



Sierra Outpost

Taking care of ourselves and others

—Jody Sergienko

The leaves are changing, the air has cooled, and we are reaching for the sweaters. With these changes in the weather, we thought it would be fun to change up some of our events to be more social and fun.

Since November is the start of the holiday season, we thought it would be fun to gather in town one day and shop the local business together. Read the article on [page five](#) and watch your email for more details about a fun shopping gathering where we can just spend time together and enjoy each other's company while supporting our community.

While we are out, we will be keeping our eyes open for the various holiday-giving opportunities that will be popping up. With the trials so many have

had to face this year, holiday donation requests such as Giving Trees and adopt-a-family will be even more important.

We have so many new members and this will be a good time to get to know them. If they are friends of yours, encourage them to join us on November 5th. If you know someone who is interested but not yet committed to AAUW, invite them along. We are the best of the local groups to join. We are thankful for our AAUW family and all that we learn from them. We are such a diverse group and have so many talents and stories to share with each other.

Take some time this month to be thankful for those around you and maybe take some time to make the holiday season more special for someone less

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[Click on the article title for a direct](#)

fortunate than you. Despite its origins, "Friendsgiving" is a wonderful idea. This could be the year to open your home and invite others in. Bring out the hand sanitizer and put on a mask, and share the holiday with another. Let's celebrate those around us.

We are truly blessed.



Events Calendar

2022

- Nov 5 **Shopping Spree:** 1:00pm, Meet at Mariposa County Arts Park
- Nov 7 **Leadership Team Meeting:** 6:00pm, home of Jody Sergienko
(for on-line access, contact Dina Lambert (dinallambert@gmail.com))
- Nov 8 **Election Day:** Be sure to have turned in your ballot by 7:00pm
- Nov 8 **SIG—Book:** 4:00pm, home of Saralynn Nusbaum
- Nov 12 **SIG—Hiking:** time and place TBD
- Nov 15 **SIG—International Study:** 5:00pm, home of Jill Rowney
- Nov 17 **SIG—Great Decisions:** 4:30pm, home of Becky Mock
- Dec 7 **Program: Homeowner Insurance:** Details TBA
- Dec 10 **SIG—Hiking:** time and place TBD



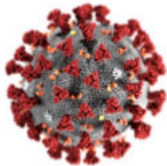
December 11



Holiday Party: (time TBD), home of Dawn Johnson



Health



Covid Corner— Simply saying the pandemic is over doesn't make it disappear

-Jody Sergienko

This will be the last Covid Report for a while. In case you had not heard, the Governor will declare the pandemic over as of the 28th of February. Is it really over? No, not really. Mr. Newsom does believe that we now have tools and vaccines that will enable us to cope with this flu season and the Covid virus without having to take emergency measures. That decision does change things for our little town. The biggest change will be the end of the LHI mobile testing site. We will no longer have the convenience of dropping by and getting a Covid test on demand.

However, life goes on-- as does cold and flu

season. To stay safe, be sure to get your flu shot and bi-valent booster if you have not already done so. The best time to do so would be at least two to three weeks before any big holiday gatherings where we all share the newest infectious bug.

The non-pharmaceutical, nonspecific interventions such as mask-wearing, and handwashing will never go out of style. These two precautions, along with good self-care, will decrease your chances of getting sick this upcoming holiday season.

Stay safe, stay well, and see you soon.

We Value Education

Membership:

New Member Recruitment Event

Nine new members join our branch!

—Trish Darcy

We held our recruitment event on October 9th and had several interested people attend to hear about our branch. We had nine new members sign up and may have a couple more trickle in! It was fun to meet new people and have them get to know our group in an easy, informal way. We look forward to seeing them at our future events and in our SIGs. Welcome them when you see them! Dina has been busy getting them in the system and sending us emails with their contact information.



Member Corner: Idea exchange



Member Corner will return next month, so you are all on your own to figure out what to read, watch, or do. When you find an exceptionally good one, let [Bonnie Little](#) know.

AAUW California



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

Membership

Bonnie Little, Dina Lambert

Welcome to our new members!



Madison Kirkpatrick

- My favorite color is blue
- I used to line dance
- I love *Survivor*, *Amazing Race* and *The Challenge* so I hope someone else feels the same and we can discuss!
- I'm excited to be part of an important organization that aligns with my values and meet new people.

Rose Ann Weinburke

I was invited to the group by Trish Darcy. I look forward to getting to know more of you. I see that I know a lot of you already. I've lived in Mariposa on and off for over 10 years and I look forward to getting more involved in the community.

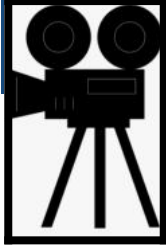


Marti Fazio

I grew up in North Dakota and graduated from the University of North Dakota with a BS in nursing. I had my dream job working for 21 years in Yosemite National Park, where I met my husband. We are now living in Mariposa where I am working at Mariposa Public Health. My interests are anything outdoors. I am excited to participate in AAUW projects and groups

Look in next month's newsletter to meet more of our new members .

We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp



Project: Tech Connect

Mentors needed to assist students in video project— due on November 29

How can communities, organizations, and citizens of all ages help protect and expand voting rights? What does our next generation think? This is the topic of this year's video competition for our MCHS students.

After sitting in front of MCHS before school on two late-start Fridays, we have received four applications. That means the Tech Connect competition will be able to go forward this year, which is very exciting news! However, to help keep our applicants engaged and see their projects to the end, we need mentors. One

—Kim Monson

generous volunteer has stepped forward, but we are in dire need of three more! Mentors do NOT need expertise in the tech process. Rather, just be the second pair of eyes to help students with their organization and presentation of their ideas. The video is due on November 29th. Anyone willing to help advise our students on the content of their video arguments should email Kim Monson at kimellen13@gmail.com.

Membership Event

Holiday Shopping Spree

Are you one of those shoppers who gets your holiday shopping done months in advance? Are you one of those that procrastinates and puts it off until the last minute? Either way, we want to have you join us for a fun event on November 5th. You can get a head start on gift purchasing or, if you are a procrastinator, we'll give you the push you need!

Meet us at The Arts Park in town at 1:00 pm on November 5th and we'll shop the local businesses finding all those holiday items we need-or think we need! Our local shops use this weekend to kick off the Holiday Season and many businesses will have specials and goodies! Anyone who wants to can meet at The Alley for a drink when we are finished.

—Trish Darcy
—Trish Darcy

What a great way to get a start on your holiday shopping, support our local business, and just hang with the best people ever!



We Sponsor Community Forums

Membership Event

It's PARTY Time!

—Trish Darcy



Our annual Holiday Gathering will be held this year on Sunday, December 11th (do I see you adding it to your calendar right now?) at the home of Dawn Johnson. More details will be forthcoming as we finalize plans with her. Watch your email for an Evite with the details!

Membership

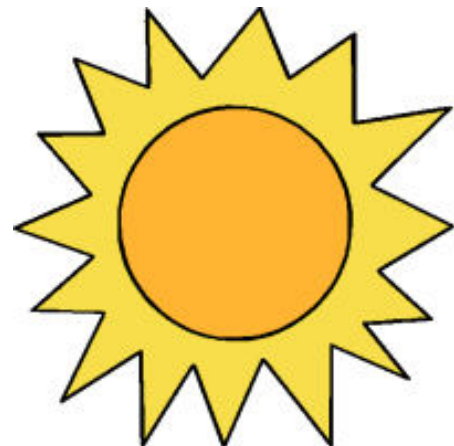
Being there for each other

—Ann Dolchanczyk

As a long-time member of AAUW, I have made good friends in our group, as I'm sure we all have. However, sometimes when we have a need it can be hard to ask our friends for help. I am offering to facilitate rides for members who might need help in getting to medical appointments, treatments, etc. To keep it simple, just email me the date and time of your appointment and I'll put it out to all members. If you are going through a series of treatments, a list of dates would be helpful. I hope everyone stays healthy, but it's good to be prepared and have a plan.

Anne Dolchanczyk

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Mariposa Native Plants

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See our website for plant availability and upcoming sales locations.

We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential

SIG Overview

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

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 Open Eyes



SIG: Great Decisions

Contact [Becky Mock](#)

SIG's year takes on some heavy topics

At our September 29 meeting, we decided to meet every other month this year on the 3rd Thursday of each month. So, currently, the schedule is as follows:

- Thursday, November 17, 2022, 4:30 pm at Becky's house; Peggy will lead the discussion on "Xi's China takes on the Quad"
- Thursday, January 19, 2023, 4:30 pm, location TBD; Beth will lead the discussion on "Outer Space Policy"
- Thursday, March 16, 2023, 4:30 pm, location TBD; Laurel will lead the discussion on "Foreign Policy, Economic Power, and U.S. Industrial Policy."

- Thursday, May 18, 2023, 4:30 pm, location, topic and discussion leader TBD (the new briefing book should be available by this meeting, so the topic and discussion leader may be decided after the book is available.)

We had a nice discussion and welcomed two new members, Beth Tomsick and Laurel Nguyen. At the membership meeting in October, we had three more members join, Rose Ann Weinburke, Madison Kirkpatrick, and Annika Zrebski. We are looking forward to informative, lively, and fun discussions at our future meetings.



SIG: Art

Contact [Jody Sergienko](#)

Mixing and matching techniques to create fun results

On October 22nd Rebecca Swisher, Cindy Harp, and hostess, Jody Sergienko met in Jody's back yard for a fun day of "creating!" We all dabbled in liquid acrylic pour painting, spray paint art, and put acrylic touches on everything.



We had such a good time that we have scheduled another "play date" for next month!

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We Value Education

 **SIG: International Study** Veronica Gross

This year’s focus– Finland and Estonia

With Russia’s current war efforts dominating the news of today, the International Study Group decided to study two countries that were once occupied by Russia and currently enjoy independence. Both Finland and Estonia share borders with Russia. Two of our members have roots in these countries– Tiina Wilson from Estonia, and Marti Fazio from Finland. This promises to be a very interesting year!



 **SIG: Hiking** Contact Trish Darcy

—Rebecca Swisher

Canine negotiation determines hike



On Saturday, October 18, the AAUW Mariposa Hiking SIG planned to walk Allred Road. I missed connecting with Karen, so I went home and got Sassy, who due to her age, has limited endurance. Sassy and I enjoyed the walk for one mile until we met the first cattle grate, and Sassy thought better about trying to tip toe over the metal strips. Even though it was a short walk, the steep incline at the beginning provided a good workout. Both Sassy and I were ready for a snack and water at the end. Stay tuned for plans for the next hike, which will be on Saturday, November 12th.



We Inspire Life-Long Learning



SIG - Book

Saralynn Nusbaum

Our next meeting will be on
Tuesday, November 8 at 4:00 pm
 at the home of Saralynn Nusbaum.
 We will be discussing:
The Change
 By Kirsten Miller

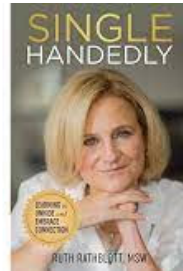


Single Handedly

by Ruth Rathblott

Discussion notes

by Saralynn Nusbaum



Don and I visited southeast Asia in December 2018. On that trip, we met Ruth Rathblott, who was born with a limb difference; one arm was shorter than the other and the hand on that arm was very tiny and functionless.

Over the course of our journey, we became friends with Ruth. This year, Ruth wrote a book about being different. This wasn't a book about dealing with a disability; it was a book for all of us who have been hiding our differences and a book about expanding the diversity conversation to include everyone. As some of you may know, my husband

Don fell and broke his ankle on that trip and Ruth became my emotional support.

Our book group conversation was candid and moved in a direction that I didn't expect. Don't we all, in some respects feel we are different in ways that may not be seen as acceptable? I remember my adolescence with frizzy hair, braces, and an angry complexion; this difference, with maturity, dissipated (though my hair is still frizzy). Ruth's difference is with her for a lifetime. Many in our group were former schoolteachers who had worked with children with differences much more profound than Ruth's.

Our conversation was eye-opening and allowed us to share personal experiences. One of Ruth's messages is to own your difference; it may be your greatest gift.



SIG: Play Reading

Contact [Dawn Johnson](#)

—Dawn Johnson

“Nude with Violin”

Who could resist reading a play with such a provocative title? Not the Play Reading Group. A good-sized group gathered on a Wednesday morning to read this little-known 1950s Noel Coward comedy. At the

reading of a famous modern artist's will, secrets were revealed by a host of characters including a Russian princess and a former show girl. There were 14 in all and

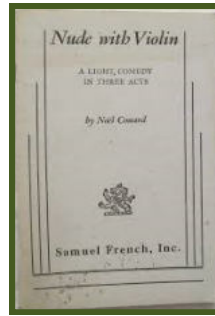
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only six readers, so sometimes we ended up talking to ourselves. One character was described as "mute but effective." That part was easy to read.

Due to shuffling back and forth between inside and outside and a little to much extraneous chatter, we---for the first time ever---failed to finish the play. Good thing it wasn't a who-dun-it!



Our next play will be "The Unexpected Guest," by Agatha Christie. The plot involves a stranded motorist who makes his way to an isolated house where he discovers a woman who admits to just shooting her wheelchair-bound husband. What will ensue? Date and time TBD.

Contact Dawn at dawnandjay.johnson@gmail.com if you'd like to join the Play Reading Group. No dramatic talent required!

SIG: Wine

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



Age DOES have its advantages

—Jill Rowney

For the October 8 meeting, the wine group members and their spouses gathered at the home of Jill Rowney for a tasting of the more unusual cabernet franc. This varietal is more commonly used to blend with



other red wines. It is a bit more robust than the pinot noir, but lighter than a zinfandel or cabernet sauvignon.

After a delightful repast of light savory dishes, we gathered as a single group and discussed each winery's offering, noting the subtle differences. It was especially enjoyable to share and hear everyone's different observations. The most notable differences were that of age and cost. Those that were only 2 years old could definitely have used a few more years to age and develop their flavors.

Each bottle was clearly labeled



with the name and location of the winery, the vintage year, where it was purchased, and how much it cost. There appeared to be a direct correlation between how much the bottle cost and how complex the flavors were. The more spent on it, the more we enjoyed it. Go figure!

We Sponsor Community Forums



AAUW - Mariposa Branch
 Leadership Team Meeting
 October 3, 2022 6:00 p.m.
 The Grove House

Members:

- Dina Lambert, Co-Finance Officer/Membership
- Rebecca Swisher, Co-Finance Officer
- Bonnie Little-Co-Membership-unable to attend
- 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 6:06 p.m.

Minutes (*Trish Darcy*):

Approval of September meeting minutes-minutes were approved electronically and submitted to Jill for the newsletter.

Membership Update (*Dina Lambert, Bonnie Little*)

- Current Member Numbers-Bonnie sent an email saying we have 76 members
- Update on Member Corner-no update

Directory Update-17 were handed out at the candidates' forum, Dina has them to pass out at Sunday's event

Finance Report (*Dina Lambert, Rebeca Swisher*):

- The income for September was \$204 for dues
- The expenses for September were \$174 for dues, \$390.22 for the directory, \$58.89 for supplies, \$6.00 for web hosting, \$190 for facilities (some will get refunded as it was a deposit for BOS building)-for total expenses of \$819.11

The ending balance is \$5776.54.

Standing Projects:

- Dinner with a Scientist (*Marilyn Saunders*) still postponed until spring
- Backpack (*Kim Monson & Rebecca Swisher*)-no update at this time
- Tech Trek (*Trish Darcy*)-2023 Tech Trek has no updates yet. Hopefully next month.
- Tech Connect (*Kim Monson & Rebecca Swisher*)-Kim and Dina are meeting Friday at MCHS. Kim will have a packet to give to students. Celeste sent it to US history and Civics teachers

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We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential

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and hopefully they will share it with their classes. Maybe they could make it a class project? Kim sent a flyer to the school and put it in the newsletter and announcements. Fingers crossed for more participation this year.

Fundraisers:

- Yard Sale-will postpone discussion to next month when Bonnie is here
- Mad Hatter Fundraiser-Still on for this spring, will get an update from Sandi before then.

Programs: These are our current plans

- **10/9 Recruitment Event**-Trish has decorations, drinks, and food. Jody will bring the PA system and gift cards for the drawing. Trish presented an agenda for the event. Jody will do the welcome and talk about this year's programs. Trish will then take over and do the recruitment part. Leave time for mingling and getting to know new members.
- **11/16 Financial Planning**-focus on younger, working women and grandparents, 529 plans for college savings accounts, retirement plans for younger families, possibly include Roth, Traditional IRAs and 403Bs. Rebecca can co-chair with Jody to set up. Trish will contact Shawna. Is there somebody else that we could add to the agenda? Maybe Anita or Shawna will know someone?
- **12/7 Homeowner's Insurance**-Jody will organize this. She has some contacts already. Possibly Cindy Harp, Jenni Kiser, United Policy Holders. The CA Fair Plan should be talked about.
- **12/11 Holiday Gathering**-Trish will contact Sammi at 1850 to set this up again.
- Jan. **Vinita's Program**-
- **Feb. Disabilities**-Ideas that we can include: someone from HHSA, "Singlehandedly" (a book) Ted Talk, the school district, hidden disabilities, Kim's "daughter" teaches this in Illinois and may be a good contact.
- **6/11 Annual Meeting**-Trish's house

Old Business:

- **Member Meeting/Recruitment Event**-Trish covered it above
- **Candidates Forum Sept. 28th**-Dina and Jody
 - * Dina said it went well. Doug Binneweis did well. Candidates were pleased and commented as such. The sound was not good with Facebook Live for those unable to attend. We need to have a plug in microphone or some other solution for next time.
- **New Banner**-
 - * Anne contacted Tim Hooper. He proposed 3 ideas. The first is an 8' vinyl banner, full color \$120. The second is a tablecloth type. It goes over the top, front, and sides. It is \$206, is polyester and can be washed. Another one goes across front with a strip in the center to weigh it down. He suggested putting a tablecloth over the top. It is \$70. It was discussed and decided to do the tablecloth one. Rebecca moved to have Anne contact Tim Hooper to create a tablecloth "banner" for \$206. Jody seconded it. Motion carried. On the front

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we will put American Association of University Women across the top with the logo. It will have poppies in the middle of the front and Empowering Women Since 1881 across the bottom. The two sides will have the AAUW logo (Trish will contact Sandi to be sure we have the current one).

New Business:

- **Instagram Account**-Jody and Trish have signed up for the seminar on Oct. 11th provided by the state so that we can get our account set up.
- **Candidate Forum for District 2**-Dina was asked if we are doing that. It turns out they have already done it and contacted Dina for advice. We don't need to do it.
- **Survey**- Dina brought up that Steven from PH or HHSA contacted her to see if we want to participate in a survey to help them determine how to spend their budget. Dina will get the link and forward it out to us so that we can complete it.
- **Location for next month's meeting**-Jody's house
- **Extend membership to Oakhurst???** We have already done this and have 3 or 4 people from there. We can advertise over there more to try and get more members if we want.

Newsletter Assignments:

- Member Profile:
 - * November 2022 -Kim will do this
- Lead article (Admin Overview):
 - * November 2022 – Jody
- COVID Update:
 - * Jody

Leadership Meeting Lead: November 2022: (agenda) Jody

Branch Buzz (Trish Darcy): Trish Darcy will send out the Branch Buzz

Action Items:

- Rebecca will get the venue for November 16th-Miners Inn?
- Trish will contact Shawna Petrushkin at Ameriprise for the November event
- Trish will contact 1850 for Holiday Gathering like last year.
- Jody will contact speakers for the Insurance event in December and secure the venue
- Trish will verify with Vinita that she can do her program in January
- Bonnie will talk to Micki about the yard sale in the spring
- Jody will contact Sandi about an update on the Mad Hatter event

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We Value Education

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Anne will order the tablecloth “banner”

Meeting adjourned at 6:59 pm

Upcoming Dates:

- 10/9 Recruitment Event
- 11/7 Leadership Team Meeting 6 pm
- 11/16 Financial Planning -tentative
- 12/7 Homeowner’s Insurance - tentative
- 12/11 Holiday Gathering
- Jan. Vinita’s Program
- Feb. Disabilities
- 6/11 Annual Meeting

AAUW- Mariposa www.aauwmariposa.com Facebook https://www.facebook.com/aauwmariposa		Project Chairs/Coordinators	
Leadership Team: 2022-2023		Back Pack Project	Kim Monson & Rebecca Swisher
Jody Sergienko	President	Dinner With a Scientist	Marilyn Saunders
Dina Lambert	Co-Finance	Good Will Ambassador	Anne Dolchanczyk
Rebecca Swisher	Co-Finance	Newsletter Editor	Jill Rowney
Bonnie Little	Co-Membership	Publicity	open
Dina Lambert	Co-Membership	Social Media	Dina Lambert
Trish Darcy	Recording Secretary	Tech Connect*	Kim Monson & Rebecca Swisher
Kim Monson	Team Member	Tech Trek	Trish Darcy & Barbara Silva
Saralynn Nusbaum	Team Member	Website	Dina Lambert
Anne Dolchanczyk	Team Member	Yardsale	Bonnie Little & Micki Finney
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