



## Sierra Outpost

### Keeping the powerful force that we are alive

—Cindy Harp

I want to start off this edition by wishing you all a happy and healthy 2022! Yes, I know COVID and its variants are still very much with us, but life goes on anyway, and we do have choices about how we will live and respond to our personal reality!

For me, one of the things that lifts my spirits and brings me joy is learning—a new skill, more about a familiar topic, something I’ve always been curious about, almost any kind of learning. Fortunately, and partially because of pandemic protocols, today there is a wider array of online classes than ever before, free or for a modest fee. There are also local resources for learning a new skill, keeping up on advances in horticulture, environmental science, art, and even history!

Our upcoming March 13 public

program on “Yosemite: Past and Present” is a case in point. This program will feature two strong, dedicated local women presenting two different perspectives on our beloved national park. See [page 3](#) for more information and plan to attend.

In April we will learn more about the new process that is required on the hospital bond issue, which is of concern to all of us here in the foothills. Stay tuned for that update as information solidifies.

We are planning a program for May that will present information and progress on conserving our beautiful and historic wild places. More details will be forthcoming in next month’s newsletter. And of course, June 5<sup>th</sup> will be our annual meeting and excuse to party together!!

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<a href="#">AAUW CA Annual Event</a>	7
<a href="#">California Connection</a>	10
<a href="#">Contact Info</a>	17
<a href="#">Covid Corner</a>	6
<a href="#">Diversity &amp; Inclusion</a>	8
<a href="#">Events Calendar</a>	2
<a href="#">Leadership Team-Message</a>	1
<b>Membership:</b>	
<a href="#">Member Idea Exchange</a>	4
<a href="#">Program— March 13</a>	3
<a href="#">Welcome to New Members</a>	5
<a href="#">SIG: Book</a>	12
<a href="#">SIG: Great Decisions</a>	14
<a href="#">SIG: Hiking</a>	16
<a href="#">SIG: International Study</a>	15
<a href="#">SIG: Play Reading</a>	13
<a href="#">Tech Trek</a>	2

In the meantime, if you are interested in engaging with our Leadership Team in support of our youth, we have ongoing opportunities to assist with Tech Trek, putting together a new vocational/ internship project, and refining our Tech Connect: Multimedia Messages program (which, for our branch, replaces Speech Trek). Contact any member of the Leadership Team if any of these projects pique your interest!

Let’s make it an exciting, growth-filled, productive year together! We are a powerful force for good in the lives of our community and our future leaders, our youth!

## Project: Tech Trek



## 2022 Tech Trek is ramping up!

—Trish Darcy

We have just recently received the word that Fresno State will allow us to hold an in-person camp this summer for our girls! This is the best news ever! There will still be a virtual option for those needing or wanting that particular model.

This means that it is time to get our volunteers lined up and ready to go. At this time we do not have dates, so just let us know if you are interested in helping with one of the following:

**1) Scorers:** We will need five people to read the applications and essays and score them on a rubric that we will provide for you. This

can be done on your own time and we usually are able to give you a week to get the task done.

**2) Interviewers:** We need three people to be on the interview panel. There are pre-set questions that you will ask them and then rate their responses on a rubric that is provided. This will hopefully be in person, but we will have the option of Zoom if needed.

If you are interested in helping with either one of these or just have some questions, email Trish Darcy at [tbdarcy1@gmail.com](mailto:tbdarcy1@gmail.com).

## Events Calendar

### 2022

February 5	<b>SIG—Garden:</b> 11:00am, home of Saralynn Nusbaum
February 7	<b>Leadership Team Meeting:</b> 6:00pm
February 8	<b>SIG—Book:</b> 4:00pm, Saralynn Nusbaum, host (Zoom or in person, TBD)
February 12	<b>SIG—Hiking:</b> time and place TBD
February 16	<b>SIG—Great Decisions:</b> 4:30pm, home of Becky Mock
March 7	<b>Leadership Team Meeting:</b> 6:00pm
March 12	<b>SIG—Hiking:</b> time and place TBD
March 13	<b>Program: “Yosemite: Past and Present”</b> - 2:00-3:30pm, Pavilion at the Mariposa Town Park
March 15	<b>SIG—International Study:</b> 5:00pm, home of Jill Rowney



 [To Page 1](#)

We Value Education

## Program

### Yosemite: Past and Present

—Trish Darcy



On March 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm we will host an event open to our members as well as the community. This will be held at the Mariposa Town Park in the pavilion area. The topic is “Yosemite: Past and Present.” We have two wonderful speakers lined up.

The first is Emily Dayhoff. She is currently an Interpretive Ranger in the park as well as an Indian Cultural Demonstrator. She grew up here in Mariposa and has been an active member of the Yosemite Miwuk tribe, participating in their events and learning her culture.

The second speaker is Laurel Munson

Boyers. She was born and raised in Yosemite, working there from a young age. She worked her way up from issuing wilderness permits to being the first woman backcountry unit manager. Both of these women come with a long list of credentials and we look forward to hearing their stories and experiences.

Look for more information in your email, on Facebook and in the *Gazette*.

Please invite your family and friends to join us. This should be a fun and informative event.

#### “Yosemite: Past and Present”

**Sunday, March 13**

**2:00 pm**

**Mariposa Town Park (Pavilion)**

**This event is free and open to the public.**



Left:  
Emily Dayhoff

Right:  
Laurel Munson  
Boyers



## Membership

Bonnie Little, Dina Lambert



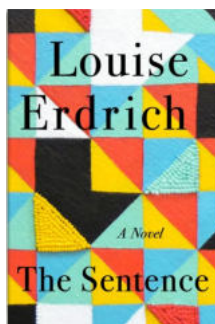
## Member Corner: Idea exchange

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

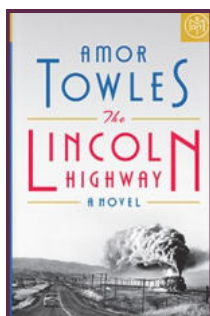
—Bonnie Little

As usual, we have had great suggestions this month. Here we go!

Sue Overstreet recommends ***The Sentence*** by Louise Erdrich. It is the story of a small bookstore in Minneapolis that becomes haunted during the tumultuous year that included the pandemic. Sue says the book has “wonderful characters” and a great book list as an addendum.

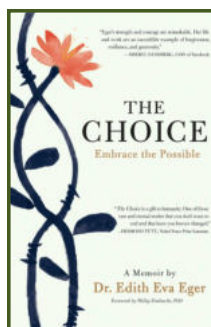


Angela Heiss also recommended *The Sentence*. Based on the reviews from these two ladies, I just put it on my library request list!



Angela also enjoyed reading ***The Lincoln Highway*** by Amor Towles. The story takes place in the 1950s when a group of unlikely traveling companions, three of whom had been incarcerated, take a road trip from Nebraska to New York City.

Angela’s third recommendation is ***The Choice***. Dr. Edith Eva Eger wrote *The Choice* as a memoir and a practical guide to healing. She is an eminent psychologist. As a



survivor of the Holocaust, she is able to use her unique experiences to help patients escape the prisons of their own minds.

There were also three movies on Angela’s list. First is ***Being the Ricardos***, an inside look at how the popular “*I Love Lucy*” show was filmed. There were a lot of drama and power struggles between the real-life Lucy and Ricky and Fred and Ethel.



***“Don’t Look Up”*** is a darkly humorous movie about two astronomers who go on a media blitz to warn mankind of an approaching comet that will destroy the Earth. Jody Sergienko also recommended ***“Don’t Look Up”*** on Netflix. Another one on my list!

Angela loved ***“A Place to Call Home”***, the story of a mysterious woman who is caught between the harsh legacy of World War II and the hope of a new life in Australia. It is on the Acorn Network and Angela says



(Continued on page 5)

We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp

To Page 1



## Membership

(Continued from page 4)

that it was worth subscribing to Acorn just for this series.

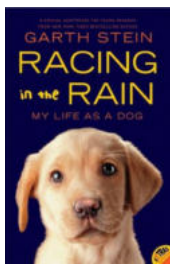
Jody Sergienko and her family enjoy cooking shows. Her first suggestion is **"School of Chocolate"** on Netflix. It's not the usual cooking competition.



Also on Netflix is **"Salt, Fat, Acid, and Heat."**

Chef and food writer Samin Nosrat travels the world to demystify and explore the principles of what makes food delicious. Viewers can easily incorporate these elements into their own kitchen to make delectable food.

Saralynn Nusbaum has been busy reading and loved ***Racing in the Rain*** by Garth Stein. It is the story of a family told by the family dog. The dad is a race car driver, hence the name. It has also been made into a movie which I (Bonnie) watched some years ago and it was well-done.



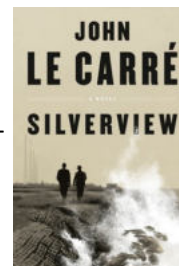
Saralynn also read two non-fiction books by the authors Patrick Radden Keefe and Michael Lewis. Keefe writes about Purdue Pharmacy and the Sackler family who are accused of promoting the opioid crisis. Lewis writes about the pandemic.

For sheer entertainment, Saralynn says AKA "trash", she read ***The Flight Attendant*** by Chris Bohjalian. A flight



attendant with alcohol problems passes out and wakes up next to a dead man. Saralynn watched the HBO treatment of this novel and was disappointed. Speaking for myself, I think we all sometimes need to read or watch something for "sheer entertainment"!

Last, but certainly not least, Christina Oborn recommends two books. The first is ***Silverview*** by John le Carré. The novel focuses on Julian Lawndesley who gives up his big job in the city for a simpler life running a bookstore in the English countryside. He becomes caught up in an investigation involving two spies.



The second book is ***There is Nothing for You Here*** by Fiona Hill. The subtitle is "Finding Opportunity in the Twenty-First Century".



Ms. Hill is a celebrated foreign policy expert who served as a key witness in the first impeachment trial of Donald Trump. In this personal account, she shares what she has learned and explains that only by expanding opportunity can we save our democracy.

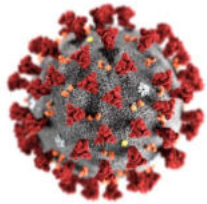
Thank you to these contributors who have given us a wide range of suggestions to educate and illuminate our lives. No wonder we have such a diverse and amazing membership!

## Welcome to our newest member!

Kay Sarnoff Wilson just joined our branch. A hearty welcome to you!

We Sponsor Community Forums

## Health



### Covid Corner

-Jody Sergienko

## No starting over... Facts as they are here in Mariposa

So 2022 has skated past the return date and I guess we have to keep it! Just as I rewrote this report for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time, an email came in and stated it all so well. So below are the facts and information that the county has sent out. Stay well!

**From our Mariposa County Health-** The good news is that nationally, in California, and Mariposa County, the numbers of COVID-19 cases are slowly decreasing. As a reminder, hospitalizations tend to lag by a week or so and deaths, a week or so after that. We are not out of the woods yet but are hopeful. Reports across California continue to show hospitals in strain or surge.

**PCR testing** turnaround times are starting to decrease again as the number of tests being sent to labs is stabilizing and even decreasing. If individuals have not received their test results after 6 days, they should **check with the company or organization where they tested**. For the LHI/Optum Serve sites in Mariposa County, this means calling 1-888-634-1123, selecting their option for language preference, then selecting option #8.

**And Vaccine information** - Mariposa residents aged 5 and up are eligible for their COVID-19 vaccine. We strongly recommend scheduling your appointment for your booster if you are eligible. Real-world evidence shows that boosters are extremely effective at preventing

severe illness, hospitalization, and death.

All of our vaccination clinics have the Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson vaccines, including boosters and pediatric doses. Clinics for February are as follows:

**Tuesdays** at the Community Health Center (5300 49 N, Mariposa) from 8:30 am - 12:00 pm.

**Thursdays** at the Community Health Center (5300 49 N, Mariposa) from 2:30 - 4:30 pm. Please note that on Thursdays, starting in February, we will be shifting to afternoons only. Additional information and clinics can be found on our vaccine webpage. The majority of COVID-19 cases continue to be in unvaccinated individuals.

**Testing information-** Mariposa County has three, FREE COVID-19 Testing Sites, sponsored and funded by the State of California, Office of Emergency Services, and run by OptumServe:

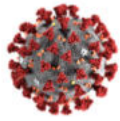
- YARTS Park and Ride (next to Rite Aid) at 4984 Joe Howard St. Mariposa, CA 95338 open Tuesdays through Saturdays 7:00 am – 12:00 pm, 1:00 - 4:30 pm & 5:00 - 7:00 pm.
- Yosemite Medical Clinic at 9000 Ahwahnee Dr., Yosemite Valley, CA 95389 open Mondays from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm & 3:00 - 6:00 pm.

(Continued on page 7)

We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential



To Page 1



## Health

(Continued from page 6)

- Curry Village Wellness Center at 8324 Sierra Circle, Yosemite Valley, CA 95389 open Thursdays from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm & 3:00 - 6:00 pm.

Appointments are strongly recommended, but walk-ins may be accepted.

**Hospitalizations:** Mariposa County currently has 16 hospitalized COVID-19 cases. These cases range from 23 to 84 years old. Click [here](#) for more information.

Due to the impact of the Omicron variant on our healthcare system, California opted to activate the ICU level loading order to help support healthcare systems. So how does a COVID-19 surge impact healthcare? The example that affects our county the most is transfer challenges. Not all hospitals have the same capacity, so sometimes when patients arrive at a facility and need specific care or

equipment, they will be transferred to a facility that has those things. Our local hospital has very limited resources and most patients requiring inpatient care normally need to be transferred out. During health care surges, it can be challenging for hospital employees to find open beds. Sometimes it can take days. This can mean that patients don't have access to everything they need and/or staff has to care for far more patients.

There has been a lot of talk in the news lately about the end of the pandemic and how we get there. The goal is to move from a pandemic state to an endemic state, where COVID-19 is still around, but to a lesser degree and doesn't impact our daily lives in the same way.

Check it out [here](#). Short answer is, yes, we are still in a pandemic state!

## AAUW California

### An opportunity too good to pass up

—Trish Darcy

The AAUW California Annual Event is scheduled for April 30th. It will be virtual again this year, which means it is easy for you to join in! It costs you nothing! No travel costs like hotels, food, and gas! What a great opportunity! We encourage you to register for the event and will share that information when it's available.

The State says, "There will be fabulous speakers such as AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell, Policy Rockstar Lisa Maatz, and The Dancing Rocket

Scientist Jasmine Sadler!" We will hear everything that has gone on at the state level the past year as well as hear the Speech Trek finalists. The afternoon will have open sessions with topics such as equity, women, and girls. This is such a good opportunity with it being virtual. It is so much easier for us to participate and be a part of this! Look for registration information coming soon, but for now save the date.

We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential



To Page 1

## Leadership Team

# Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

## Reflecting on what this means in today's world

In our world today, it is becoming increasingly important to be aware of these three words and what they mean in our society. We'll start with the simple definitions of each one.

### Diversity

1. The condition of having or being composed of differing elements : variety especially : the inclusion of different types of people (such as people of different races or cultures) in a group or organization programs intended to promote diversity in schools
2. An instance of being composed of differing elements or qualities : an instance of being diverse a diversity of opinion

### Equity

1. Justice according to natural law or right specifically : freedom from bias or favoritism
2. Something that is equitable

### Inclusion

1. The act of including : the state of being included
2. The act or practice of including and accommodating people who have historically been excluded (as because of their race, gender, sexuality or

ability)

Source: *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*

We use these words in our daily conversations, but do we really think about what they mean in today's world?

In this month's **Board to Branch** ([click here to read entire article](#)), Elaine Johnson and Janice Lee write, "Many of us find comfort in likeness and tend to hang out with folks like ourselves. This coming year brings many opportunities to move beyond that comfort zone and appreciate living in a multi-cultural society where differences between people are a valued asset." This is certainly true.

This month, take a little time to reflect on what diversity, inclusion, and equity mean to you and for you. Think about how you can make little changes in the world to make these a reality for people around you. Elaine and Janice also included a link to a short video that helps us understand. Click [here](#) to check it out!

*Editor' note: To pique your interest, peruse the transcription of the video on the next page.*

## We Open Eyes



To Page 1



## Spotlight on **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

A transcription of the video by [Accenture](#) posted on Youtube:

### **Accenture, Inclusion, and the Power of Diversity: “#InclusionStartsWith1”**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ It's the unease of walking into a meeting where no-one else looks like me...</li> <li>◆ And the unease of being judged when I leave early to pick up my children.</li> <li>◆ It's the frustration when I am not asked for my opinion or talked over in meetings...</li> <li>◆ And the frustration of asserting my opinion, only to be labeled aggressive or angry.</li> <li>◆ It's the annoyance when people</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>are heterosexual...</li> <li>◆ And the anxiety of how others will react to my disability.</li> <li>◆ It's the awkwardness when I get mistaken for someone else of the same ethnicity...</li> <li>◆ And the awkwardness when my client assumes that my white male colleague is in charge.</li> <li>◆ It's the strain of feeling I am expected to do more, simply because I don't have children...</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

...A chance to feel valued and respected for who we are...

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>presume I am less committed to my family life, because I am a man...</li> <li>◆ And the annoyance when people presume I am less committed to my work, because I am a mother.</li> <li>◆ It's the pressure to be super-human and not talk about how I'm really feeling...</li> <li>◆ And the pressure to fit in.</li> <li>◆ It's the anxiety of sharing my personal life, because most people around me</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ And the strain when conversations aren't in my first language.</li> <li>◆ It's the exasperation of being labeled entitled and lacking drive...</li> <li>◆ And the exasperation when people assume I don't have relevant skills or ambition anymore.</li> <li>◆ It's the indignation of feeling that my promotion is not celebrated as much as others...</li> <li>◆ And the indignation when you think I</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

**We Value Education**

## ***Spotlight on Diversity and Inclusion***

*(Continued from page 9)*

was promoted just because I am a woman.

- ◆ It's about the every day. It's about the big and the small.
- ◆ It's about the fact that...
- ◆ For every \$100 a woman makes, a man makes \$258...
- ◆ Women of color hold 3% of C-Suite positions...
- ◆ 7 in 10 working fathers want to work more flexibly...
- ◆ Disabled people are significantly more likely to experience unfair treatment at work than non-disabled people...
- ◆ Transgender people are twice as likely to be unemployed and are four times as likely to live in poverty...
- ◆ 1 in 4 of us will experience a mental health issue each year...
- ◆ And team performance improves by 50% when everyone feels included.
- ◆ Inclusion & Diversity is not just about... Gender. Ethnicity. Sexual Orientation.

Background. Disability. Culture. Age. Mental Health.

- ◆ It's about you. It's about me. It's about all of us.
- ◆ We are all human.
- ◆ We are all unique.
- ◆ And we all just want a chance.
- ◆ A chance to feel valued and respected for who we are...
- ◆ And for our differences to be embraced as strengths.
- ◆ Inclusion promotes belonging, purpose and wellbeing.
- ◆ Diversity ignites creativity, problem solving and innovation.
- ◆ It's about the type of world we want to live in and the choices we make every day.
- ◆ It's the vision of a better world for our children.
- ◆ And all it takes is one.
- ◆ One person to care. One commitment to act.
- ◆ Be the one.
- ◆ Join the conversation.



## **Connect to the *California Connection***

Did you read your "California Connection?" It is a witty outline of what is happening at the state level in an entertaining, personal fashion. And it is written by our own Dawn Johnson! Click [here](#) if you missed it!

**We Inspire Life-Long Learning**

## SIG Overview

## Special Interest Groups

### International Study Veronica Gross



Learn about a country, a culture, and a people. We study one country each year and meet bi-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 monthly to discuss a set of topics developed by the Foreign Policy Association (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 Jody Sergienko



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 Send Girls to Science/Math Camp

## SIG - Book

[Saralynn Nusbaum](#)

Our next meeting will be on  
Tuesday, February 8, at 4:00 pm  
hosted by Saralynn Nusbaum on  
Zoom. We will be discussing:

***Crossroads***

by Jonathan Franzen

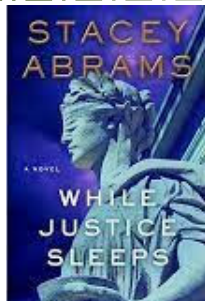


### ***While Justice Sleeps* by Stacey Abrams**

—Review by Saralynn Nusbaum

Political leader and 2022 candidate for Georgia governor Stacey Abrams was the author of this book. She served eleven years in the Georgia House of Representatives, launching multiple organizations devoted to voting rights and training and hiring of young people of color. As a lifetime member of the Council on Foreign Relations, she sits on the advisory board of Climate Power 2020, and is member of the advocacy board of the Women's National Basketball Players Association. On top of all this she has written several romantic suspense novels, under a pseudonym, all with the goal of illustrating that black women can be as adventurous and attractive as any white woman. Our group read her most recent novel ***While Justice Sleeps*** but my question is when does Stacey Abrams sleep? Just listing her accomplishments makes me sleepy!

***While Justice Sleeps*** is the culmination of several years of work and multiple attempts at getting it published. When she initially approached publishers, their response was that the president character was unrealistic because a president would not behave with



such blatant self-interest. Enter #45... and the publishers decided that the plot was relevant and timely.

The plot is based on a legal loophole about the appointment of Supreme Court justices. If a justice becomes incapacitated, there is no legal recourse for withholding or otherwise reducing their responsibilities unless they do it themselves. In our story, the justice falls into a coma and unbeknownst to his young law clerk, he has designated her to be his power of attorney. The justice basically left his clerk with a scavenger hunt to figure out how to get the information that she needs to see justice through.

Our group reviews were mixed, some of us felt it was a bit unbelievable. Would a Supreme Court Justice leave this responsibility to his 26-year-old clerk? Many of the clues along the scavenger hunt were dependent upon a chess analogy that doesn't make sense if you don't play chess and none in our group does. Would we have chosen the book if the author was other than Stacey Abrams? IMHO, it was a bit over-hyped but I enjoyed the book enough to read more from her eventually.

We Sponsor Community Forums



[To Page 1](#)





## SIG: Play Reading

Contact [Dawn Johnson](#)

### December's Play – "Jitney"

—Dawn Johnson

Since supply chain disruptions made holiday shopping a bore, several members turned to other entertainment during December. They braved the winter weather, which was more prevalent indoors than outdoors due to a broken furnace, and read "Jitney," by August Wilson.

Written in 1979 and set during that era, it won the New York Drama Circle Critics' Award (what a mouthful!). It centered around a group of men who drove "jitneys" to take passengers into areas of downtown Pittsburgh where regular cabbies wouldn't go. Their backgrounds and stories ran the gamut from returning Vietnam vet to ex-con to a numbers runner, not exactly typical roles for AAUW women.

After much discussion about what the heck a "jitney" is, we got into the play and thoroughly enjoyed it. Being a little shorter than usual, we had a lot of time left for a good discussion of its many relevant messages. All in all, it was an excellent read

(and read excellently!).

Our January play was to be "Intimate Apparel" by Pulitzer Prize winner Lynn Nottage. Once again, we would have been peeking into the world of Blacks and immigrants in the early 1900's in this 2004 play. Here's a [trailer](#) from a community production.

*Editor's note: We missed the January reading of "Intimate Apparel" due to conflicting schedules, but we're ready for our next reading on February 5th!*

If you want to join us, contact Dawn at [dawnandjay.johnson@gmail.com](mailto:dawnandjay.johnson@gmail.com). The furnace is working.



## SIG: Great Decisions

Contact [Becky Mock](#)

Due to COVID concerns, January's meeting was cancelled. We plan to have our next meeting on February 16. The topic will be "Brexit: Taking Stock and Looking Ahead." It will be at 4:30 at the home of Becky Mock (until further notice).

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



[To Page 1](#)



## SIG: Great Decisions

Contact [Becky Mock](#)

# Two Koreas: More to the Story

—Christina Oborn

Since being divided after WWII ended in 1948 by the U.S. and the Soviet Union, the two Koreas took different development paths. Today, South Korea (SK) is considered a fully functioning democracy known for its entertainment industry, a healthy economy based on advanced technology with highly educated and skilled workers, and its swift and effective response to COVID. North Korea (NK) is known as a harsh authoritarian socialist state controlled by the Jong-Un family since WWII and its “military first” policy of developing nuclear weapons and missiles to establish itself as a regional and global power. Today, SK’s domestic and foreign policy is caught between pressure from NK, China and U.S. interests.

Moon Jae-In was elected SK’s president in 2017 after a corrupt influence-peddling scheme was uncovered in the previous administration. Kim Jong Un inherited the NK presidency after his father died in 2011. Moon’s tenure will end with March 2022 elections and his Democratic Party faces a strong challenge from the Conservative Party because of the previous president’s (Park) scandals. Kim has solidified his power in NK, eliminating rivals and promoting others, including his sister, Kim Yo Jong. Kim Jong Un has played a more public role than his father and has ruled longer than him, recently celebrating ten years in power.



Attempts have been made by the two Koreas to improve their relationship with the hope of eventual reunification. Further talks were stalled because of COVID. NK shut its borders and stopped import activities, relying on Russia and China for assistance. SK instituted a strong COVID response, using cell phone technology to trace contacts, mandating masks and a testing regime. Kim pledged to work toward denuclearization with the Panmunjom Declaration in 2019 but follow-up talks between Trump and Kim in Hanoi failed. Moon was ignored by both the US and NK. Kim wanted sanctions lifted and recognition of NK as a nuclear state, but Trump would not agree.

SK’s relationship with the U.S. suffered as Trump pressured SK to pay more for US military presence in SK’s and to renegotiate

*(Continued on page 15)*

We Open Eyes



[To Page 1](#)

(Continued from page 14)

perceived trade imbalances detrimental to U.S. products. The SK public was not happy with Trump's placing the cost of a US military presence and trade deals over protecting shared values, honoring long term partnerships, and working together to handle Kim. NK has continued to rely on Russia's and China's assistance as trade partners. Another source of friction between the US and SK is disagreement over

China as a threat or a cooperative economic partner.

**Update:** Kim Jong Un attended a Workers' Party meeting 12/27/21 to decide policy strategy for 2022, including how to respond to the Biden administration's overture to return to nuclear disarmament talks. NK has restarted missile and nuclear activities. SK has expressed concern that President Biden has not yet nominated a SK ambassador.



## SIG: International Study

Veronica Gross

### Crucial decisions facing Scotland

—Jill Rowney

The International Study Group met on Thursday, January 27th at the home of Sue Overstreet. Ruffina Roberts enlightened us on the current political climate of this small country. Being part of the United Kingdom, it enjoys having a robust social security net, a healthcare system, public services, and defense. It ALSO "enjoys" a robust tax system—the ever problematic issue of not having autonomous control over their government. Hence, there is an upcoming vote next week to leave the United Kingdom and become an independent nation.

Several factors are of concern. A major issue is that of foreign parties owning property in Scotland and developing it, but seemingly not having any interest to stabilize the local economy or maintain the cultural heritage.

Scotland does have income from petroleum wells in the North Sea and harvesting energy on the coast with the wind farms. The big question is can it produce enough to sustain an independent economy?



Our next meeting will be March 15<sup>th</sup> where Peggy Shainberg will lead our exploration of Scotland's rich history.

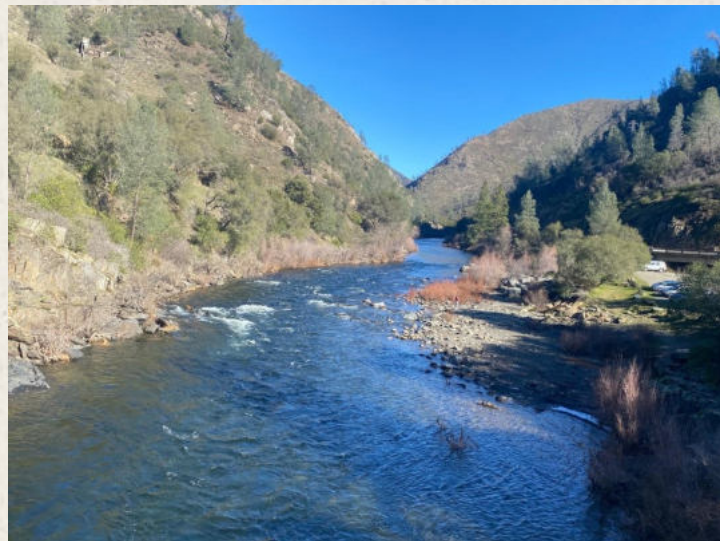
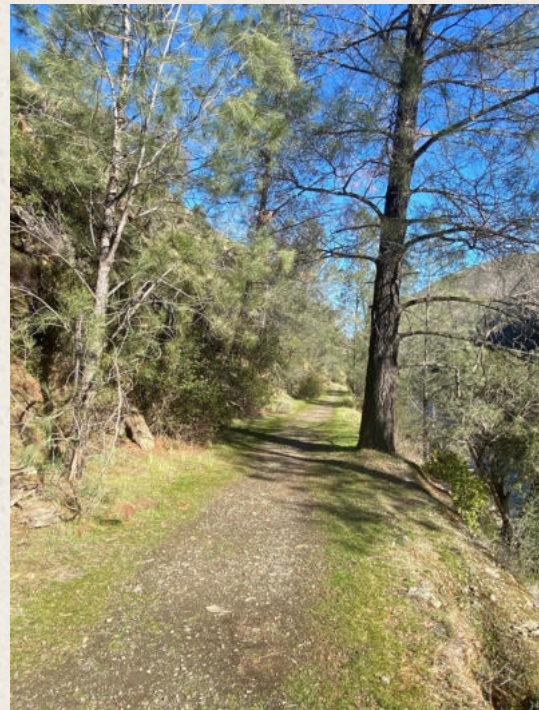
We Value Education



SIG: **Hiking**Contact [Trish Darcy](#)**A walk along the river at Briceburg**

—Trish Darcy

Since nobody had signed up to lead a hike in January, Naoko Kada decided to take a hike at the last minute. No one from the hiking group was able to join her, but that didn't stop her and her husband from walking from Briceburg up along the Merced River. She said, "The hike was indeed beautiful—thanks to the rain the night before, the air was super clean, and everything was shiny and bright."

**We Inspire Life-Long Learning**



## AAUW- Mariposa

[www.aauwmariposa.com](http://www.aauwmariposa.com)

Facebook

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

## Project Chairs/Coordinators

## Leadership Team: 2021-2022

<a href="#">Jody Sergienko</a>	Co-Admin
<a href="#">Cindy Harp</a>	Co-Admin
<a href="#">Dina Lambert</a>	Finance, Co-Membership
<a href="#">Bonnie Little</a>	Co-Membership
<a href="#">Rebecca Swisher</a>	Recording Secretary
<a href="#">Trish Darcy</a>	Team Member; Tech Trek
<a href="#">Kim Monson</a>	Team Member
<a href="#">Saralynn Nusbaum</a>	Team Member
<a href="#">Jaye Howes</a>	Team Member

Back Pack Project	<a href="#">Kim Monson &amp; Rebecca Swisher</a>
Dinner With a Scientist	<a href="#">Marilyn Saunders</a>
Goodwill Ambassador	<a href="#">Anne Dolchanczyk</a>
Newsletter Editor	<a href="#">Jill Rowney</a>
Publicity	<a href="#">Jody Sergienko</a>
Social Media	<a href="#">Dina Lambert</a>
Tech Connect*	<a href="#">Kim Monson &amp; Rebecca Swisher</a>
Tech Trek	<a href="#">Trish Darcy &amp; Barbara Silva</a>
Website	<a href="#">Dina Lambert</a>
Yardsale	<a href="#">Bonnie Little &amp; Micki Finney</a>

The *Sierra Outpost*, newsletter of the Mariposa Branch of AAUW, is currently published on the 1st of each month.

Deadline for submissions is the 25th of the previous month. Send information/questions to editor:

[jillrowney@yahoo.com](mailto:jillrowney@yahoo.com)

AAUW <https://aauw.org/>

AAUW California <http://www.aauw-ca.org/>



**Cindy Harp**  
AGENT  
CA LICENSE NO. 0M04815  
CELL: 831-241-1611  
EMAIL: [cindy\\_harp@earthlink.net](mailto:cindy_harp@earthlink.net)

**LIFE • HOME • HEALTH • BUSINESS**

PHONE/FAX 209-966-6263 OR 1-800-959-5630  
5634 HARRIS CUT OFF ROAD, MARIPOSA, CA 95338

[www.harpins.com](http://www.harpins.com)



## Mariposa Native Plants

[www.MariposaNativePlants.com](http://www.MariposaNativePlants.com)  
[MariposaNativePlants@gmail.com](mailto:MariposaNativePlants@gmail.com)  
209-966-3770

See our website for plant availability  
and upcoming sales locations.

## We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp



To Page 1