

Mariposa Branch

October, 2022







Sierra Outpost AAUW for ALL ages!

Our AAUW Mariposa Branch has some fantastic women and men as members, don't you think? Our talents and interests are extensive and so varied! It is one of the things that makes us such a fun group to be a part of.

Have you noticed that we all seem to be of the same age? What will happen to our branch as fewer of us rejoin each year? We have wonderful projects, but what would happen if we had some younger members join us with new, creative ideas? Well, we would benefit greatly, of course!

This year we would like to focus on growing our membership, especially recruiting some younger people. We are —Trish Darcy

planning an event on Sunday, October 9th from 2-4 at the town park. Please come to our event and bring a friend or two or twenty! They can be of any age, of course, but bring along any younger ones you can find.

Each SIG will have a representative there and we'll also have someone from each of our projects. This will give people an overview of who we are and what we do. We will have membership forms and anyone who joins that day will get the discounted rate as well as be put into a drawing for prizes!

You can help us by sharing the event on social media, forwarding the email about the event,

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reaching out to people and inviting them to come to the event. We hope you can join us for a fun afternoon and bring along anyone that you can think of! Let's grow our membership for the future of our branch!

Membership/Recruitment Meeting

Sunday, October 9, 2:00-4:00pm, Mariposa County Park

We Open Eyes

Events Calendar

2022

Oct 3	Leadership Team Meeting: 6:00pm, The Grove House (for on-line access, contact Dina Lambert (<u>dinallambert@gmail.com</u>)		
Oct 4	SIG—Book: 4:00pm, home of Saralynn Nusbaum		
Oct 5	SIG—Play Reading: 10:00am, home of Dawn Johnson		
Oct 8	SIG—Hiking: time and place TBD		
Oct 8	SIG– Wine: 5:00pm, home of Jill Rowney		
Oct 9	Membership/ Recruitment Event: 2:00-4:00pm, Mariposa County Park Pavilion		
Oct 11	SIG—International Study: 4:30pm, home of Jill Rowney		
	Annual Yard Sale postponed until spring		
Nov 7	Leadership Team Meeting: 6:00pm		
Nov 12	SIG—Hiking: time and place TBD		



Health

Covid Corner– Staying safe through these next

-Jody Sergienko

Even as it seemed this summer would never end, the cooler weather has been gradually weaving its way in.

winter months

With that comes indoor gatherings and the question, "Should I mask or not?" The state of California has decided to leave the question of masking up to the individuals this year. Officials tell us that if you are not comfortable or find yourself in a large crowd, by all means, wear a mask!

Fall also brings the start of flu season for us! And yes, those flu shots are here and available to us all. When you do go in for that annual flu shot, go ahead and get one of the new reformatted Covid vaccines as well. They are targeting the current second-most common strains.

Is the Covid endemic in our community? Is the pandemic over? Epidemiologists believe that this winter will be the deciding season to answer both of those questions.

Stay well!

See you soon!



We Value Education



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Community Event:

Election Forum

Another successful candidate forum

We should all be proud of ourselves for becoming informed voters! We had over 55 Mariposa citizens (including many AAUW members) attend our sponsored event held at the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors' chamber on September 28, 2022. We streamed the forum live on our Facebook page and had another dozen or so citizens watch from the comfort of their homes. The video is still available on AAUW-Mariposa | Facebook for those of you unable to attend. We heard so many positive comments from the attendees on how well organized our event was.

The public was invited to submit questions for the candidates running for the Mariposa County Union School District Board (MCUSD) and the John C. Fremont Hospital District Board (JCFHD). The purpose of the forum is to encourage the free exchange of ideas between the community and

AAUW California





candidates. The forum provides a chance for the candidates to hear issues of importance to the community as well as an opportunity for the community to learn about the candidates' positions on issues and their qualifications for the open positions.

Candidates for MCUSD District 1 Trustee:

- Kim Monson,
- Robert Hill

• Gail Pioske MCUSD District 3 Trustee:

• Kelly Salonen (not in attendance)

Robert Morse.

Candidates for the JCFHD 2-year term:

- Linda Pribyl
- Rose Fluharty
- Suzette Prue
- Teresa Johnson

—Dina Lambert

JCFHD 4-year term:

- Candy O'Donnel Browne
- Wendy Ryder-Priola
- Nicholas R. Lambert

Thank you to all the volunteers who made this event run without a hitch! We would like to thank Doug Binnewies for moderating the event (last minute since Jim Allen was stuck in San Diego). Special thanks to Karen Smith for sorting through all the audience



questions, Jill Rowney for timing each candidate's response, and to Jody Sergienko for introducing AAUW and helping with organizing the forum.



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 <u>here</u> if you missed it!

We Inspire Life-Long Learning



October, 2022

Membership



Bonnie Little, Dina Lambert

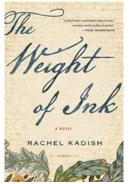
Member Corner: Idea exchange

Our members share what we have found enlightening and entertaining

—Bonnie Little

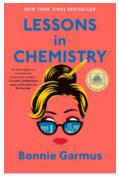
Peggy Shainberg recommends two books as very good reads.

The first is **The Weight of Ink** by Rachel Kaddish. The book is historical fiction dealing with the lives of two extraordinary women whose paths are connected across centuries. Ester Velasquez is a Portuguese Jewish female scribe and philosopher living in London in the 1600s.



Helen Watt is a present-day historian who is trying to preserve Ester's voice through research. The author goes back and forth in time, tying the characters and manuscripts together. The story reinforces the incredible power of words. The description of life in London in the 1600s was very interesting to Peggy, and it inspired her to learn more about the plague and the great fire that took place there.

The second novel is *Lessons in Chemistry* by



Bonnie Garmus. The story takes place in the 1950s and 1960s. The main character is Elizabeth Zott, a female research scientist who is determined to make it in what was then very much a man's world. She was a woman ahead of her time, defying the norms in her profession, and also as an

unmarried woman living with her partner, and later a single mother. Eventually, Elizabeth winds

up as the reluctant star of a popular cooking show and becomes well known for her rather unorthodox cooking style. Besides cooking, she is encouraging women to change the status quo. Peggy enjoyed the characters and mentioned "an intelligent daughter and a smart dog". Thank you, Peggy, for the diverse and interesting

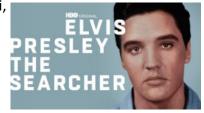
Do you like Elvis? I do, and I enjoyed the recent movie about his life and the excellent portrayal by a talented actor. I also discovered on HBO a two-

part documentary called Elvis Presley: The

Searcher. The series explores his life as a child in

Tupelo, Mississippi, and extends to his final recording sessions in 1976. It features many interviews with producers, engi-

recommendations!



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neers, celebrities, and friends who knew him well throughout his life. For me, the most interesting parts were the actual photos and videos from different times in Elvis's life, and extensive content about how his music was heavily influenced by performers in Memphis, Tennessee in the 1940s and 1950s.

I hope that the recommendations in "Member Corner" are interesting and stimulating for you, and have provided you with some inspiration and new ideas. This feature is by you and for you, so please keep sending me your ideas and suggestions!

We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp

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Membership

Bonnie Little, Dina Lambert

Spotlight on Kendra Wilde

-Kim Monson

Kendra Wilde was born and

raised in the Southern California town of Temple City, which is just southeast of Pasadena. She left home to take a liberal arts study major, followed up by a teaching credential at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks, California. She



Kendra and her boys

moved to Port Townsend, WA to teach and pursue a Masters in Education- School Counseling. Many years later, after getting married, Kendra and her ex moved to San Clemente to raise their boys, Blake, Luke, and Cole. She worked for a private school teaching Microsoft Office for a couple of years but spent most of her time in San Clemente with the kids. That's probably where she developed her love for the beach!

Kendra is rightly proud of her boys. Blake graduated from Berkeley with a BA in economics after playing baseball for four years with the UC Bears. He's now at the University of San Francisco pursuing a masters in sports management while playing baseball for one last year of NCAA eligibility (thanks, Covid). Luke is pursuing an Environmental Studies/ Economics major at UC Santa Cruz, and Cole is graduating from MCHS this year.

Next Kendra earned her Special Education credential through the Los Angeles Office of Education, taking night classes while teaching Special Ed K–2 in Downey, California. At this time, I have to express my admiration for Kendra and all the other Special Ed teachers and aides out there. That is one tough job that requires an extreme amount of patience that I just don't have. Thank you, Kendra!

Kendra and her family moved to Mariposa in 2010, and took a job teaching Special Ed at Mariposa County High School. After living in Merced for the first year, a decision was made that Mariposa would be a great place to raise the boys. She has now been teaching at Mariposa Elementary School for the past couple of years.

And did you know that Kendra is quite the world traveler? She has visited the Middle East, Israel, Turkey, Europe, the Caribbean, Jamacia and Costa Rica. Many of those trips allowed her to indulge her love of the ocean through scuba diving. Keeping with the theme, Kendra loves sushi, she spends a lot of her off time reading and spending time with her partner, Adam.

So, Kendra, where are you going on your next trip and can we come too?

We Sponsor Community Forums



SIG Overview

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)



We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential



www.aauwmariposa.com

October, 2022



sig: Great Decisions

Contact Becky Mock

The Great Decisions SIG met on Thursday afternoon of September 29 to plan for the year. Get ready for some very interesting and important discussions!

sig: Hiking

Contact Trish Darcy

Contact Carolyn Baker or Cindy Harp

-Trish Darcy

The hiking group met at The Grove House on Monday, September 12th to plan for our year. We chose to hike on the **2nd Saturday** of the month and have each person in charge of a month to plan a hike. We look forward to many fun hikes together this year. *Next hikes: October 8th, November 12th*

sig: Wine



We tasters will try a lesser-known varietal (Cabernet Franc) on Saturday, **October 8** at the home of Jill Rowney. Interested in joining us? Call or email Jill at 209.966.3364/ jillrowney@yahoo.com.



sig: International Study

<u>Veronica Gross</u>

The International Study group will meet on Tuesday, October 11 at 4:30 to discuss our plans for the year and decide where our focus will be.



October, 2022



sig - Book

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 4 at 4:00 pm at the home of Saralynn Nusbaum. We will be discussing: Single-Handedly

By Ruth Rathblott

SINGLE HANDEDLY

The Lincoln Highway by Armor Towles

Discussion notes by Peggy Shainberg

The book group met at Saralynn's for a lively discussion of *The Lincoln*

Highway by Amor Towles. He also wrote A Gentleman in Moscow that our group had read some time ago. The consensus was that we all liked The Lincoln Highway, although some members offered a few negative, questioning comments. Towles developed some interesting characters and often related a single situation from two or more characters' points of view. None of us expected the ending that ensued.

One chapter described a family dinner. Saralynn found a website, *The Book Club Cookbook* where one can find recipes inspired by the story. In this case, Duchess created a fettucine dinner for his friends and it is further explained on this site: <u>Amor Towles's</u> <u>Fettucine Mio Amore Recipe</u>.



The Art SIG members, Cindy Harp and Jody Sergienko met up at the Mariposa County fair.

On the 3rd at 10am, we met at the Arts & Crafts building to view the fair entries. There were so many unique and differing offerings to see. We saw fiber arts such as crochet and quilting, then on to paintings and photography. We voted for our favorite in each category.

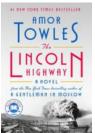
We also visited the home arts building to see baking, canning, and the arts in growing plants. Both Cindy and I came away inspired to not only go again but to keep creating ourselves.

Contact Jody Sergienko

We Value Education



Saralynn Nusbaum



🤊 sig: Garden

Contact Karen Smith

High hopes dashed by underground perils

-Jill Rowney

Oh, the woes of gardening in the Sierra foothills! We were applying precious water to the ever-drying soil succumbing to 105+ temperatures of August. Ah, but the plants were green and lush! Ah, but it was too hot for blossoms to set. And those that DID set, had other perils to face!

I celebrated the beautiful butternut squash that decorated the vines. Some were hanging from a "trellis fence," but some lay peacefully on the ground... a little too peacefully! Surprise! Attacked from below, their beauty was only on top! Upon turning the squash, I found huge bites removed and gopher holes directly beneath! I think my cats need less food in their bowls and a little more incentive to use their innate skills!

The Garden group met at the 1850 Restaurant on Tuesday, the 27th to plan some outings. We're looking forward to the Farm and Ranch Tour on October 15.





Lush tomato plants in September: What!!?? Only two small cherry tomatoes???



In my garden, there are two zucchinis left that just might grow big enough to make it into zucchini bread.. They were dangerously close to the ground, so now they rest atop some gopher wire. Now just try to taste those juicy morsels, you nasty little rodents!!!

We Inspire Life-Long Learning



What a beautiful squash... Until it was turned over!





sig: Play Reading

Contact Dawn Johnson

Silenced by "Silent Sky" but will be laughing with "Nude with Violin"

-Dawn Johnson

The Play Reading Group took a road trip to see "Silent Sky" at Oakhurst's <u>Golden Chain Theater</u> because we had read and loved it. After watching the performance, we loved it even more. It was powerful enough to make some of us weep a little and some of us actually be silenced a little. It was a wonderful performance, comedic at times, dramatic at times, and very moving at times. Coupled with a great lunch exploring new and yummy food at Tandoori Express and dodging the rain, we had a wonderful afternoon. Our next play reading will be "Nude with Violin" by Noel Coward, a light comedy satirizing the hypocrisy of modern art written in the 1950's. It has a host of characters including a Russian princess, an ex-show girl, and a character described as "mute but effective."

Not sure how we'll read that part. :-)

We're meeting Wednesday, Oct 5th, at 10:00am at my house.



Lunch at "Tandoori Express" L-R: Dawn Johnson, Karen Silver, Kim Monson, Angie Heiss, Christina Oborne, Jill Rowney, Karen Sutton

We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp

October, 2022



AAUW - Mariposa Branch Leadership Team Meeting September 12, 2022 5:00pm The Grove House

Meeting called to order at 9:20 Members:

Dina Lambert, Co-Finance Officer/Membership Rebecca Swisher, Co-Finance Officer Bonnie Little, Co-Membership Kim Monson, Member at Large Trish Darcy, Recording Secretary/STEM Jody Sergienko, President Saralynn Nusbaum, Member at Large Anne Dolchanczyk, Member at Large

Meeting called to order at 5:03 by Bonnie Minutes (Trish Darcy):

- Approval of August meeting minutes-approved electronically and sent to Jill for inclusion in the Sept. Newsletter
- Membership Update (Dina Lambert, Bonnie Little)
 - * Renewals-we have 76 current members and had 7 non-renewals
 - Update on Member Corner Bonnie had nothing new to report
 - Directory Update-Dina and Bonnie have worked to get this updated for us. It is at
 - the printer now and will be ready Sept. 20th so we will have it to pass out at our
 - $_{\star}$ October 9th member event. We want to get as many handed out then, because
 - postage is getting expensive.
- Finance Report (Dina Lambert, Rebeca Swisher):
 - Approved budget for 2022/23 year. Dina reported that 20 members approved
 - * the budget via email. Therefore it passed as presented.
 - Dina presented the July and August finance reports
 - The July report had income of \$1228.00 and expenses of \$789 for an ending
 - balance of \$6853.65
 - * The August report had income of \$540 and expenses of
 - \$1002 for an ending balance of \$6,391.65
 - Bonnie moved to accept the July 2022 and August 2022 finance reports as
 - presented. Trish seconded it. Motion carried.

Standing Projects:

- Dinner with a Scientist (Marilyn Saunders)
 - University is not ready this fall. Possibly next spring? May lose some funding

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We Sponsor Community Forums



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from current sources so keep it budgeted! May have another funding source. No one has spoken to Mariyn to see if this is still true. Jody will follow up with

her.

- Backpack (Kim Monson & amp; Rebecca Swisher)
 - Backpack project completed and successful. 80 backpacks were given out.
 - Anne brought up possibly purchasing a pop up with our logo on it. Need to order a new banner of some sort to replace our broken one. Kim bought a pop up for us to use for the backpack giveaway so said not to purchase another one. Anne will research having a new banner made that we can use with the pop up. It was discussed to use the official AAUW insignia from the state and add some poppies and AAUW Mariposa. We can use Canva to design it. Anne will also ask about a stand for our existing banner. Rebecca came up with a possible sentence for the banner- "Empowering women through research, education, and advocacy since 1881." Anne will check the price of that. If it is too expensive, we don't have to do it.
- Tech Trek (Trish Darcy)
 - 2023 Tech Trek update no update at this time
- Tech Connect: Multimedia Messages (Rebecca Swisher and Kim Monson)
 - Kim would like to simplify the rubric to make it more enticing to the kids. She wants to have a table out front to catch kids and entice them. Kim will put it in the announcements. Dina has offered to help out as well. They will set up a table on October 7th and 14th using a Friday to catch the late start. The due date will be November 29th. The goal is to have enough of them to do a presentation in the HS auditorium.

Fundraisers:

- Yard Sale update
 - we will look to do this in the spring. Bonnie will check with Micki to see if she can do this in the spring.
- Programs:

Planning for 22/23 year-done at our July 31st meeting

Old Business:

• The Welcome Back event in September was canceled due to extreme heat.

New Business:

- Candidate Forum
 - September 28– 6:30pm
 - * Board of Supervisors' chambers
 - Dina reported that she has everything done for the set up and Jody is taking it from there.
 - The audience will submit questions beforehand.

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We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential

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- . Jim Allen is the moderator.
- All candidates have been notified; we haven't heard from Kelly Salonen, all others plan on being there.
- Jody will do the introductions. Peggy is doing the timing. Karen Smith and Jody will sort through questions submitted.
- Only 5 questions per candidate will be asked. All candidates for school board will have the same questions asked of each and the hospital board candidates will have a different set of questions asked of each candidate Jody will see if it can be streamed live.

• Recruitment Event

- October 9 will combine with the member meeting. Trish has lots of advertising ready to go to promote getting new members. Social media blasts, email blasts, flyers. There will be a drawing for prizes for those who join that day.
- Bonnie and/or Dina will send an email to members to encourage them to come to learn about the year.
- We brainstormed ways to bring in younger women:
 - Instagram would be good.
 - More fun events. Meet and Greets.
 - We discussed the need for us to be more a part of the community so that we are more visible.

Newsletter Assignments:

- Member Profile:
 - October 2022 -Kim will do this
- Lead article (Admin Overview):
 - October 2022 Trish will do it and have it be about the Member event
- COVID Update:

New boosters? -Jody

- Leadership Meeting Lead:
 - October 2022: (agenda) Trish will do the agenda and meeting next month
- Branch Buzz (Trish Darcy):
 - Trish Darcy will send out the Branch Buzz

Action Items:

- Jody to contact Marillyn about Dinner with a Scientist
- Kim will organize with the HS to get Tech Connect going
- Bonnie will check with Micki on the yard sale
- Jody to check on streaming the candidate forum
- Dina/Bonnie will send an email to the membership about Oct. 9th.

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We Open Eyes



(Continued from page 13)

• Anne will look into the cost of a new banner

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Upcoming Dates:

*these dates are tentative until we have them officially booked

9/28 Election Forum	1/2 Leadership Team Meeting 6:00
10/3 Leadership Team Meeting 6:00 at the	*Jan. Vinita's Program
Grove House	2/6 Leadership Team Meeting 6:00
10/9 Recruitment Event	*Feb. Disabilities Program
11/7 Leadership Team Meeting 6:00	3/6 Leadership Team Meeting 6:00
*11/16 Financial Planning Program	4/3 Leadership Team Meeting 6:00
12/5 Leadership Team Meeting 6:00	5/1 Leadership Team Meeting 6:00
*12/7 Homeowner's Insurance Program	6/5 Leadership Team Meeting 6:00-?
12/11 Holiday Gathering	June 11 Annual Meeting

AAUW- Mariposa <u>www.aauwmariposa.com</u> Facebook <u>https://www.facebook.com/aauwmariposa</u>

Leadership Team: 2022-2023

Jody Sergienko Dina Lambert Rebecca Swisher Bonnie Little Dina Lambert Trish Darcy Kim Monson Saralynn Nusbaum Anne Dolchanczyk President Co-Finance Co-Finance Co-Membership Co-Membership Recording Secretary Team Member Team Member Team Member Back Pack Project Dinner With a Scientist Good Will Ambassador Newsletter Editor Publicity Social Media Tech Connect* Tech Trek Website Yardsale

Kim Monson & Rebecca Swisher Marilyn Saunders Anne Dolchanczyk Jill Rowney _____Open____ Dina Lambert Kim Monson & Rebecca Swisher Trish Darcy & Barbara Silva Dina Lambert Bonnie Little &

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California <u>http</u>

http://www.aauw-ca.org/

Micki Finney

We Value Education



Project Chairs/Coordinators