



## Sierra Outpost

### Compassion

—Jody Sergienko

#### A steady dose goes a long way!

Autumn is coming! Where has 2021 gone? And why does the new year for AAUW start as the calendar year is winding down? Ah well....

This year our branch is looking at our changing world here in the Sierra Foothills. Or we would be if we could meet in person and have fun yet informative programs for all! Which is such a shame because there is so much to talk and learn about, so much we can be doing.

What can we do from our homes via computers, the phone, by mail and in person "where safe" to address a crisis affecting our community and our nation? We are in a compassion crisis. Families are torn, neighbors are at odds, the community is polarized. The pandemic has allowed the cracks in the

system and the worst in many to rise to the surface. A major health issue has been turned into a political issue. It is not!

We have lost the compassion once held for family, friends, those who live around us and in our nation. Mariposa Strong has become "don't tell me what to do." Lines have been drawn and lives are being lost or broken.

Mariposa AAUW members, we are strong, intelligent, well-educated women and men. We were, and in many cases still are, the leaders of our professions. It is time to step up and take up the mantle of leadership again. We need to speak out and be heard.

What we can do is tell our stories about how the pandemic and Covid has affected us, not as a political

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issue, but as a human issue. Who has been exposed and dodged it; who got it; who knows someone who has died from this disease. Someone told me that they did not trust the numbers the health department put out because they

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## Leadership Team

### Steady dose of compassion

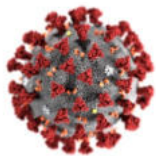
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personally did not know anyone who had Covid. I could not say anything, but I knew that this person did indeed know someone who had had it! He/she just was not aware of it. There appears to be a stigma attached to getting Covid and people do not want others to know. **Please share!** If you should test positive, let everyone know! I get tested weekly or every other week because there are two health care providers in my house. If I test positive, I promise to post it on Facebook as well as let my friends know as soon as I do.

Write to the Board of Supervisors and let them know how well (or not) you think they are doing. Tell them what you want to see from them. Remember we vote; we hold election forums; some of us could run for office. Write to everyone.

Be compassionate with each other and our community. We do not know what challenges others face. I do know that there are many people who are in need and we are seeking ideas on how to support them. This crisis of the need for compassion is one change we CAN do something about.

## Health



### Covid Corner

—Jody Sergienko

### It is not over yet...

The Covid report for Sept: Yup- it is still here. Nope- not going away soon. The Delta wave may be receding by the time this article is published but experts are predicting that there will be more.

- Put on your mask
- Wash your hands

- When indoors, if you can, keep distance from those people outside your household
- Get tested
- Stay home if you don't feel well
- And, of course, the usual plea for fall in the foothills: Pray for early rains!

We Value Education

## Project: Backpack



### Backpacks get to students before school begins

—Rebecca Swisher

Once again the members of AAUW Mariposa came through for the young people of our community. Your support of ideas, money, and time allowed us to collect and donate 72 backpacks containing all the supplies our middle school students may need in the classroom this year. This generosity made me proud to be part of this organization and grateful that I found a group of like-minded people to join.

I especially want to thank Kim Monson for her unwavering leadership and coordination of this project. Many thanks also go out to everyone who donated backpacks and participated in stuffing them with supplies, including Kim Monson, Cindy Harp, Carolyn Baker, Dawna Hunter, and Georgia Gallagher. Furthermore, we could not have distributed them at the Back to School Events without Anne Dolchanczyk, Judy Eppler, Naoko Kada, Jill Harry, and Kim Monson. Dawn Johnson also deserves special recognition for stepping up and taking



the reins at the Coulterville site when I was unable to attend at the last minute.

AAUW Mariposa, thank you for continuing to be the generous, thoughtful, and beautiful group of people I met seven years ago!

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

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**We Inspire Life-Long Learning**

## Membership

Bonnie Little, Dina Lambert



## Member Corner: Idea exchange

*Our members share what we have found enlightening and entertaining*

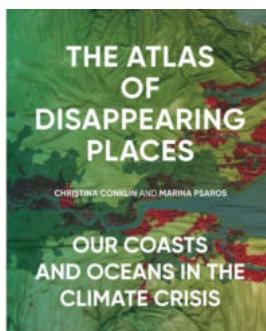
—Bonnie Little

Ruth Fruehauf has been reading the Louise Penny mystery series, after getting a recommendation from a book group member. The series focuses on Chief Inspector Armand Gamache in Canada. Ruth says that the books are addicting!



I did some research and learned that one of her novels, "Three Pines," is being made into a movie for Amazon Prime Video and will star Alfred Molina as the inspector.

Gary Colliver recommends "The Atlas of Disappearing Places: Our Coasts and Oceans in the Climate Crisis" by Christina Conklin and Marina Psaros. Each chapter focuses on a different location and the issues that face people who live there. Gary has recommended this timely book to members of the Environmental and Social Issues Special Interest Group.



Saralynn Nusbaum is enjoying "Mare of Easttown" on HBO. The title character, Mare Sheehan, is played by Kate Winslet. She plays a police investigator who is trying to solve a brutal murder. At the same time, she is trying to keep her complicated personal life from falling apart.



Karen Sutton highly recommends "The Chair" on Netflix. This drama with smart and funny moments takes place at a major university where the first woman of color becomes chair of the English Department. This well reviewed series stars Sandra Oh in the title role.



Peggy Shainberg read "Facing the Mountain" by Daniel James Brown as part of the AAUW Book Group. The subtitle is "The True Story of

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## We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp



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## Membership

Bonnie Little, Dina Lambert

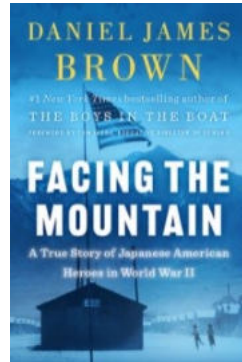
### Member Corner: Idea exchange

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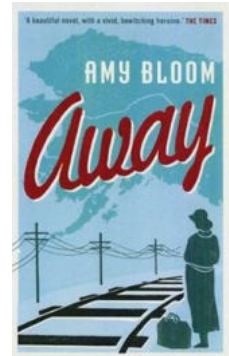
Japanese American  
Heroes in World War II.”

The book delves into the issues faced by Japanese American soldiers after Pearl Harbor in 1942, as well as the dark period of history when Japanese Americans were sent to internment camps.

Peggy said that it was a hard read as it brought up painful memories of prejudice and injustice faced by Japanese Americans during and after the war.



On a completely different note, Peggy recommends “Away” by Amy Bloom as a good read. It is the story of Lillian, a woman whose family is killed in a Russian pogrom and she comes to America alone to make her way. While here, she learns that her daughter might still be alive in Russia, so she embarks on a journey to find her.



I want to thank each of the members who have contributed to this column. There are so many great recommendations. Please keep the ideas coming!

### Events Calendar

September 11	<b>SIG— Hiking:</b> 8:30am, Stockton Creek Preserve
September 13	<b>Leadership Team Meeting:</b> 6:00pm (Mariposa County Library)
September 14	<b>SIG—Environmental &amp; Social Issues:</b> 4:30pm via Zoom
September 28	<b>SIG— International Study:</b> 5:00pm, Home of Peggy Shainberg
October 4	<b>Leadership Team Meeting:</b> 6:00pm (Mariposa County Library)
October 5	<b>SIG—Book:</b> 5:00pm, Home of Saralynn Nusbaum
October 9	<b>SIG— Hiking:</b> time and place TBD
October 19	<b>SIG—Environmental &amp; Social Issues:</b> 4:30pm via Zoom
November 13	<b>SIG— Hiking:</b> time and place TBD



We Sponsor Community Forums

## 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.

### Environment & Social Issues Gary Colliver



### 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.

### Art Group Karen Sutton



A new group to dabble in creative pursuits. Learn together— arrange casual workshops in painting, sketching, quilting, beading; patronize local arts— art shows, museum visits, etc.

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



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## Special Interest Groups

### SIGS begin afresh, but Zoom still plays an integral part

As our new fiscal year begins, so our Special Interest Groups reconvene. New members have signed up, new ideas are tossed into the fray and AAUW's mission of continuing education forges on with members gathering for the sharing of research, ideas, and, of course social relaxation. Most groups have elected to meet outside as long as weather permits, but Zoom remains ever-present in our lives as we grapple with the pandemic.



### SIG: Environmental & Social Issues

Contact [Gary Colliver](#)

#### Announcing a New Special Interest Group!

The Environmental and Social Issues SIG will be studying and learning about the interconnections between climate change, biodiversity loss and ecosystem disruption, and the various disruptive social issues we face.

We had a good first meeting on Saturday, August 29th, with eight of the ten who signed up attending—five on Zoom and three in person. We all shared first impressions and questions and had a good discussion. Concerns were expressed about how many people do not accept the reality of climate change, and how difficult it is to talk with them about it. Also, it was agreed that the complexity and interconnectedness of climate change, biodiversity loss, and various social issues (the three major, linked issues we will be studying), and of the underlying science are real challenges to understanding and talking about these issues with others.

—Gary Colliver

We came to a consensus that we would like our study and learning efforts to move toward positive actions to address these issues as they manifest themselves here in Mariposa County. Everyone shared initial ideas of things that possibly could be done.

Finally, we decided that, for the foreseeable future, our meetings would be on Zoom, and chose Tuesday, September 14, at 4:30pm for our second meeting. If it works for everyone, we will then meet on the third Tuesday of each month.

We Open Eyes



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**SIG: Play Reading**Contact [Dawn Johnson](#)**“Three Tall Women” by Edward Albee**

—Dawn Johnson

Six average-height women read “Three Tall Women” at our first in-person meeting of the Play Reading Group since the world turned upside down. We respected CDC guidelines and stayed outside, but Mother Nature did not respect us and callously drove the temperature to the century mark. But, like the women in the play, we were strong.

Albee’s play, a 1994 Pulitzer Prize winner, has a curious cast of only three characters, named “A,” “B,” and “C.” At least we didn’t have any trouble keeping them apart. That

was a good thing because the characters in Act 1 are transformed in Act II into representations of the stages of life of the main character “A.” If that sounds confusing, it’s because it was. But the fast-paced dialogue was excellent for reading and “A’s” reflections on the shame and pleasure of her life were both humorous and poignant. We gave it a thumbs up and jumped into our air-conditioned cars.

Next month’s play will be “Lunch Hour” by Jean Kerr, a “comedy about marital bliss.” I’m not sure that’s possible.

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

The first meeting of the year will be at the home of Peggy Shainberg on September 28th at 5:00pm.

**SIG: Hiking**Contact [Trish Darcy](#)

Beginning in September, hikes are planned to be the 2nd Saturday of every month. Bring your camera, or whatever takes the best photos, and share your trekking adventures with the rest of us!

**SIG: Wine**Contact [Carolyn Baker](#) or [Cindy Harp](#)

Ah, the fickle virus that allows us to get up our hopes to enjoy socializing with various varietals— only to smash them down as we would do to our juice-filled orbs that produce such heavenly quaffs. Oh, dear— I DO think it is time for a reality check!... Stay tuned... This group WILL be back!

**We Value Education**



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

## Votes are tallied— ideal fall plant revealed!

—Karen Smith

September already, or some would say not soon enough! With the Dog Days of Summer hopefully behind us, we turn our attention to planting our fall gardens.

I recently bought a six pack each of onions, peas, spinach, carrots, beets, kale, celery and chard. I then lovingly set them on of my raised garden beds. Along with the six packs, I put out little voting ballots so the ground squirrels, opossums, skunks, chipmunks, gophers and voles could easily vote which plant they prefer to eat. I asked that they rate the plants as first, second and third so I could be sure to buy only the plants they like. So far, they like all of them equally except chard. For some reason they aren't too keen on chard! BINGO.

**Join the Garden Group on September 9th for a casual get-together at 1850 at 5:00. There will be plenty of sage advice on how to get rid of pests in the garden!**



End of Karen's summer garden.



Horned worms above did their best to mark the end of Cindy's summer garden.

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## SIG - Book

Contact [Saralynn Nusbaum](#)

Our **next meeting will be on**  
**Tuesday, October 5, at 5:00 pm**  
 hosted by Saralynn Nusbaum. We will  
 be discussing:

***Imagine Me Gone***  
 By Adam Haslett



### Discussion Notes

—By Ruth Fruehauf

For the book group's August meeting, a small group gathered in Saralynn's back yard to discuss Matt Haig's *The Midnight Library*. The book is a fascinating examination of decisions, regrets and the resulting path our lives can take.

"Somewhere out beyond the edge of the universe there is a library that contains an infinite number of books, each one the story of another reality. One tells the story of your life as it is, along with another book for the other life you could have lived if you had made a different choice at any point in your life. While we all wonder how our lives might have been, what if you had the chance



to go to the library and see for yourself? Would any of these other lives truly be better?"

The main character suffers from depression which prompted an exploration into the personal life of the author who was very open about his

own struggles. Several interviews with him described his own path with depression. Many of us were fascinated by the twists and turns relationships took depending on the choices of the main character throughout her various lives. Of the many choices she made, we explored fame, academic success and motherhood. It was a very interesting discussion.



## SIG: Great Decisions

Contact [Becky Mock](#)

in forthcoming issues.

Great Decisions SIG met earlier this week to schedule meeting dates, times, and topics. Look for reviews of animated discussions that generally ensue

## SIG: Art

Contact [Karen Sutton](#)



Stay tuned!

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



## Board to Branch



### Notes from AAUW California Board

—Cindy Harp

Remember, if you are interested in more detail on anything in this B2B, please visit [www.aauw-ca.org](http://www.aauw-ca.org) and browse the home page for “Board to Board.” Some members might be missing the wonderful humor and information we receive in the *California Connection*, the monthly e-newsletter sent to all California AAUW members. This might occur if you have Gmail because sometimes the Gmail filter puts it into the Social or Promotions tab rather than the Primary tab. Please look in these tabs if you have Gmail and are not seeing your *California Connection*. It is distributed on the 8th of the month.

#### AAUW FUND

*Lynne Batchelor, Secretary, AAUW Fund Committee Chair, [aaufund@aauw-ca.org](mailto:aaufund@aauw-ca.org)*

#### THE AAUW FUND “LUNCHEONS” HAVE BEEN RENAMED THE AAUW FUND “EVENTS”

It is almost time to fire up Zoom, put on your favorite waist-up attire, grab a snack, pick up a pen and paper, and join us in welcoming this year’s California fellows and grant recipients. Because we are lucky enough to have so many (37) recipients in California, we have scheduled three virtual AAUW Fund events for 2021 to enable all of them to have an opportunity to explain their work. You may attend any number of events but you must register in advance. We have two Saturday events from 10:00 am-noon (October 23rd and October 30th)

and one Sunday event from 1:00-3:00 pm (November 7th). Although the events are free, please consider making a [donation](#) to the AAUW Fund to support this fantastic program. You are especially invited to contribute to the Greatest Need Fund which enables your donation to be prioritized to meet AAUW obligations. You will be able to register soon to be informed and inspired by these wonderful women.

#### DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

*Elaine Johnson, Director and Janice Lee, DEI Committee Co-Chairs [diversity@aauw-ca.org](mailto:diversity@aauw-ca.org)*

#### THE MAGIC OF RECOGNIZING IMPLICIT BIAS

Denial of bias is common. However, each of us has some implicit or unrecognized bias. Being able to own this and talk about such bias can open opportunities for branches to grow. This can be a magical opportunity.

AAUW National will present a webinar on implicit bias on September 23, 2021. National will be sending out more details including the link for the webinar shortly.

#### MARKETING - SOCIAL MEDIA

*Sandi Gabe, Marketing Project Manager and President-Elect, Chair [mkt-sm@aauw-ca.org](mailto:mkt-sm@aauw-ca.org)*

#### STAY TUNED!

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and websites! These

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We Sponsor Community Forums

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are some of the tools we'll be exploring in our quest to expand the visibility of AAUW California. Since each platform attracts a different demographic, we'll be creating messages tailored to each audience. Facebook has universal appeal and is the most popular social network among middle-aged (in internet terms) users. Twitter's audience skews younger than Facebook's and is primarily a source for news. Instagram's users tend to be very young—in their teens and twenties—and very active and loyal. Intrigued about our plans? Want to get involved? There's still room on our team. Contact me for more information.

## NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS

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

### WHAT? ANOTHER ELECTION??

Well, not quite yet, but consider this your first notice about the upcoming AAUW California election in April 2022. This year we have a huge slate to fill as we are working to balance the board. Because the president-elect position is a one-year term and directors are two-year terms, the board became lopsided. To solve this, we will be electing three one-year term directors and four two-year term directors, along with a secretary (two-year term).

The website and nomination form will be updated shortly. Start considering members in your branch who might like to run for state office, or maybe you yourself would make a great candidate! More information will be available next month.

AAUW- Mariposa <a href="http://www.aauwmariposa.com">www.aauwmariposa.com</a> Facebook <a href="https://www.facebook.com/aauwmariposa">https://www.facebook.com/aauwmariposa</a>		Project Chairs/Coordinators	
Leadership Team: 2021-2022		Advertising	open
<a href="#">Jody Sergienko</a>	Co-Admin	Back Pack Project	<a href="#">Kim Monson</a> & <a href="#">Rebecca Swisher</a>
<a href="#">Cindy Harp</a>	Co-Admin	Dinner With a Scientist	<a href="#">Marilyn Saunders</a>
<a href="#">Dina Lambert</a>	Finance, Co-Membership	Goodwill Ambassador	open
<a href="#">Bonnie Little</a>	Co-Membership	Newsletter Editor	<a href="#">Jill Rowney</a>
<a href="#">Rebecca Swisher</a>	Recording Secretary	Publicity	<a href="#">Jody Sergienko</a>
<a href="#">Trish Darcy</a>	Team Member; Tech Trek	Social Media	<a href="#">Dina Lambert</a>
<a href="#">Kim Monson</a>	Team Member	Tech Connect*	<a href="#">Kim Monson</a> & <a href="#">Rebecca Swisher</a>
<a href="#">Saralynn Nusbaum</a>	Team Member	Tech Trek	<a href="#">Trish Darcy</a> & <a href="#">Barbara Silva</a>
<a href="#">Karen Sutton</a>	Team Member	Website	<a href="#">Dina Lambert</a>
<i>The Sierra Outpost</i> , 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: <a href="mailto:jillrowney@yahoo.com">jillrowney@yahoo.com</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>

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