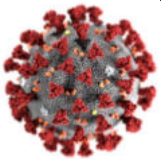


Sierra Outpost

Leadership Team



Staying safe, face-to-face

— Cindy Harp

You are probably all aware of the recent spike in Covid-19 cases here in Mariposa County. Your Leadership Team has been working hard to stay on top of the current recommended guidelines for small group meetings. National, state, and regional AAUW leadership recommends that branches follow the specific meeting guidelines set forth by the public health agencies in their county. These will be different from county to county. It should be remembered that AAUW liability insurance will not cover Covid outbreaks if they were to occur because of in-person meetings.

However, understanding that some of our members are anxious to meet, and indeed, may be meeting informally, we want to

offer some recommendations for your safety in doing so. We sent out a survey to the membership. 100% of those who responded have all been vaccinated. With this in mind, here are our recommendations:

- Small groups (15 or less) meeting outside, if vaccinated, need not wear masks.
- Small groups meeting inside should wear masks, **especially** if even one member of the group is not vaccinated (should they choose to share that information).
- Whether inside or out, you should still practice social distancing and sanitizing (duh!).

Your Leadership Team continues to monitor the situation and

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recommended guidelines from local and national health officials, and will update if needed. We are all thinking adults who can make choices for ourselves, while being sensitive to the needs of others. If we are not comfortable with the venue of a small group gathering, we may choose not to participate. Stay safe, take care of each other, and have fun!

Leadership Team

Discussing the “R” word

-Dina Lambert

-Saralynn Nusbaum

As Spring starts to wind down, the Leadership Team continues to make plans for membership gatherings and other ways to encourage membership engagement for the upcoming new fiscal AAUW year. Even our Leadership Board needs help in engaging with each other beyond the monthly Zoom board meeting! Incoming Leadership Team member, Saralynn Nusbaum and current Leadership Team member, Dina Lambert decided to have a discussion on retirement. We thought that our riveting discussion might benefit our membership in some way if not to bring a chuckle. This is from the perspective of someone getting ready to retire (Dina) and one who is an experienced retiree (Saralynn).

Dina: Aw retirement! Forty years ago, that term wasn't even in my vocabulary since I knew I had eons to go before I could retire and well ... do nothing.

Saralynn: Do nothing? Ha-ha! One of the biggest misconceptions about retirement is that you will have time on your hands. Many retired folks say they've never been busier, but that is up to you. The mistake I made when I retired (well I actually made many), was signing up for every group/activity that piqued my interest; then I ended up paring back. It was a discovery process. I learned that time is an asset to be used judiciously.

Dina: At the age of thirty I started to plan for financial stability for the goal of retirement which, by the way, is scheduled at the

end of 2021 ... Goodbye Covid (hopefully) and goodbye work!

Saralynn: Way to go Dina! I didn't get serious about saving for retirement until I was 35. Don and I married when I was 29 and he was 31. We bought a house that year; neither of us had much of an income at that point so all of our resources, financial and physical meaning we did everything ourselves, went into the house. That was a challenge because I am not handy; I am actually anti-handly, just ask Don. At 35 I took a job with a multi-national company and was introduced to 401K plans. Up until that time profit sharing plans were the primary retirement vehicle. Profit sharing plans were funded by the employer, but 401K's are primarily self-funded with a smaller employer match, hence that's when I started funding my retirement.

Dina: Don't get me wrong, I love my job but I also love to travel whenever I want and to watch my grandkids whenever I want. As my retirement date quickly approaches, I have found myself wondering can I really do this?

Saralynn: Of course you can! Just give some thought to how your job “feeds” you and try to incorporate that into your retirement. I knew that a big part of my identity was wrapped up in my career so I took baby steps toward retirement. A year ahead of my planned retirement, I advised my employer and started the process of planning for my transition; several months into the

(Continued on page 3)

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process I hired my successor and went from full to part-time. Even though retirement was my choice and gradual, once leaving, I felt sidelined and somewhat rudderless.

Dina: Do I really want to spend that much time with my husband? What are we going to talk about? Haven't we already talked about everything there is to talk about? I can imagine having partner issues. In my case, my husband retired 15 years ago and is now quite set in his ways.

Saralynn: This is in no way a criticism of our husbands but no, you do not want to spend all your time with your partner. That just puts too much pressure on your primary relationship. It's been a bit of a balancing act for us. We want the time we do spend together to be quality time, but that doesn't seem to be evenings for us as in retirement Don has become an early bird and me a night owl. The things we discover!

Dina: What am I going to do once I've completed all those unfinished projects around the house?

Saralynn: Ha-ha again...you will never complete all of the home projects; there will always be more.

Dina: I found that the questions I have are pretty common. Not only do I need to think about financial stability I also need to address the emotional and partner issues. I've realized that once the "honeymoon" stage is over, I'm going to have to have some backup plans. The honeymoon stage is right after retiring when I get to sleep in,

stay in my jammies all day, plan numerous vacations, and have friends and family over for meals and long weekends. The honeymoon stage is like one big holiday.

Saralynn: As I mentioned, I felt somewhat adrift upon retirement so that was not the honeymoon stage for me. Honestly, I hit my retirement stride about five years in. My work was so fulfilling in so many ways. I think I actually mourned the end of my career for a while. Shortly after retirement, a friend said to me that when you retire, no one really cares what you do. Somehow that statement shocked me. I guess I would say retirement is wonderful but it's also over rated in some respects.

Thankfully there is help out there for these sort of retirement issues/questions! Financial planners or accountants can help with the financial stability. There are plenty of service clubs and / or churches that need volunteer help (Hello AAUW!). Volunteer work will help with filling in the gaps of time that may be available and also provide a warm and fuzzy feeling of satisfaction of doing a good deed. And if one's mental health requires more support, then there are plenty of counselors who would gladly help.

AAUW is also fighting for women to have a fair and decent retirement. We invite you to read "Not-So-Golden Years" which talks about the pay gap between men and women and the disparity between when a man retires vs a woman. Click [here](#) to read the article. To read AAUW public policy recommendation "Retirement Security for Women" click [here](#).

Project: Tech Trek



2021 Registrations are complete!

—Trish Darcy

Our Tech Trekkers from last year and from this year have registered for camp and they are on their way to the virtual camps! There will be three different camps this summer with the first one being at the end of June and two more in July. We have 3-4 girls attending each

camp. We are excited to see what will go on at these new camps and hear from the girls about what they learned during the week and what they thought of the virtual format. Congratulations to all of the girls!

Membership

Bonnie Little, Dina Lambert



Member Corner: Idea exchange

Our members share what we have found enlightening and entertaining

—Bonnie Little

Rebecca Swisher enjoyed listening to ***Turn the Ship Around*** by **L. David Marquet** on Audible. Marquet was a commanding officer in the Navy aboard nuclear submarines in the 1990's. He worked to change the leadership model on his ship from a leader-follower to a leader-leader approach. Rebecca said it was "intriguing and inspiring". Sounds like it!

Karen Sutton was interested in the website that Sue Overstreet mentioned in our last newsletter about reading **books written by women in every country in the world** (click [here](#) to view). She thought that it would make a great premise for a book group. It sounds like a fascinating learning opportunity. If you

are interested in participating in a group like this, let the Leadership Team know.

I would like to recommend a book that held my interest and didn't disappoint in the end. It is called ***The Nature of Fragile Things*** by **Susan Meissner**. The story is set during the time of the 1906 earthquake in San Francisco. A young Irish woman answers an ad to marry a man and care for his young daughter. She marries him at their first meeting, and soon learns that things are not as they seem. I enjoyed the story because there are so many San Francisco landmarks, neighborhoods and streets mentioned, so if you are familiar with the city, it makes for very interesting reading.

Date Change: Annual Meeting — Sunday, June 27, 2:00pm

We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp

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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 Sponsor Community Forums



To Page 1



SIG: International Study

Contact [Tiina Wilson](#)

Exploring Cairo

The International Study group continued our study of Egypt with Karen Silver as the presenter. Karen and her husband were professional photographers. The year was 1980 and they worked for an American medical corporation that was building a hospital in Cairo. The corporation sent them to Cairo, where they spent six days photographing the construction and the area. They have beautiful photos of the Cairo of 30 years ago: the feluccas on the Nile, the pyramids at sunset, the Cairo museum and the mummies, the city of the Dead and the population living there. It is interesting that just recently in a grand parade the mummies were moved to the new Grand Egyptian Museum. Even then Cairo was a huge, crowded, polluted, city, with crazy traffic but what a city to visit and be part of history, if only for a short while.

-Peggy Shainberg



Feluccas on the Nile River



Karen Silver (40 years ago) and anonymous, VERY friendly Egyptian



Sultan Hassan Mosque in Cairo

We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential



SIG: Garden

Contact [Karen Smith](#)

The PPC's of gardening in Mariposa

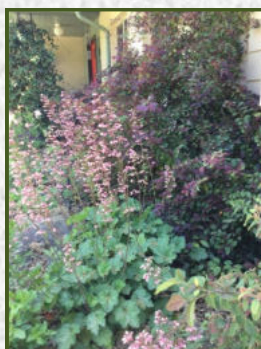
—Jill Rowney

(Patience, Persistence, Compromise)

You live in the country to enjoy the space and no fences... Ah, but no fences mean you are subject to the whims of those wonderful four-legged, graceful deer with insatiable appetites! Gardening option 1: plant deer resistant plants. You may have to compromise and have a few of your favorites behind "bars", unsightly though it may be. I love my "shrimp plant" (exotic) and my bush anenome (California native) but so do the deer, so they live inside a little fence.



Shrimp plant "behind bars"



Heuchera (much happier)

Hmm, better add Plant Placement, a definite compromise, to the above list...

So let's go native, you think? I planted a beautiful "heuchera" beneath my kitchen window. It grew okay- but the deer kept trimming it back, so it never got strong. Then I had to do some plumbing repair and moved the plant just five feet. It gets a little more sun, the deer ignore it, and it has thrived. Of course, this process is over the course of seven years!

Several years ago, my brother bought me a beautiful black oak in a five-gallon pot, dug a gargantuan hole with his backhoe and planted it with much anticipation- expecting it to enjoy its new "digs" and thrive. I understood that black oaks are supposed to be much faster growers than the other oaks around. We "babied" this thing as the branches withered and finally gave up after five years. All the meanwhile, six feet from the dying black oak, an acorn from a nearby blue oak had taken and is thriving (granted, it is a VERY slow grower, so it will most likely be my great grandchildren who will be able to enjoy its eventual shade)...compromise and patience!



In another 50 years, this little sapling should be a mighty oak! (I'm giving it a little "posture" training with a rod of rebar).

(Continued on page 8)





(Continued from page 7)

Speaking of trees, I got ready to dig up my newest garden beds (that get the most sun) and found them inundated with tiny roots. Ahem, no wonder nothing grew there last year! I bit the bullet and went back to my fenced garden area where I plant my veggies, zinnias, and a few other “can’t-live-without” varieties. Yes, the roots from the nearby oaks invade the raised beds. I have to dig them out every year to remove the roots, but also “do in” the gopher wire in the process.

Compromise: I dug one bed completely out and replaced the gopher wire. But on top of the wire, I laid a layer of landscape cloth AND on top of that, I lined the bottom with used metal roofing (riddled with ¼” drain

holes). So much for compromise and persistence... Now I shall have to be patient... I just need another lifetime to enjoy the fruits of this one’s labor!



Trust Karen to come up with this!

SIG: Play Reading

Contact [Dawn Johnson](#)



There is a plan afoot to meet on May 13 and really read a play in person!!
Stand by for a rave review!!

SIG: Wine

Contact [Carolyn Baker](#) or [Cindy Harp](#)



Stay tuned—We’ll soon be ready to dust off the wine glasses and compare notes in person!

We Value Education

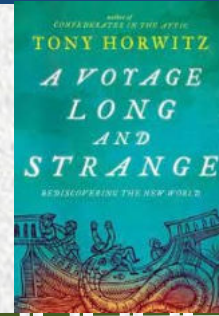
SIG - Book



Contact [Saralynn Nusbaum](#)

Our next meeting will be on
Tuesday, June 8, at 4:30 pm
on Saralynn's patio where we will be discussing:

A Voyage Long and Strange
by Tony Horowitz.



SIG: Great Decisions

Contact [Becky Mock](#)

WHO's response to the pandemic

—Betty Massey

The Great Decisions group met April 14th. Our subject was the World Health Organization's (WHO) response to Covid-19. We all remember that the WHO was soundly criticized by the last Administration and plans were made to withdraw the US from the organization. We questioned if it was an appropriate criticism and if we should withdraw our support. In reading the chapter we quickly realized the answer is yes and no. The WHO is divided into six regional offices which are highly autonomous. They oversee about three quarters of the staff and more than half of the WHO's total expenditure.

The regions are self-governing and there is little accountability to the WHO headquarters in Geneva. The WHO has no enforcement authority and decisions are either made by consensus or not at all. The financial support from the world members is extremely limited. WHO receives about 2.4 billion dollars per year which is about one quarter of the budget of our CDC here in the United States. Up to 80% of the WHO's budget comes from

voluntary contributions which are targeted to specific issues. These may be from foundations, governments, or individuals. Countries appear to be reluctant to support the WHO; they don't want to be told how to respond to a health crisis in their country. They don't want WHO personnel in their country investigating any incident. However, when an out-of-control pandemic is in full swing, the world believes the WHO should have known about the outbreak much earlier, should have informed the governments earlier, and should have developed and implemented plans for fighting the pandemic even before the various governments approved the announcement of a pandemic.

Yes, there are many things that need to be changed in the structure and funding of the WHO. But while most governments know in what direction changes need to be made, they are unwilling to actually make the changes in the mandates or to empower the WHO to make independent decisions.

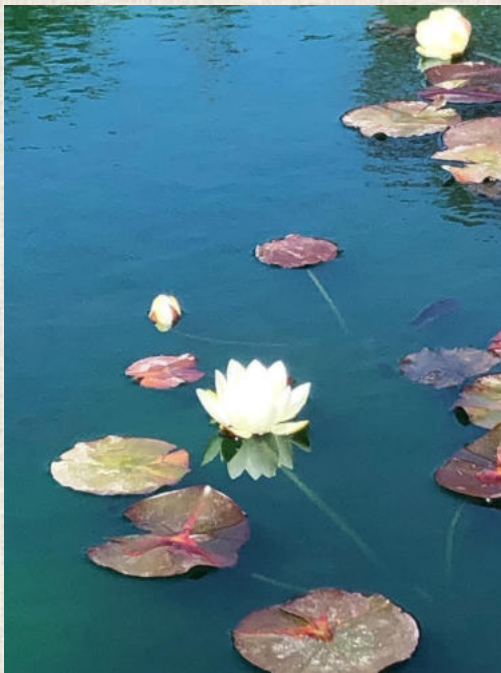
We Inspire Life-Long Learning

SIG: **Hiking**Contact [Trish Darcy](#)**Photos on the trail**

—Trish Darcy

No particular subject this month

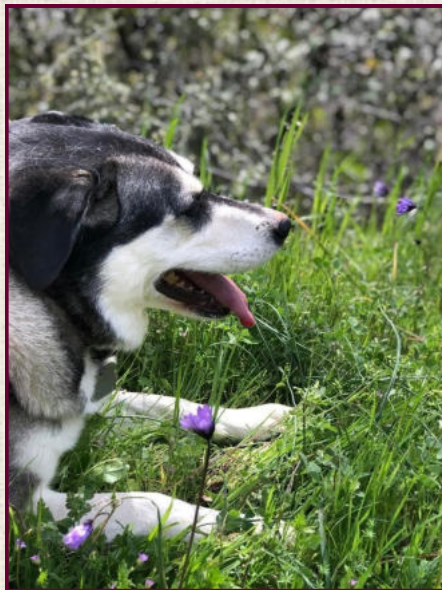
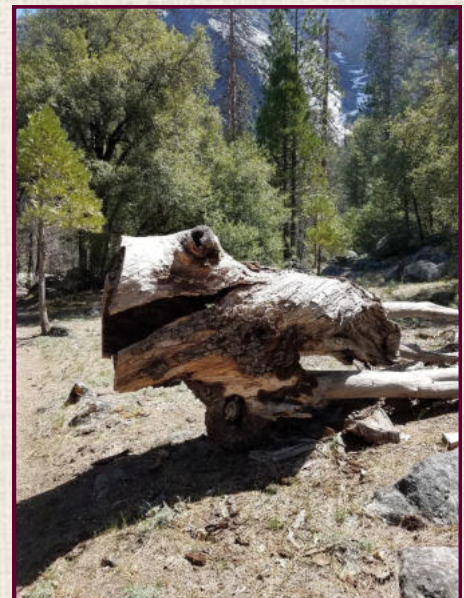
We are looking forward to getting together in our small group to do some hikes together starting this month!!
Whoooooppppppeeee!!!



Water lilies in the Bay Area by Naoko



Bridge in Yosemite by Becky's granddaughter

Sasha, Jody's hiking buddy
←Gary and Reva captured this giant "lizard" on their camera.
→

SIG: HikingContact [Trish Darcy](#)

Beach sand at Morro Bay by Trish Darcy



Dawn and Sandi in Anza Borrego, managing an escape from their computers!



Smiles abound as our Leadership Team meets outside, face-to-face. Look— only one computer!!!

We Sponsor Community Forums

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Leadership Team Minutes



AAUW - Mariposa Branch
Leadership Team Meeting
April 5, 2021 6:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Attendees:

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

Meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Dina Lambert.

Minutes (*Rebecca Swisher*): Trish Darcy moved to approve the March 2021 minutes with corrections as discussed at today's meeting. Kim Monson seconded. All in favor with no nays or abstentions

Membership Update (*Dina Lambert, Bonnie Little*)

- 2021-2022 Dues: Dina Lambert reported that total dues will be \$97.00, which is up by \$3.00 from previous dues. She will send out an e-mail mid-May to remind members about renewing.
- New Members: Trish Darcy reported that she has a friend who wants to join and plans to do so at June's meeting. Anyone who joins at an event will get half price on the national portion of the dues.
- Bonnie Little reported that AAUW Mariposa still has a total of 75 members.
- Member Corner: Bonnie Little stated that there had been a good response to this new part of the newsletter. Those present concurred to continue offering this way for members to communicate and be involved.

Finance Report (*Dina Lambert*):

- For Month Ending March 31, 2021: Dina Lambert reported the following information:
 - Income: \$94.00
 - Expenses: \$1,285.00 (Check #1601: \$1,200.00 for Tech Trek; \$6.00 for Website Hosting Fee; \$79.00 for dues)
 - Ending Balance: \$12,308.49
- Jody Sergienko moved to approve the finance report as presented. Kim Monson second-

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We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential

(Continued from page 12)

ed. All in favor with no nays or abstentions.

Standing Projects:

Dinner with a Scientist (*Marilyn Saunders*)

On hold due to ongoing COVID-19 in the region. It is unclear if UC Merced will be holding in-person classes in the fall.

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

Deferred until appropriate time to discuss for summer 2021.

- Trish Darcy stated that she will follow-up with the schools to ensure that we have the most updated version of items.

Tech Trek (*Trish Darcy*)

- *2021 Tech Trek Update* – 13 paid for as of March 31, 2021
- Trish Darcy reported that the committee interviewed 8 of 13 applicants for 2021, and the scores were very close. The committee is sending 13 girls total to Tech Trek, including 2020 selections (5) and 2021 selections (8).

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

- Kim Monson stated that she has prize checks. She wants to arrange awarding of the prizes with the Mariposa Gazette so that AAUW can have an article in the paper. She will write up the article and plans to finalize it for early next week.

Fundraisers:

“Mad Hatter’s Party” (*Sandi Gabe*)

On hold due to ongoing COVID-19 in the region with no set date for event.

Programs:

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

On hold until further notice

- Vocational Training/Internship (*Jody Sergienko*)

On hold until further notice

- Scholarships (*Jody Sergienko*)

Kim reported that a lead has not been identified yet. She explained that the high school only has a minimal method for keeping track of students. Trish Darcy will submit request for lead/committee members in the April Branch Buzz. Jody Sergienko will reach out to local contractors to see if there is an opportunity to expand on ideas for this project.

- Butterfly Festival (*Jody Sergienko*)

Jody Sergienko stated that thus far only she and Kim have voiced interest in participating in this event. She will decline the invitation for AAUW to participate in the festival and aim to participate in the parade based on state/national stance on in-person activities.

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- **APHA Racial Equity Guide Webinar Series (*Rebecca Swisher*)**
Maintain as option for program for future. Will discuss this option for a program series at the strategic planning session.

Old Business:

- **PA System and A/V Equipment (*Jody Sergienko*)**
Dina Lambert reported that she has received the receipts for the recently purchased equipment and will send out the check to Jody Sergienko within the next week.
- **Purchase of Projector:**
Closed this topic, as Kim Monson's friend has donated additional equipment to AAUW Mariposa.

New Business:

- **Member Corner for Newsletter:**
Bonnie Little reported that she will continue to have this article as long as members maintain interest. She will put out a reminder the last week of April to ask folks to submit for the May newsletter.
- **Annual Meeting Planning**
The group discussed the potential to do a hybrid meeting with outdoors in-person and allowing Zoom attendees as well. This would take more coordination, but it is doable. It will require hotspot/internet connection and electricity. The group decided to send out a survey to request that members tell us their interest in in-person vs. Zoom or that they will not attend, so that the Leadership Team can plan the event appropriately. For an in-person meeting, the date will need to move if we are going to use Trish's house. Cindy Harp will also check with other members to see about alternate hosting options.
- **In-Person Meetings (*Jody Sergienko*)**
Jody Sergienko reported that she sent an e-mail to AAUW State Program director regarding in-person meetings. Response was that State was holding a meeting to make decision, but that State was not planning to support in-person meetings for a while. However, last night, Sandi Gabe updated this information, stating that there is support for branches to follow County guidelines for meeting sizes. AAUW insurance will continue to NOT cover COVID-19 related issues. Therefore, State cannot sanction in-person gatherings. Jody and Cindy talked: Jody researched CDPH and CDC guidelines for Mariposa. Mariposa is in the orange tier, which means that gathering outdoors is okay. If mixing of vaccinated and unvaccinated and inclusion of high-risk populations occurs, the group needs to encourage masks and six foot social distancing. The County still needs to avoid large gatherings and continue testing/screening. The group discussed how to word AAUW Mariposa's in-person gathering statement. Jody and Cindy Harp will write up guideline to post on Facebook and webpage after CDPH posts update-

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

ed guidance. The message will be included in the Branch Buzz, Facebook, and website.

Newsletter Assignments:

Member Profile:

- May 2021: Kim Monson
- Lead article (Admin Overview):
May 2021 – Dina Lambert and Saralyn Nusbaum
June 2021 – Cindy Harp
- Board to Board:
May 2021: Cindy Harp
- COVID-19 Update:
May 2021: Jody Sergienko

Leadership Meeting Lead:

- May 2021: (agenda) Jody Sergienko

Branch Buzz:

- April 2021: Trish Darcy will send out the Branch Buzz

Action Items:

- 5 Star Program:
Use for strategic planning session for 2021-2022.

Upcoming Dates:

- Sunday, June 13, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. – Annual Meeting (date may change after review of location options)
- July 2 – 4, 2021 Butterfly Festival
July 31st at 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Strategic Planning Session at Trish Darcy's

Meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m. by Dina Lambert.

Event Calendar



May 12	SIG - Great Decisions: 5:00pm, home of Becky Mock (and Zoom)
May 13	SIG - Play Reading: 10:00am, patio of Dawn Johnson
May 15	SIG - Hiking: In-person hike– time and place TBD
May 18	SIG - International Study: 5:00pm, via Zoom
June 7	Leadership Team Meeting: 6:00pm, via Zoom
June 8	SIG - Book: 4:30pm, home of Saralynn Nusbaum (and Zoom)
June 27	Annual Meeting: 2:00pm, format TBD
July 2-4	Mariposa Butterfly Festival



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Leadership Team Minutes



AAUW - Mariposa Branch
Leadership Team Meeting
April 27, 2021 6:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Attendees:

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

Unable to Attend:

Kim Monson

Meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Jody Sergienko.

Annual Meeting:

- Discussion occurred regarding the date and location of the Annual Meeting. Trish Darcy moved to change the annual meeting date to June 27, 2021. Bonnie Little seconded. The location will be finalized; however, an in-person, outdoors event is preferred.
 - Trish Darcy will send out the new date and time in the Branch Buzz next week.
- The next step is to determine venue (in-person or virtual). Bonnie Little will send out a survey to members in late May so that the Leadership Team can gauge which venue would be preferred.

COVID-19:

- Dina Lambert reported that we received a 68% response on the vaccine survey.
- Discussion occurred regarding the effectiveness of the vaccine and how this will impact the ability to hold in-person events.
- Discussion occurred regarding immunization, the mask mandate, and asking members if they are vaccinated.

Cindy Harp provided a draft statement for AAUW Mariposa's announcement regarding in-person gatherings. She will finalize the draft and then send it to the Leadership Team to approve at next week's monthly meeting. Trish Darcy will then send out the finalized statement in next week's Branch Buzz.

Upcoming Dates:

- Sunday, June 27, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. – Annual Meeting (date may change after review of location options)
 - July 2 – 4, 2021 Butterfly Festival
- July 31st at 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Strategic Planning Session at Trish Darcy's

Meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m. by Jody Sergienko.

We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp



Board to Branch



Notes from AAUW California Board

—Cindy Harp

For more information on any subject of interest, visit our [AAUW California website](#) and the [AAUW website](#).

Dianne Owens, President, AAUW California,
statepresident@aauw-ca.org

IT IS NOT TOO LATE ...

VOTE:

- AAUW National's election continues until **Monday, May 17th**, at 2 pm PDT. You still have time to shape AAUW's future by voting to open our membership to everyone who supports our mission of equity for all. You will also be asked to support our Public Policy Priorities for the next two years and select our national leaders.
- Your California board has voted to support the proposed bylaw change to open our membership to all. This change supports our vision of "Equity for All."
- By making AAUW more inclusive, the bylaw change will open opportunities for funding from foundations and corporations.
- Click [here](#) for more information.
- Your ballot should have arrived on April 7th in an email from Shannon Wolf (memberinfo@aauw.org) titled "Vote now to shape AAUW's future." If you cannot find it after checking your spam folder, email connect@aauw.org and

request a new ballot. You can only vote once as your member number is associated with your ballot.

- As AAUW California members, nearly 10,000 strong, we can lead the nation to keep AAUW relevant in a fast-changing world and ensure that the AAUW we cherish will be here in the future for ALL to join.

ANNUAL MEETING:

Thanks to everyone who attended our 2020-2021 Annual Meeting on April 17th. We had nearly 400 people attend, and they represented 103 of our 119 branches. We presented our "Year of Covid" accomplishments with a creative animated Doodly designed by Sandi Gabe, who is my assistant and our webmaster. We honored former Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson with our "2021 Equity Champion Award" for her longtime work on equity issues impacting women and girls. Harriet Tower was selected as our 2020 State Named Gift Honoree. We heard and learned from three amazing Speech Trek finalists, and much, much more! Click [here](#) to view the meeting. This meeting would not have been possible without the outstanding work of Sandi Gabe, Tracey Clark, the entire Communications Team, and the California Leadership Team. Kudos to all!

Be bold, brave, and brilliant

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We Sponsor Community Forums



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NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS

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

We want to clarify that all AAUW members received two ballots in April: The ballot from National is asking you to vote on eliminating the degree requirement for AAUW membership. The election period ends on **May 17th**. If you have not received an email with the ballot, then contact: Connect@aauw.org

[The voting period for the California ballot ended on May 7th so that information has been deleted].

PLEASE VOTE! IT MATTERS.

SPEECH TREK

Marlene Cain, Speech Trek, speechtrek@aauw-ca.org

Speech Trek was very successful and attendees at the Annual Meeting watched

videos of the finalists. Plans are underway for 2021-2022.

Here is the new topic for 2022:

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." School children have been reciting the Pledge of Allegiance for nearly a century. What began as an advertising lark in 1923 has evolved to a patriotic act in 46 states.¹

(¹ "How the Pledge of Allegiance Went from PR Gimmick to Patriotic Vow", by Amy Crawford, Smithsonian Magazine, September 2015)

- Has the US lived up to its pledge of "liberty and justice for all"?
- Would requiring the study of diversity, equity, and inclusion in a high school setting help ensure "liberty and justice for all"?

Note from Mariposa Branch Leadership: The Mariposa Branch will use the Speech Trek topic as the basis for our new Tech Connect project, which we initiated this year

We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential



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The Sierra Outpost, newsletter of the Mariposa Branch of AAUW, is currently published on the 10th of each month.

Deadline for submissions is the 3rd of the month. Send information/questions to editor: jillrowney@yahoo.com

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