to our Circle!

BRANCH ASSISTANCE

Crystal Stebbins and Carol Holtzgrafe, Directors, branch@aauw-ca.org

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BRANCH ASSISTANCE AT YOUR SERVICE

So, 2021 is here at last, with the possibility of actually meeting in person on the (distant) horizon. The creativity of our California branches about how to keep in touch, help each other, and continue (some) community outreach has been just splendid.

Congratulations! (We, like Santa, know what you are doing – because we read your newsletters.)

Many branches produce programs and activities that would earn them a star in National's 5-Star Program. This, in turn, helps AAUW California earn its own stars – which we want to do. Each branch, no matter how small, can recognize activity in at least one of these focus areas: programs, advancement, communications, public policy, or governance.

Click [HERE](#) to find helpful descriptions of each of these areas and how other branches have achieved a star OR go to Branch Tools on the top menu bar of the AAUW California website or click [HERE](#) for more information. You can also ask either of us for clarification. And, if you download the AAUW Branch 5-Star spreadsheet found on the same page, you can keep track of everything your branch does that will help you earn that star. Or ask us to send it to you. Many choices. But do involve your board in reviewing activities that may qualify.

A few branches are finding it difficult to continue. If yours is one, please do contact

us. There are alternatives to disbanding. We can help!

MENTORING WOMEN FOR CAREER ADVANCEMENT

This career advancement webinar helps bring together training and community to help further your career. In individual careers, 85% of opportunities come from within your network. Learn how to take steps to advance your career through mentorship, building your personal brand, self-advocacy, and networking. This webinar will be presented Wednesday, January 27th at 7pm. Registration is required.

Click [HERE](#) to register.

In this webinar you will learn:

- How to raise the visibility of your personal brand.
- How to communicate your goals and passions effectively.
- How to do work you love.

COMMUNICATIONS

Tracey Clark, Director, Communications
Committee Chair, communications@aauw-ca.org

Title IX Webinar

AAUW California will be hosting a webinar this month on Title IX you will not want to miss! This is an important educational

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We Sponsor Community Forums

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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. Register [HERE](#) for Title IX: Breaking Down Barriers 2020 on January 11th at 7 pm!

As always, if you have any issues finding information on the website or how to register for a webinar, please contact the Webteam at webteam@aauw-ca.org.

NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS

Janice Lee, Nominations & Elections Chair,
nominating@aauw-ca.org

Provided by Charlene Goehring-Fox HELP GUIDE AAUW CALIFORNIA INTO THE NEXT DECADE

We are seeking a few leaders to run for the AAUW California Board in April 2021. Serving on the board is a wonderful way to meet new friends, learn more in-depth information about AAUW and AAUW California, and to provide your skills and ideas to our future planning and assistance to branches. It is also fun! The board meets quarterly (currently on Zoom) and committees meet throughout the months as needed. All members are welcome to apply

– you could be a second-year member or a 30-year member, over the age of 70 or under 35, or anywhere in between. We just ask that you believe in the AAUW mission and want to help us move it forward in California. You have been a part of your branch, now consider being a part of the AAUW California Board!! Click [HERE](#) for more information and the application form. Applicants will be featured on the AAUW California website in the order they are received- get yours in today!

PROJECT OVERSIGHT

Jim Doty, Director, Project Oversight
Committee Chair, oc@aauw-ca.org

LOOKING FOR THE NEXT GREAT PROJECT

With the winter solstice behind us, we can look ahead to the brighter days to come. Do you have an idea for a new or enhanced project for the 2021-22 program year?

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.

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

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We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential

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PUBLIC POLICY

Kathleen Harper, Director, and Sue Miller,
Public Policy Committee Co-Chairs,
publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org

IMPORTANT AAUW CALIFORNIA PUBLIC POLICY DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR!

The new California legislative session begins on January 11th. The AAUW California Public Policy team is already at work with MVM Strategies, our new legislative advocate. We are planning a “virtual” Lobby Day on March 24th to assure that our voice will be heard by legislative leaders before bills we support come up in committee hearings. We’re planning a webinar for March 22nd, to prep for the Lobby Day. You are welcome to sign up and participate!

Thanks to all of you who submitted comments on updating our Public Policy Priorities. Your Public Policy Committee has been hard at work finalizing our 2021-2023 Priorities, which will support our mission and guide our advocacy work. These will be posted on the AAUW California website later this month for your review so that you’ll be prepared to vote on them when you receive your ballot in April.

Put these dates on your calendar NOW!

- March 22nd Lobby Day Webinar – Click [HERE](#) to register.
- March 24th Lobby Day – registration deadline is January 8th - Click [HERE](#) to register.
- Vote on Public Policy Priorities on the April ballot

TECH TREK

Susan Negrete, and Alice Hill, Tech Trek
State Co-Coordinator, techtrek@aauw-ca.org

PREPARING FOR A SUCCESSFUL VIRTUAL CAMP

2021 Virtual Camp Website is Launched!

AAUW California and AAUW National websites are updated with access to our new 2021 Virtual Camp website. For AAUW (internal) branch members, it’s easy to find new camp volunteer information, testimonials, FAQ’s, a button to contact Camp Director Mary Isaac, and more! Visit soon by clicking [HERE](#). Click [HERE](#) for the link for external users (parents, schools, donors, & public users, etc.)

Virtual Camp Memo of Understanding (MOU)

Just as we do in the residential camp season, a 2021 MOU will be sent to all branches for either a participation confirmation or Opt-Out for this season’s virtual camp. What’s new? We’re testing an online MOUS to capture electronic signatures! Stay tuned for updates.

Branch Packets in a Virtual World – Coming Soon!

AAUW National branch packets for all states are currently under legal review. California’s Virtual Camp Leadership Team will review and distribute packets with instructions to participating branches just as soon as they are received.

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Branch Coordinator & School Survey Updates

Branch and school surveys provided critical information for planning the estimated number of virtual campers to serve in 2021. An overview of the data received by the 12/15 deadline follow:

- 70% of 120 branches responded with their 2021 intentions;
- 60% were positive about participating in 2021;
- 20% were uncertain or not participating in 2021;
- Approximately 20 uncertain branches indicated their final virtual camp decision would be based on whether 2020 selected students can participate in 2021 virtual camps;
- Other branches indicated due to the pandemic they didn't complete their 2020 camper selection process and didn't plan to engage with a virtual program or until residential camps are allowed;
- Over 100 schools shared their data and plans;

The survey feedback provided enough branch/school participation to continue planning three proposed 2021 Tech Trek Virtual Camps (final MOUs from branches will drive the number of actual 2021 virtual camp offerings). Schools' closing/opening data also confirmed that proposed virtual camp schedules of June 21-25, July 12-16, and July 26-30 are on target.

YouTube – A New Tech Trek Virtual Resource!

We'll be utilizing this popular video site to provide a wide array of information on the 2021 Virtual Camps. Stay tuned for the rollout of many videos.

AAUW Florida, New Mexico & Washington Tech Trek Camps Consider California's Qualcomm Robotics Core Class

After attending Camp Director Mary Isaac's Branch Coordinators' December Zoom meetings, these states are planning to use the Qualcomm course for their 2021 camps.

California's 2022 Tech Trek Goal

A return to the residential camp model when the time is right has always been our goal. AAUW's 2022 camp decisions will be based on national, state, and local health and safety requirements.

New Donors Link

Click [HERE](#) to refer potential donors to learn more about California Tech Trek.

Branch Coordinators, STEM & Tech Trek Teams:

For a Tech Trek Program or Finance Questions

Contact Alice Hill & Susan Negrete Tech Trek
Co-Coordinator at techtrek@aauw-ca.org

Or for 2021 Virtual Camp Questions

Contact Mary Isaac/2021 Virtual Camp
Director at 2021ttvirtualcamp@aauw-ca.org

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TITLE IX

Alicia Hetman, Title IX Consultant,
titleix@aauw-ca.org

Provided by Linda Slater

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS 2020

On Monday, January 11th, 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. She will discuss Title IX Compliance in K-12 schools.
- **Kim Turner**, Senior Staff Attorney for Legal Aid at Work. She will discuss their organization’s Fair Play for Girls in Sports Project.

- **Jean Reed**, Co-president of Petaluma AAUW Branch. She will discuss the actions taken by AAUW San Jose Branch to support Title IX.
- **Linda Slater**, President of Hayward-Castro Valley Branch. She will discuss the 2020 Rule Changes to Title IX Sexual Harassment Policies opposed by AAUW and other stakeholders.
- **Alicia Hetman**, Public Policy Consultant for AAUW California. She will discuss the history of Title IX and the impacts of non-compliance on fair access to educational activities.

You will gain a deeper understanding of what you, as an individual and/or and AAUW branch, can do to inform your community, learn how to speak up on the issues of gender discrimination and encourage your community schools to comply fully with all gender equity laws. We look forward to seeing you there.

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 Send Girls to Science/Math Camp

SIG: Great Decisions

Contact [Becky Mock](#)

Artificial Intelligence— thoughts and concerns

—Betty Massey & Jill Rowney

The more data that is accessible and utilized, the more comprehensive and useful AI can be... HOWEVER: *Should the government control the amount of data, private information, available to the public, to countries, or other corporations? What data should be controlled?*

- The more governmental control, the more ponderous and limited the AI development can be.
- Could the governing officials partner in “good faith” with corporations **for the greater good**? Could they work together to advance AI but maintain reasonable rights to privacy without legislation?

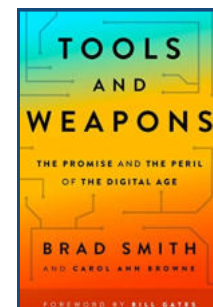
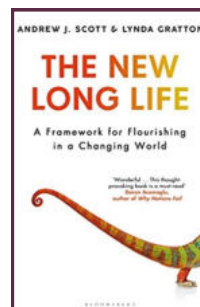
While we didn’t answer the questions, we had a spirited and lively discussion. One question that gets my (Betty) attention is “What is the level of privacy an individual can expect living in a modern society?” I have noticed that many people appear not to care about who actually reads what they write. I have seen posts from people about:

- where they are at the moment: i.e. the family is at Happy Burger for dinner. Intimate information: Joe and I broke up...he was (.....) with my friend Jane.

- Medical info: I’m going to Fresno Tuesday for a doctor’s appt.

To me (Betty) many people have lost the concept of what ought to be private. We need to be mindful that much of our data is sold and each of us must be the protectors of our own privacy. I certainly would not post anything on public media that I would not want my nosey neighbor to know or that I would not want to be asked about the next time I’m in town.

I have found two books that deal with the changes we are going to have with AI and all of modern technology. [The New Long Life](#) by Andrew Scott addresses how the computer is changing society, employment, and its impact on our aging. The other book is [Tools and Weapons: the Promise and Peril of the Digital Age](#), by Brad Smith. This one addresses the complications for privacy, national security, and the responsibility of social media.



We Sponsor Community Forums

SIG: Play ReadingContact [Dawn Johnson](#)**“A Raisin in the Sun”**

—Dawn Johnson

The poet Langston Hughes (remember him?) famously wrote:

What happens to a dream deferred?
Does it dry up
like a raisin in the sun?

The December play for the Play Reading Group asked that question. Wow. It was heavy (remember that word?)

Written in 1959 (remember the 50s?) by Lorraine Hansberry, it is a groundbreaking study of the divergent dreams of three different generations of a Black family in Chicago. Each one has a chance to realize those dreams when an insurance settlement brings them hope. But it also brings tension and discord to the family and its future. Whose dream will be fulfilled? Whose will dry up like a raisin in the sun?

It took us three hours to find out, but it was an excellent read with powerful dialogue. Sidney Poitier (remember him?) led the cast in the Broadway production and in the later film, which I promptly watched.

Our January play, “Clybourne Park” by Bruce Norris, revisits the story from a different angle and won the Pulitzer and Tony awards. The two plays are called “The Raisin Cycle,” which sounds like a washing machine setting. Stay tuned for the February newsletter to see how it went.

For more info on the Play Reading Group, contact Dawn Johnson at dawn-andjay.johnson@gmail.com. No dramatic talent required!

**SIG: International Study**Contact [Tiina Wilson](#)**Country: Egypt**

We did not meet in December. Our next Zoom meeting will be January 19 at 5:00pm.

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

**Garden**Contact: [Karen Smith](#)**Wine Tasting**

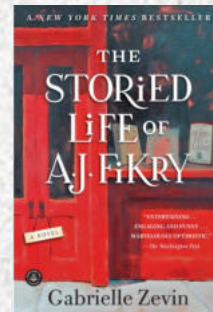
Contact: [Carolyn Baker](#)
Or [Cindy Harp](#)

We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential

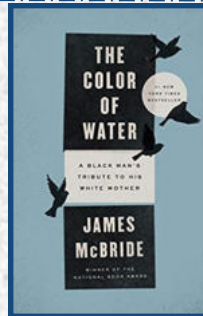
SIG - Book

Contact [Saralynn Nusbaum](#)

Our next meeting will be on
Tuesday, February 2, at 4:30 pm
 at our own homes via "Zoom" where we will be discussing:
The Storied Life of AJ Fikry
 by Gabrielle Zevin



The Color of Water
 by James McBride
 Discussion notes by
 Saralynn Nusbaum



The "Color of Water" is James McBride's tribute to his mother, Ruth McBride, aka Rachel Shilsky. Ruth portrayed herself as a "light-skinned" African American woman, evasive about her ethnicity, yet steadfast in her love for her twelve black children. James McBride, journalist, musician and son, explores his mother's past, as well as his own upbringing and heritage, in this memoir from 1995. The son of a black minister and a woman who would not admit she was white, James McBride grew up in "orchestrated chaos" with his eleven siblings in the poor, all-black projects of Red Hook, Brooklyn. "Mommy," a fiercely

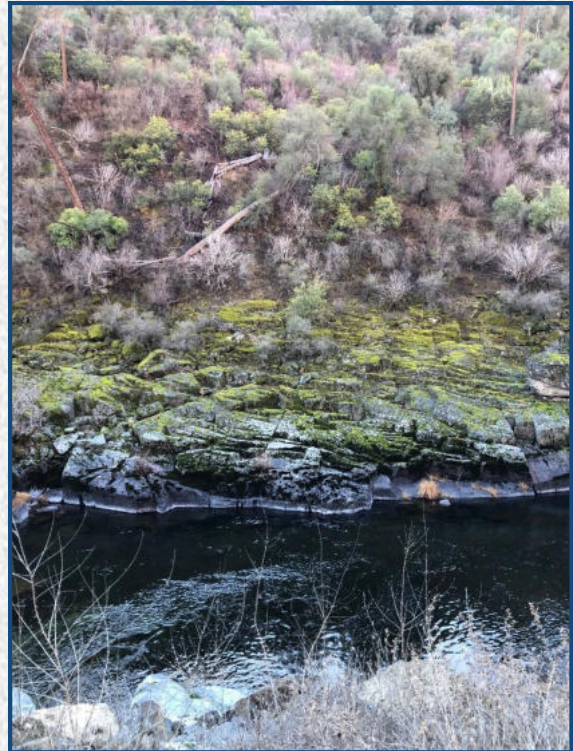
protective woman herded her brood to Manhattan's free cultural events, sent them off on buses to the best (and mainly Jewish) schools, demanded good grades and commanded respect. As a young man, McBride saw his mother as a source of embarrassment, worry, and confusion--and reached thirty before he began to discover the truth about her early life and long-buried pain. In *The Color of Water*, McBride retraces his mother's footsteps and, through her searing and spirited voice, recreates her remarkable story. *The Color of Water* touches readers of all colors as a vivid portrait of growing up, a haunting meditation on race and identity, and a tribute to a mother from her son.

We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential

SIG: HikingContact [Trish Darcy](#)

Natural wonders: Hikers explore on their own

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



Above L: Gary and Reva found this one while hiking to the reservoir.

Above R: Trish found these moss covered rocks along the Merced River.

Left: Naoko took this one at the Merced Grove.

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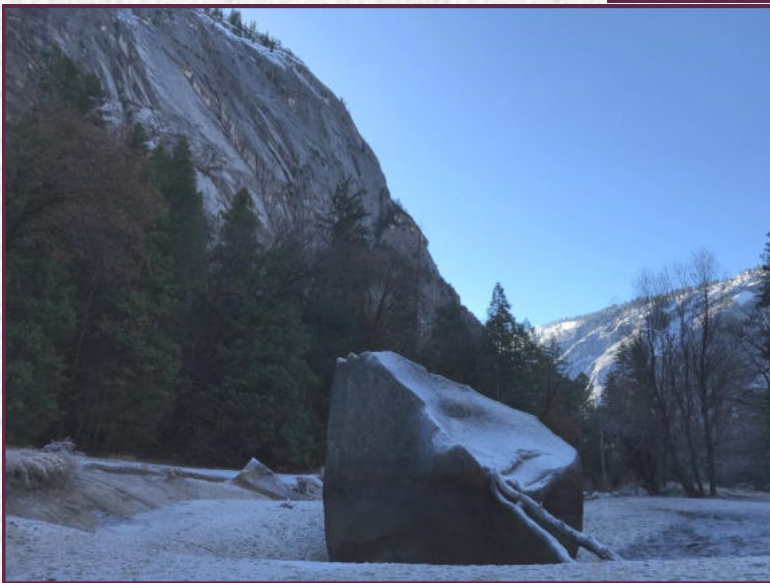


This Poison Oak and rock wall was found on Ben Hur by Sandi.

Dawn appreciates the 'little guy' at Ahwahnee Park: "No one said they had to be BIG rocks!"



Contact [Trish Darcy](#)



Lei Yue took this photo at Mirror Lake.

We Value Education



AAUW - Mariposa Branch
Leadership Business Meeting
December 7, 2020
5:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Meeting called to order at 5:39 p.m. by Cindy Harp.

Attendees:

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

Absent:

Kim Monson

Minutes (*Rebecca Swisher*)

Rebecca Swisher reported that the minutes were approved electronically and will be submitted to Jill Rowney for the December 2020 newsletter.

Membership Update (*Dina Lambert, Bonnie Little*)

Bonnie Little will check in with SIG leaders to find out how things are going (e.g., attendance) and what support they need.

Finance Report (*Dina Lambert*):

Dina Lambert presented the November 2020 financials.

November 2020:

- Total income: \$50.00 (newsletter ads)
- Total expenses: \$1,031.00 (\$6.00 website; \$1,025.00 Tech Connect)
- Balance: \$17,517.49
- Trish Darcy moved to accept the November 2020 report as presented. Jody Sergienko 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 appropriate time to discuss for 2021 summer event

Tech Trek (*Trish Darcy*)

2020 Tech Trek Girls' Event:

- Trish Darcy reported that the plan is to develop an event for the 2020 girls in the future once in-person is available again.
- Trish stated that she will stay in touch with these students on a regular basis and let them know when they can expect to hear from us with updates.

2021 Tech Trek Girls' Event (Virtual):

- Trish Darcy reported that this event will be held virtually this summer. There was a Zoom meetings to discuss the current plans. Trish stated that she attended an earlier presentation and that Barb Silva attended the presentation tonight. Trish said that the girls who attended showed the same enthusiasm as those who have attended in-person in the past. There will be three (3) camps: one (1) in June and two (2) in July. The core classes will be in the mornings and workshops will be in the afternoons. There are opportunities for past Tech Trek girls to peer mentor and for AAUW members to be "dorm moms." This event will need a lot of AAUW member support, as it calls for one (1) adult per three (3) students, and there will be a total of 288 girls per camp. They are setting up the virtual camp, so branch members can attend the girls' presentations on Fridays. The plan still has to go through final AAUW approval. Trish reported that the cost is \$400.00 per student, so we will have a savings this year. Trish is waiting for an e-mail requesting mentors and teachers. Once Trish receives this, she will forward to membership to ask for volunteers. Camp orientation will be the week before camp with the main goal to make sure the girls are able to manage the technology and that there are no issues with the equipment. AAUW is purchasing laptops for girls who do not have laptops, as Chrome books will not work with the program, and they are looking at renting a classroom where girls can have access to Internet if they do not have access at home. AAUW State is looking to solve these issues so that they do not hold girls back from attending camp. AAUW State is also working with Quell Com to see if they can update the program, so it can be used with Chrome books. The final decision is that the 2020 girls will not be attending this 2021 camp.

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

- Trish Darcy will write an appeal for volunteers and post it on Facebook, and Dina Lambert will post it on the website.
- Rebecca Swisher will contact Kim Monson and Marilyn Saunders to see if Bill Lowe would be willing to provide pointers (bullet list/Zoom presentation) for students and mentors.

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

On hold

Programs:

We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp

College Partnership with Reedley College in Oakhurst—Cindy Harp.

On hold until further notice.

Possible new program to support local girls (Jody Sergienko)

On hold until further notice due to local economic stressors.

Scholarships (Trish Darcy)

- Trish Darcy said that she is not able to coordinate this program at this time.
On hold until spring when a committee can be brought together.

APHA Racial Equity Guide webinar series (Rebecca Swisher)

On Hold

Mental Health in the Time of Pandemic (Rebecca Swisher & Jody Sergienko)

- Jody Sergienko recommended we do a daytime weekday program, record it, and then post it (“Brown Bag Lunch & Learn”).
- Rebecca Swisher will follow up with Jody Stanners with suggested dates and times.

Old Business:

Purchase of New PA System and A/V equipment (Jody Sergienko)

Jody Sergienko reported that she has done some research on sound systems and projectors and will send out links to the Leadership Team this week for review.

New Business:**Butterfly Festival Participation (Jody Sergienko)**

- Jody Sergienko reported that she attended a community meeting regarding the next Butterfly Festival. She suggested that AAUW sponsor an event (e.g., recycled materials building competition, voter registration booth and focus on women in leadership, show Tech Connect videos).
- The Leadership Team supported AAUW participation in this event. Jody will send out an e-mail to the membership asking for volunteers to participate in the committee.

Branch Newsletters (Cindy Harp)

- Cindy Harp reported that AAUW CA wanted to know if AAUW Mariposa wanted to share their newsletter and whether members wanted to receive newsletters from other branches. She communicated with Jill Rowney regarding submitting AAUW Mariposa’s newsletter to the state for distribution to other branches. We will add the link for individuals to register to receive other branches’ newsletters if they wish.

Five Star Program (Link Below) (Trish Darcy)

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

- Trish Darcy reported on her analysis regarding the Five Star Program. The Leadership Team agreed that this would be a great tool for next fiscal year’s planning.

We Sponsor Community Forums

Newsletter Assignments:**Member Profile:**

January 2021: Kim Monson

Lead Article (Admin Overview):

January 2021: Jody Sergienko

Board to Board:

January 2021: Cindy Harp

Shout Out to SIG Leaders:

January 2021: Bonnie Little

COVID Update:

January 2021: Jody Sergienko

Leadership Meeting Lead:

January 2021: Cindy Harp (agenda)

Branch Buzz (*Trish Darcy*):

Trish Darcy will send out the Branch Buzz

Action Items:

- **Dina Lambert will update the AAUW Mariposa website with the COVID information that was included in the newsletter.**

Upcoming Dates:

December 13, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.– Holiday Zoom!

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m. by Cindy Harp. Trish Darcy moved to adjourn. Jody Sergienko seconded. All in favor with no nays or abstentions.

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



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ANITA STARCHMAN BRYANT
STARCHMAN & BRYANT
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

4750 Highway 49 South, Suite 1
Mariposa, California 95338
(209) 966-6111

Telefax (209) 966-2320 starchman-bryant@sti.net

AAUW- Mariposa
www.aauwmariposa.com
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

Project Chairs/Coordinators

Advertising	open
Back Pack Project	Kim Monson & Rebecca Swisher
Dinner With a Scientist	Marilyn Saunders
Goodwill Ambassador	open
Newsletter Editor	Jill Rowney
Publicity	Jody Sergienko
Social Media	Dina Lambert
Tech Connect*	Kim Monson & Rebecca Swisher
Tech Trek	Trish Darcy & Barbara Silva
Website	Dina Lambert
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We Open Eyes



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